

PRESS STATEMENT ON SPILLAGE OF WATER FROM THE BAGRE DAM IN BURKINA FASO

SONABEL, the power utility of Burkina Faso, has informed the Volta River Authority (VRA) that due to the rapid rise of the water level as a result of high inflows recorded into the Bagre dam, they (SONABEL) will commence spilling if the Bagre dam records an elevation of **234.75 meters**. The elevation as at the morning of Sunday 29th August 2021 was **234.32 meters** compared to the maximum elevation of **235 meters**.

This spilling is precautionary and aims at minimizing the rate of spillage if the inflow into the dam continues to increase. Information reaching us from our SONABEL counterparts indicates that the spilling from the Bagre Dam will start any day from August 27, 2021.

The high inflow into the Bagre dam is the result of the high level of rainfall in the Sahel region, which was predicted by the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) and other international meteorological agencies at the beginning of the rainfall season. VRA and SONABEL have, therefore, been monitoring the situation to ensure that we inform the relevant agencies and the public in advance of any spilling. Information from GMet shows that an average to above average rainfall level is expected in most parts of northern Ghana.

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) has already issued a statement on the situation and advised the population around the White Volta to be on the alert and be ready to move to higher grounds, in the event of flooding. VRA will also continue to engage with SONABEL to be informed on the amount of spilling they intend to undertake. VRA will keep monitoring the situation and work with agencies such as NADMO, Regional Coordinating Councils, Metropolitan and District Assemblies, Water Resources Commission, security agencies and other agencies to ensure prompt response to any emergency as well as issue regular updates on the situation to advise accordingly.

We wish to further state that the long-term solution to flooding in the White Volta Basin will be the construction of the Pwalugu Multi-Purpose Dam. Since November 2019, the VRA has started the implementation of the project by carrying out several pre-construction project activities.

The Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor, PowerChina, has completed the topographical and geotechnical activities necessary for carrying out detailed dam design. They have again carried out surveys to identify potential sources of construction material such as clay for the core of the dam, coarse and fine aggregates for concrete works, rocks for the rock-fill dam and laterite material for the embankment dam.

Furthermore, the VRA has completed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and the associated mitigation measures. The RAP has

developed a program for the resettlement of the 335 affected households, including a livelihood restoration program.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lands Commission will hold public hearings in the North East and Upper East Regions on the EIA on September 15&16 2021 respectively, to allow affected communities and other stakeholders to express their views on the EIA and RAP. These important stakeholder consultations are required by law.

Additionally, the VRA, working with the Lands Commission, has completed the valuation of assets of all project-affected persons. The Lands Commission will use the information to determine the compensation to be paid to impacted persons before their relocation.

The completion of these project development activities are pre-requisites for the large-scale construction work which is yet to commence.

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