

VRA NEWS

Newsletter Volume 23: October- November - December - 2020

Security Tips on Working from Home



Keep your computing
devices secured



Secure your network.
Avoid using public
Wi-Fi network



Protect your user
accounts. Do not share
your personal accounts
with others

VRA REMAINS COMMITTED TO “VRA BEYOND AID” AGENDA- CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, has unequivocally stated that the Authority remains committed in its quest to conduct its business without recourse to Government of Ghana's subvention.

According to him, this strategic decision forms part of the Authority's efforts to restore its finances with the purpose of providing effective financial management across all levels of the Authority to ensure a fortified balance sheet to guarantee short to long term financial sustainability.

The Chief Executive made the statement when he addressed the Authority's 10th Stakeholders' Interface at the Alisa Hotel, organized to apprise the Authority's key stakeholders on its 2019 Operational and Financial performance.

Making a presentation to the gathering, Mr. Antwi-Darkwa said, Management was assiduously and strategically working towards achieving effective and sustained financial liquidity, as it anticipates to becoming a Resilient, Sustainable and Growing Multi-business Holding Company, and in the long run wean off from Government's financial support.

He emphasised that, “In spite of some obvious challenges faced by the VRA with respect to debt owed the Authority by Government institutions and the high cost of generating power, VRA will not seek financial bail-out.” In his estimation, “this could be achieved if we focus on aggressive revenue mobilization, building the required human capital,



Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa

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**VOLTA
RIVER
AUTHORITY**

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investing in renewable and improving our internal business processes.”

Mr. Antwi-Darkwa, noted that the Authority's transformational strategies ushered it into a new age of resilience, diversification, sustainability and growth, which enhanced the reliability of power supply in the country.

He assured the stakeholders that VRA would continue to supply electricity to support the country's economic development and that of its neighbouring countries of Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire.

He indicated that from next year, Management, will start the expansion of the Kaleo and Lawra solar power projects, “and beyond that, we will do wind projects. Expansion in power

generation would focus mainly on renewables. COVID-19 has taught us that there is a great opportunity to deliver in renewables.”

“We have completed a roof top solar project at our Head Office as a precursor to establishing solar parks and rooftop solar facilities in Akosombo, Aboadze and Akuse enclaves, an evidence of our new commitment to living in a green environment and commenced the process to convert the Akosombo Township into a smart city to leverage on ICT infrastructure as human skill sets abound in the enclave,” he noted.

The Director-General of the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA), Mr. Stephen Asamoah-Boateng expressed satisfaction about

the financial turnaround that has changed the fortunes of the Authority and called for more improvement.

He urged VRA to continue to grow its revenue, cut down operational costs and eliminate waste as they form the key ingredients to the 'VRA Beyond Aid' agenda, and noted that, discussions are underway for the government to start receiving dividends from state institutions.



COVID-19 CHRISTMAS PLANS

How to celebrate the holidays during Covid-19

Indoor gatherings pose more risk than outdoor gatherings, consider hosting Christmas outdoors.

If you can't host outside, choose a well-ventilated space, or open windows and doors as much as possible.



VRA BOSS GRABS BEST CEO POWER SECTOR FOR THE SECOND TIME

Lawrence Quartey, CSS/CSD, Accra



Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa

Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA) has for the second time running been adjudged Ghana's Best Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Power Sector at the 4th Ghana Energy Awards (GEA).

Organizers of the coveted awards conferred the honour on the Chief

Executive at the 2020 edition of the GEA in Accra under the theme: "Excelling in Crisis: The Energy Sector in a COVID-19 Era".

He beat competition from five other nominee CEOs in the power sector namely, the Ghana Grid Company, Meinergy Technology, SunPower Innovations, Bui Power Authority and the Electricity Company of Ghana.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Antwi-Darkwa said the best gift Covid-19 had given the energy sector was to have a different perspective on how to run businesses. "Although the Covid-19 pandemic was anticipated to disrupt the supply chains in the energy sector, government's programme to grant exemptions to fly in technical personnel and equipment to service operations, was very helpful," he said.

