



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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High-Level Seminar and Power Sector Senior Managers' Workshop on Utility Regulation in Mauritius

Thursday, August 16, 2018 – The Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities is organising a High-Level Seminar and a Power Sector Senior Managers' Workshop on Utility Regulation in Mauritius on August 16 and 17, 2018 respectively, at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) have appointed Dr Frank Sebbowa, a Power Sector Regulation Expert to provide the URA with advisory support and technical assistance in the form of capacity building and organisational development in respect of its functions as a regulator.

One of the objectives of the high-level awareness seminar is to provide key stakeholders with a common understanding of the rationale for regulation and the role of the URA as a regulator. During the first day of the seminar, discussions were focused on the importance of electricity regulation for power supply in Mauritius, the key regulatory roles of the URA, the energy regulatory framework from the business community perspective, the expectations of power consumers as well as on the role and status of the CEB within the new regulatory framework.

On the second day of the seminar, the focus will be on a workshop with power sector senior managers. Principles of effective electricity regulation (regulatory governance and substance), finance and tariff setting issues, stakeholder engagement (roles and responsibilities) and licensing processes are some of the topics which will be broached during the workshop.

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About the Utility Regulatory Authority

The Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) was officially launched in September 2016 with the appointment of the Chairperson and Commissioners as per the provisions of the *URA Act* which was enacted in November 2004 and further amended in 2008 and 2016. The URA's objectives are four-fold: to ensure the sustainability and viability of utility services, to protect the interests of both existing and future customers, to promote efficiency in both operations and capital investments in respect of utility services, and to promote competition to prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices in the provision of utility services. The URA is consolidating its staffing and is presently in the process of recruiting additional key technical staff necessary for it to better discharge its regulatory mandate. At the same time, the URA is working along several paths including preparation of regulatory instruments and the establishment of its licensing framework.

For further information:

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