

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

SONABEL, the power utility of Burkina Faso, has advised the Volta River Authority (VRA) that due to an unexpected rise in reservoir water level, the spillage of water from the Bagre Dam may commence today, Thursday September 1, 2022.

This is contrary to SONABEL's earlier notice that the spillage was expected to begin on September 7, 2022. As at August 31, 2022, the sharp rise in the water level stood at 234.88m representing 92.10%.

The spillage of the Dam will be done at a rate of 355 m³ /s. The volume and rate of the spill is expected to increase the inflow into the reservoir rises. The level of the spill is higher than the day one spill for 2020 (76.50 m³ /s), 2018 (5 m³ /s), 2016 (148 m³ /s), 2015 (191 m³ /s) and 2014 (179 m³ /s).

The global weather prognosis from ACMAD (African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development) indicates that above-average total cumulative rainfall amounts are expected over the upper Volta Basin (Burkina Faso, the extreme northern parts of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo).

According to the Ghana Metrological Agency, the ITB is expected to oscillate between Latitude 16.5°N and 21.0°N, indicating more rains in the coming days.

The Hydrological Services Department (HSD) has also indicated that the **Pwalugu Station** on the White Volta River is within the severity level 1 of the 10-day (August 31 – September 9) discharge forecast, meaning it is more than the 1-in-5-year flood.

The water levels of the White Volta River and its tributaries are expected to rise with the spill discharge from the Bagre Dam and the surface runoff because of the rainfall. This means that areas along the White Volta River, especially, are at a high risk of flooding.

The VRA and SONABEL will continue to monitor the spillage from the Bagre Dam, the global weather conditions and the rainfall within the northern part of the country and advise accordingly.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Press, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in the Upper East Region says it has put in place mechanisms to provide relief and accommodation for persons who may be affected by the spillage. NADMO has, however, cautioned all residents and farmers along the White Volta to move to higher grounds.

The spillage of the Bagre dam takes place in either the month of August or September every year to prevent destruction to the dam.

We appeal to residents to take note of this notice and comply accordingly. Any inconvenience this exercise may cause residents and farmers is regretted.

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