He added that a shift in demand for electricity was anticipated due to the closure/reduction in the operations of businesses but surprisingly that did not materialize because demand generally grew though not at the forecast levels.

In VRA, he said, Management's introduction of creative measures such as running shift systems for staff to reduce the chances of cross-infection, had engendered confidence in employees that their colleagues did not stand the chance of infecting them in the work environment.

Mr. Antwi-Dakwa said Covid-19 had written a new script for business continuity plans, which all players in the sector should see to revise their notes, adding that, health, safety and mobility of employees at VRA were now at the core of plans instead of being at the periphery.

The night also saw several other companies and captains in the industry being awarded in various categories.

The VRA, as a corporate body, also took two other prestigious awards namely Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Company of Year and Outstanding Covid-19 Company Task Force of the Year.

Its Board Chairman, Mr. Kweku Andoh Awotwi, was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the ceremony. He was

presented with a plaque, wax print and a picture frame.

The Energy Minister, Mr. John Peter Amewu, in a speech read for him, recounted the challenges Covid-19 has posed to economies of the world and said the war against the pandemic in the energy sector, had been jointly fought by government and the private sector. The Ministry of Energy received a Special Recognition Award for government's Recovery Programme and Free Electricity during Covid-19.

In a related development, Mr. Antwi-Darkwa was adjudged the Sustainability and Social Investment CEO of the Year at the 4th edition of the Sustainability and Social Investment (SSI) Awards at the Kempinski Hotel recently.

The award recognised his commitment and increased interventions to the welfare of the impacted communities affected by the Authority's operations towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of transformation.



Mr. Antwi-Darkwa, (2nd from left), in a pose with the award and the VRA team

The VRA also won the 'Best Company In Clean Water Provision Project' and, 'Best Company In Providing Sanitation Facilities' to demonstrate its commitment and driving impact to the benefit of its impacted communities.

The award scheme is endorsed by the Ministry of Education (MoE), National Road Safety Commission among other corporate functionaries and seeks reward to the profitability but more importantly, the social impact of businesses institutions and individuals, particularly in the localities where they operate.



Dr. Ebenezer Tagoe receiving the SSI CEO of the Year award on behalf of the Chief Executive



Dr. Mrs. I. Stella Agyemin-Boateng receiving VRA's award from Mr. Yoofi-Grant

'WE HAVE MADE POSITIVE GAINS IN OUR FRP INITIATIVE'-BOARD CHAIR

Michael Danso, CCS/CSD, Accra

Board Chairman of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr. Kweku Andoh Awotwi has made it known that, the Authority posted a significant net loss reduction from GH¢220.1 million in 2018 to GH¢127.1 million by the end of 2019.

According to him, the difference represents 42 per cent in reduction rate and said, “we are on track to reduce losses even further this year and possibly post a modest profit to meet our financial recovery targets set in 2018.”

Mr. Awotwi stated this when he was addressing stakeholders at the 10th VRA Stakeholders' Interface in Accra recently. He emphasized that: “with determination and resilience, we succeeded in making positive gains in our financial recovery efforts.”

He disclosed further that the Authority made significant increase of 23 per cent in hydro energy sources and 55 per cent in thermal energy generation in 2019.

“The Authority also sold 1744 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy it contracted from the Takoradi International Company of Ghana (TICO) through power exchanges with



Mr. Kweku Andoh Awotwi

Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricite,” he stated.

He said the payment of government's GH¢344 million through the Energy

Sector Levy Act (ESLA) Bond issued to substantially reduce legacy debts fortified the Authority's operations and contributed to the current progress achieved in its financial recovery.

The Board Chairman noted that revenue from the sale of electricity increased by 27 per cent from GH¢3.160 billion in 2018 to GH¢4.012 billion in 2019, adding that, “this is attributable to the combined effects of a 19.20 per cent increase in the quality of energy sold; that is, from 9,025GWh in 2018 to 10,758GWh in 2019 and an increase in the average tariff for regular customers from GHS.02499/kwh in 2018 to GH¢0.2813kwh in 2019.”

