

VRA CHIEF EXECUTIVE JOINS FINANCE MINISTER **ON VISIT TO NORTH TONGU DISTRICT**

The Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr. Emmanuel Antwi Darkwa joined the Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori Atta on a visit to the North Tongu District as well as Mepe, the community hardest hit by the disaster following the spillage from the Akosombo Dam.

The visit was to afford the Minister for Finance and his delegation the opportunity to apprise themselves of the impact of the flooding in the district after VRA commenced controlled spillage on September 15, 2023.

Briefing at Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

The first point of call was the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which had been set up at the North Tongu District Assembly to co-ordinate the activities of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO). Briefing the minister, the Deputy Director, Technical, of NADMO, Mr. Seji Saji, gave a full account of events leading to the controlled spillage, the resulting floods, and the interventions made so far to alleviate the plight of persons impacted by the situation.

In his briefing, Mr. Seji Saji outlined the interventions put in place by VRA to ameliorate the plight of the displaced persons. He said VRA had committed twenty million cedis (**GHS20,000,000.00**) to support the work of NADMO. He noted that among others, VRA had embarked on mass distribution of food and relief items including medical supplies and ensured the restoration of the Aveyime water pump; therefore, restoring the supply of potable water to the community. He added that VRA had created an access road to the Mepe Safe Haven which had been cut off following the flooding, and in collaboration with Zoomlion, also provided mobile sanitary facilities for all the Safe Havens in the district. He further commended VRA for putting in place an Emergency Preparedness Plan that specified the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders during emergency situations such as the current.

Media Briefing and Donation

Addressing the media, Mr. Ken Ofori Atta stated that as a family, the Ministry of Finance was concerned about what had happened to their compatriots and for which reason the delegation had visited to empathize with the affected persons. He said “working together with VRA, we have brought items worth over GHS2 million to be able to support the relief that is ongoing. He also thanked Ghanaians for their spontaneous response in supporting the impacted communities. Mr. Ofori Atta announced that long-term relief measures for the victims of the Akosombo Dam spillage will be taken into consideration during the formulation of the 2024 budget.

Meeting with Mepe Traditional Council

After the press briefing, Mr. Ken Ofori Atta, and Mr. Antwi Darkwa also had an engagement with the Mankralo of the Mepe Traditional Council and his elders. He empathised with them and assured them of Government’s support.

Visit to Temporary Clinic at St Kizito

Mr. Ofori-Atta, after inspecting one of the flooded areas, visited the temporary clinic that had been set up to attend to the health concerns of displaced persons. He encouraged the health team to continue working hard to ensure the health needs of the people in the havens were met.

Mr. Antwi Darkwa’s team comprised the Deputy Chief Executive Services, Ing. Ken Arthur, the Director, Corporate Strategy, Mr. Clement Boakye, the Emergency Preparedness Team on the ground, the health team and officials from the Corporate Affairs and External Relations Unit, led by the Manager, Mrs Tandy Chothia.































































