



PRESS RELEASE

[For immediate release]

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URA is hosting the annual RERA Meetings in August and September 2019

Plaine-Magnien, Thursday 29 August 2019 – The Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) is currently hosting the annual Meetings for the Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA), from 26th – 30th August and 23rd – 27th September 2019. The official launching ceremony took place on Wednesday 28th August 2019 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Plaine-Magnien.

Through the RERA meetings, the URA will have the opportunity and privilege of being peer reviewed and have peer learning from the 12 RERA member regulators that will be participating in the scheduled meetings. The meetings will also facilitate regional networking of URA staff members with counterpart regulatory staff serving on the various RERA structures which will be key for future collaboration and information sharing on emerging issues. The Action Plans to be developed for URA by each of the 7 Sub Committees and validated by the 3 Portfolio Committees following the peer review will guide URA in the development of the necessary regulatory tools that will assist the Authority in the future.

In his keynote address, Mr Philip Ah-Chuen, Chairman of the URA, has stated that *“the URA hosting of these RERA meetings could not have come at a better time than now when URA is in its formative years and is building and putting in place the necessary regulatory tools that will allow the seamless roll out of its regulatory mandate.”*

RERA was created by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 2002 with the main objective of facilitating the harmonisation of regulatory policies, legislation, standards and practices among regulators in SADC and also to provide a platform for facilitating capacity building and information sharing and effective cooperation among energy regulators within the SADC region. The participating member countries are Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mauritius.

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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 utility services industry.

The URA's office is located at 1 Cybercity Building, Level 8, Ebene.

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