In addition, he said, the quantity of electricity sold to deregulated customers which attracted relatively better margins increased by 55.8 per cent from 3,003GWh in 2018 to 4,679GWh in 2019.

On account of sales to SONABEL over the new Bolgatanga-Ouagadougou 330kv transmission line, he noted that electricity sold increased from 222GWh in 2018 to 519GWh in 2019, representing an increase of 135 per cent.



**with determination and resilience,
we succeeded in making positive gains in our financial recovery efforts.**

TTPS HONOURS SIX RETIREES

Nathaniel Ekue Mensah, CSR&CR/E&SDD, Aboadze



Mr. Thomas Ameyaw making a presentation to one of the retiring Staff

The Takoradi Thermal Power Station (TTPS) has organized a farewell event in honour of six retiring Staff in Takoradi after several years of service spanning between 10 to 32 years.

For their dedication to work and service to the organization, each retiring staff received a package with an undisclosed amount of money and a framed citation from the Management of the TTPS.

The Retiring Staff were: Mr. Osman Seidu, Chief Technician Engineer, Mr. Samuel Ekow Baisie-Nkrumah, Asst. Chief Technician Engineer, Mr. Solomon Adjete, Asst. Chief Technician Engineer, Mr. Emmanuel K. Dadzie, Principal Driver, Mr. Stephen K. Cudjoe, Senior Fireman,

and Mr. Victor K. Fynn, Senior General Labourer all of the Thermal Generations Department of the Volta River Authority (VRA), the operator of the TTPS.

Addressing the retiring Staff, the Director, Thermal Generations, Ing.



Ing. Obeng-Kenzo addressing the retiring Staff

Edward Oben-Kenzo thanked them on behalf of Management of VRA for their invaluable service to the Authority over the years.

He noted that “your commitment to work and professionalism is what has kept the TTPS and the VRA in business till date and I hope Staff in active service will follow your example and emulate.”

Ing. Jacob Brown Yawson, Plant Manager, TTPS on his part urged them to continuously take good care of their health as they retire from active service by exercising more and going for regular medical checkups.

Various Speakers at the event shared their personal experiences and fond memories on the retiring Staff amidst humour and human sentiments while assuring to count on them in the discharge of their duties.



THERE REALLY ARE TWO LIVES WE LIVE. THE FIRST LIFE AND THEN THE SECOND LIFE WHEN WE REALIZE WE ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE.

VRALA ENDS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Linda Appiah, CRU/E&SDD, Akosombo



DCE Services and E&O leading the Ladies in a dance

The Volta River Authority Ladies Association (VRALA) has held a thanksgiving service at the Akosombo Wesley Methodist Church, to roundup activities that characterised its year-long 20th anniversary celebrations. The anniversary was marked on the theme; “The New VRA, the Role of the VRA Lady.”



Dr. Stella Agyenim-Boateng addressing the Ladies

Addressing the Association, Deputy Chief Executive, Engineering and Operations (E&O), Ing. Emmanuel Dankwa Osafo, commended successive national executives and the membership for promoting gender and social activism and, being a pillar of support to the VRA and its impacted communities over the past 20 years.

He advised the ladies to co-exist and continue to work in harmony to achieve greater successes in the ensuing years for the Association and the Authority.

Deputy Chief Executive, Services, Dr. (Mrs.) I. Stella Agyenim-Boateng, charged the Ladies not to be complacent but be firm and conscious about the pleasure of life.

The National President of VRALA, Lady Stella Mawushie Dey also asked the Ladies to exhibit values of patriotism, love, unity and teamwork to help achieve the VRA's corporate mission of Setting the Standard for Public Sector Excellence in Africa.

In a sermon, Rev. Lucy, Arvo-Quardoo thanked God for the lives of the Association, Staff and the Authority. She stated that, the plans of the Association and the company has been successful because of the grace of God.

