



**ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF LERC, DR. LAWRENCE D.  
SEKAJIPO – FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021 (Totota Electric  
Cooperative Permit Issuance Ceremony)**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen I am pleased to be in this great county of Bong, a county that has produced many important people in our country's history. More specifically, I am happy to be in Totota for this program to officially issue a permit to Totota Electric Cooperative to operate the off-grid electricity system to provide electricity to the residents of this town.

Permit me to give a little background of LERC. LERC was established under the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia to, among others:

- License operators in the electricity supply industry.
- Approve and regulate tariffs for services provided by the licensees.
- Establish, maintain, review, and monitor technical and performance standards and codes and enforce compliance with such technical standards.
- Resolve disputes between licensees as well as their respective customers, and issue regulations designed to implement the law.

To position LERC to effectively regulate the electricity of Liberia, we have completed and published the Electricity Licensing Instruments which consist of the Electricity Licensing Regulations; Micro Utility Licensing Regulations; Electricity Tariff Regulations and Methodology; and the Licensing Handbook, issued under its rule making powers consistent with the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia.

These instruments provide the framework for licensing operators within the interconnected national grid network and operators of mini-grid and off-grid systems, and standalone systems respectively.

The 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia and the Micro Utility Regulations which govern off-grid, mini-grids and standalone systems mandate that no person shall be involved in the provision of Micro Utility Service unless they are authorized, permitted or licensed to do so by the LERC. The categories and thresholds for Micro Utility authorization, License or Permit are defined in Regulation 7 of the Micro Utility Licensing Regulations.

Being a law abiding Corporative, TEC engaged us to come into compliance with the electricity law and the various regulations by applying for a Small Composite Micro Utility Permit. A Small Composite Micro Utility Permit is issued to an entity with a capacity less than 500kW but greater than 100kW that generates electricity at a specified location and distribute it within a specified zone or area.

Reviewing and approving the application of TEC was a very easy process for the Commission because of the robust system you have in place here. We are especially happy with the efficient system here at TEC. TEC has a total of 347 customers: 253 residential, 69 businesses, 4 schools, 3 clinics, and 18 others such as, churches, mosque, offices etc. on the average, 87% of connected customers turn out every month to purchase electricity. The system operates for 19 hours daily, with an average load of 25kW and peak load of 59kW. TEC's daily energy consumption is 500kWh.

Last year, TEC operated for 6,556.9 hours out of schedule time 6,786.5 hours which is 96% reliability. Now, ladies and gentlemen, citizens of Totota City and Bong County, that is an outstanding record to be proud of.

In addition, the management team of TEC (all residents of this community) is professional, competent, and very responsible to inquiries by LERC. This kind is the kind of cooperation we would like to see between the Regulator and companies operating in the electricity sector. We encourage the donor community to replicate the TEC model tin other counties across Liberia. Where the National Grid has not arrived.

Today, the TEC will be issued a Small Composite Micro Utility Permit that will allow them to generate and distribute electricity without discrimination to customers within Totota City, lower Bong County in accordance with the Permit terms and conditions.

This is considered a milestone for the Commission as we will be issuing our first Permit under the Micro Utility Licensing Regulations (MULR).

To the Board and Management of TEC, being issued a permit comes with additional responsibilities as you will see in the terms and conditions of the permit. We admonish you to abide by those terms and continue to cooperate with the LERC to ensure that the best service is provided to residents of Totota at the least cost possible.

The Regulator (LERC) is here to help the sector grow and become more efficient in delivering services to the citizens.

The LERC would like to send a clear and distinct message that Liberia is open for the critical investment required to cover the infrastructural deficit within the electricity sector.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Staff of the LERC, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following:

- The Government of Liberia for its support to the LERC since the closure of the MCAL support in January, 2021.
- The Managing Director and staff of LERC for their diligence and hard work
- The European Union Delegation to Liberia for their long-term technical assistance (LTTA) through the National Authorizing Office; and
- The TEC for your cooperation during the application and licensing process.

As we go forward post compact, we are mindful of the risks to LERC's sustainability. LERC needs uninterrupted funding to implement its operations. It would be difficult to function independently in keeping with the 2015 Electricity Law without sustainable funding. Consequently, we make this appeal to the Government of Liberia and our development partners for their continued support to the LERC in order to achieve the stated objectives as outlined in the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia.

**Thank you. And May God Bless and save Liberia**