



Statement by Mr. Silvester H. Hibajene, Executive Director of the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia & Incoming Chairperson of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) at the Press Conference on the Handover of the Chairmanship of RERA to the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia (ERB)

ERB Offices, Lusaka, Zambia
9 February 2006

The Chief Executive Officer of the Electricity Control Board of Namibia (ECB) & Out-going Chairperson of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) – Mr. Siseho C. Simasiku;

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Press;

Management & Staff of the ERB;

Administration Manager at RERA - Mr. Horrack J. Kutazo;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would also like to join others in welcoming you to this press conference to witness the official handover of the Chairmanship of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) from the Electricity Control Board of Namibia (ECB) to the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia (ERB).

On behalf of the Board, Management & Staff of the Energy Regulation

Board (ERB), I have the honour and privilege to humbly accept our election, unopposed for that matter, as the Chair of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA). We sincerely appreciate the confidence and honour bestowed on the ERB by our fellow member regulators of RERA and this momentous day serves to reaffirm our resolve and commitment to the ideas of RERA.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my admiration and that of the ERB for the manner in which the Electricity Control Board of Namibia, through Mr. Siseho C. Simasiku, has chaired and supported RERA since its inception. You have steered RERA through a challenging period and have done so with a strong commitment and admirable professionalism. The many successes recorded during your tenure of office bears clear testimony to that effect. It is also gratifying to note that Mr. Simasiku will still be at the disposal of RERA by virtue of being a serving member of the Executive Committee.

Ladies & Gentlemen

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by regional organisations, the ERB will continue to build on the firm foundation left by the ECB. During the tenure of the ERB as the Chair of RERA, we intend to continue pursuing the following initiatives, among other priorities, with a sense of urgency:

- Broadening the membership base through intensification of effort to lobby and promote the establishment of energy/electricity regulators in the region;

- Exploring options to expand the resource base in a sustainable manner to meet most, if not all, of the operational requirements
- Intensifying efforts to mobilise resources, especially for the implementation identified regional regulatory programmes, projects and other activities; and
- Increasing visibility and influence of RERA on regulatory issues in the SADC region and beyond.

We have no doubt that with the full support and cooperation of the rest of the membership of RERA, the Secretariat and other key stakeholders in the SADC region, the ERB will make meaningful contributions to the ideas of the Association during its tenure of office as the Chair.

Thank you