Rev. Arvo-Quardoo who is also a Senior Programmer of the MIS Department encouraged the women to endeavour to play a key role in the NEW VRA towards the achievement of the “BRAISE” strategy.

Present at the service were; Mr. Richard Ahenkora-Osei, Director, Investment; Dr. Taurus Valmont, Chairman of the Akosombo area, Senior Staff Association and representatives of the Unionized Staff.



A section of the Ladies dancing to praise God

DR. TAGOE COMMENDS MANAGEMENT OF VOLTA HOTEL LTD

Michael Danso, CCS/CSD, Accra



The Deputy Chief Executive, Finance (DCEF), of the Volta River Authority (VRA) Dr. Ebenezer Tagoe has praised Management of the Akosombo Hotels Ltd (AHL) and Dodi World for staying relevant and competitive despite the rippling effect of COVID-19 on the tourism and hospitality sector.

The Hotel which operates a cross-functional hospitality and tourism solutions was severely affected when the government announced emergency restrictions to ban all social gathering and mass activities including entertainment, events and conferences.

In spite of that, VRA's premium Aqua tourism service, Dodi World, was adjudged the Visitor Attraction of 2019 by the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) at Eastern Regional Tourism awards, for its immense contribution in promoting domestic tourism.

Dr. Tagoe commended the Management and Staff of the Hotel and its cruise enterprise for the feat when Mr. Edwin Adi Aryitey, General Manager, Volta Hotel Ltd led a delegation to pay a courtesy call on him.

He corroborated the visit with a citation presented to the Dodi World by the GTA which stated that: "Your tenacity in the face of challenges and your knack to bounce back tremendously after a major

setback is truly remarkable. Dodi World is certainly the biggest water-based tourism product in Ghana."

The DCEF was particularly impressed for the award after a successful operation for less than a year which was not spared by the vagaries of the COVID-19 pandemic after the first Dodi Princess was raised down by fire about eight years ago.

He admonished them to see the award as a steppingstone for more achievements and push further to achieve more successes and attract international recognitions.

For his part Mr. Aryitey noted that Dodi World (Dodi Princess II) was awarded the Visitor Attraction for 2019, for showing the potential of attracting more

visitors and hosting them at the facility.

He indicated that his outfit was in the process of introducing new packages such as the Dam City Escape, Honeymoon package, Couple Getaways and Dodi Princess Edu tour to add up to its wide-range of auxiliary services.

Dodi world is Ghana's first destination experience offering a unique package of adventure, entertainment, history and education on the beautiful banks of the Volta River in Akosombo. It provides a fantastic view of the lake, dam, and adjoining mountain slope and offers a memorable voyage experience on board its 150-capacity pleasure boat; MV Dodi Princess II to Dodi Island, an 84-hectar Island located five kilometres off the shore of Lake Volta.



Dr. Tagoe (second from right) receiving the award from Mr. Aryitey, flanked by Mr. Isaac Ofori Obiri (Head of Sales and Marketing) and Mr. Victor Obli-Mantey (Cruise services Supervisor), first from left



GHANA TOURISM AUTHORITY EASTERN REGION



2019 EASTERN REGIONAL TOURISM AWARDS

Citation

VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR 2019

DODI WORLD, AKOSOMBO

The emergence of Dodi World in the tourism landscape in the region has not only transformed the significance of the Volta lake as a world class tourism product, but also offers an excellent relaxation and recreational services to both domestic and international tourists. The magnificent passengers lounge with its modern facilities is the best tourist facility in Ghana.

Your attention to safety, hygiene, customer service delivery as well as providing a unique blend of water cruise, adventure and entertainment to tourists in the region and beyond is highly commendable.

Your tenacity in the face of challenges and your knack to bounce back tremendously after a major setback is truly remarkable. Dodi World is certainly the biggest water-based tourism product in Ghana. Your continuous effort to put smiles on the faces of tourists who patronize your services is incomparable and well appreciated.

In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the tourism hospitality industry, **GHANA TOURISM AUTHORITY** confers on you **DODI WORLD "THE VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR 2019"** in the Eastern region.

Congratulations!!!

FREDERICK ADJEI-RUDOLPH
(REGIONAL MANAGER)

'MANAGEMENT ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE SECURITY AGAINST ATTACKS'- CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Michael Danso, CCS/CSD, Accra



Management Staff and some WASACO award winners in a group photograph

Management of the Volta River Authority (VRA), has served notice that it will continue to beef up and maintain high level of security at the Kpong Generation Station (KGS) and other VRA power installations and subsidiaries nationwide.

This follows the insurgence of a separatist group seeking a breakaway from Ghana which recently attempted to launch an attack to breach the security system at the KGS in order to capture the Akuse Plant.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, gave the assurance in a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Chief Executive, Services, Dr. Mrs. Irene Stella Agyenim-Boateng, at this year's VRA Safety Awareness Day in Accra.

According to him, "the development caused Management to scale up security at the installation. This phenomenon makes it even more compelling to develop a common approach and methodology which set

the path to building sustainable protection against physical and cyber-attacks of our installations."

This year, the Safety Awareness Day was organized under the theme: "Managing Cyber and Physical Security: A key Requirement of Our Sustainability Plan." It was aimed at promoting staff involvement in the performance of safety and awareness creation in cyber security threats.

Mr. Antwi-Darkwa said, the event also formed part of the VRA's sustainability plan, which seeks to

sustain its economic growth environmental and social responsibility, with the conscious effort at reducing the dependence on localised facilities and migrate to a cloud-enabled Information Technology (IT) infrastructure.

Mr. Antwi-Darkwa said currently, cyber threats had become even more pronounced, as the world battled the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global health socio-economic and political systems.

He said the pandemic had resulted in increased reliance on digital tools, as the normal work culture had shifted to remote working in order to accomplish daily routines, thereby exposing the VRA to the threats of the digital space. He mentioned that, "Today's society has new challenges of protecting critical points of cyber vulnerabilities, as the number and intensity of cyber-attacks keep rising at incredible speed rates."

As part of VRA's sustainability plan, he said, Management, in January 2020, applied part of the company's internally generated funds to carry out an audit of its IT infrastructure and resources. "This was done by inviting



Vehicle Workshop in virtual attendance to the Programme

proposals from qualified consultancy firms to undertake a diagnostic study of our IT infrastructure and provide recommendations to enhance our business and corporate strategy.”

He said, “the IT Audit was carried out with the view to providing Management with an independent professional view of the short, medium and long-term strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threat analyses of the current ICT assets of the VRA and provide recommendations for Management.”

The Director of Operations of the National Cyber Security Centre, Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Bediako-Opoku, said cyber security posed a serious threat to corporate and personal data, national reputation, e-commerce, development, national security concerns and critical infrastructure such as power installations.

He reminded Management of VRA that the company was a Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), and that any attack on its installations could have dire impact on national security, the economy, public health and safety. “You must put in place measures to prevent data loss, financial loss, operational disruption, loss of lives, as well as prevent negative effect on the economy,” he proposed.

Mr. Kofi Ellis, former DCE, Services, was honoured for promoting best safety practices in the company during his administration which contributed to the overall success of the Authority. The Kpone Thermal Power Station was adjudged the first price winner of the 2020 WASACO awards for the operational areas.



Staff of AIS participating in the virtual Safety Awareness Day Programme at the Assembly Hall



Staff of Technical Services Department gathered in their Conference room for the programme



Hydro Generation Department participating in the virtual Safety Awareness Day

Do your Part

Be Informed | Be Prepared | Be Smart | Be Safe



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GHANA HEART FOUNDATION COMMENDS VRA FOR 20 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Michael Danso, CCS/CSD, Accra



Dr. Serebour (second left) receiving the cheque from Ing. Sackeyfio. Looking on are Mrs. Dinah Quarshie and Mrs. Rebecca Ntorinkansah (first right), both of Corporate Strategy Department

Management of the Ghana Heart Foundation (GHF) has expressed profound gratitude to the Volta River Authority (VRA) for its continuous support and loyalty to the Foundation over the past two decades.

Since its establishment, VRA has incessantly been committed to supporting GHF by making annual financial contributions to the Health Fund to support open-heart surgeries and cardiovascular anomalies of underprivileged patients, especially children borne with hole-in-heart conditions.

Director of the National Cardiothoracic Centre, Dr. Lawrence Serebour, expressed the Foundation's

appreciation to VRA when he received a cheque for GH¢20,000.00 from the Authority as part of its voluntary contributions to the fund.

Presenting the cheque, Director, Corporate Strategy Department, Ing. Alfred Sackeyfio, said, the donation was VRA's contribution to enable the Cardiothoracic Centre provide support to patients who cannot afford the cost of treatment.

He acknowledged the good work the Cardiothoracic Centre is doing to support the healthcare delivery system in Ghana and added that the VRA will not relent on its loyalty as the gesture is directly in sink with the Authority's Corporate Social Responsibility policy.

He expressed worry about the spate of heart related diseases and the high cost of heart surgeries although cost per patient is highly subsidized. He appealed to other corporate organisations to support the increasing number of patients who cannot afford the cost of medical bills.

For his part, Dr. Serebour said, “the magnitude of hole-in-heart problem in recent times is enormous; one out of every one hundred children, that are borne have one form or the other of the hole-in-heart condition. Fifty per cent of these children die before their 5th birthday without intervention.”

He added that, “If we look at the birth rate, you will see that at least 8 to 10,000 children are added to the existing ones. So, we need help.”

According to him heart attacks was so rare among the black race in the 80s but is a common disease these days, indicating that, “more than five to 10 people are admitted at the emergency unit because of heart attacks.”

Dr. Serebour said heart attacks could be prevented by treating diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, obesity and doing more physical activities like exercising at least 30-45 minutes 3-4 times in a week.

He said managing a proper lifestyle can also minimize the risk of developing heart and circulatory disease. “Do not hold grudges, do not smoke, do not stress yourself but have enough rest,” he advised.

VRA CONFIDENT ABOUT ENERGY STABILITY & SECURITY

Michael Danso, CSS/CSD, Accra



Dr. Doku Addressing the gathering

The Volta River Authority (VRA) is poised to manage the aftermath of the COVID-19 well to mitigate the impact on the Authority and the country as a whole as part of its long-term recovery plan.

The VRA is pursuing several measures to enhance Ghana's energy stability and security, which will enable it to reap the full benefit of the energy sector in a post-COVID-19 transformation agenda. This decision will inevitably shape infrastructure and industries for decades.

This was contained in a speech read on behalf of the Chief Executive of VRA, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, by Dr. Isaac Adjei Doku, Director of Commercial Services, at the 2020 Ghana Economic Forum organised by the Business and Financial Times (B&FT) in Accra. The Forum was on the theme; 'Resetting the Economy Beyond COVID-19: Building

Economic Resilience and Self-Sufficiency.'

He said VRA's "recovery plan is aligned with long-term national and global objectives on energy resilience and sustainable development, and it is essential that the focus be on clean and renewable energy transitions."

Mr. Antwi-Darkwa, acknowledged that the VRA, as a premier power generating company, had considered

factors and the impact of COVID-19 within the energy sector and noted that technological innovations, digitisation and human capital development represent the power industry's future.

He stated that: "It also includes energy diversification and moving away from traditional energy sources, and investment in energy resources and modernised infrastructure."

Additionally, he said there has been some investment in energy efficiency to ensure current energy resources are not quickly depleted, while market and institutional reforms to cater for the developments in the energy market have also been introduced.

He said there had been some investment in grid-connected renewable energy such as solar, wind and hydro power projects; and rooftop solar at the VRA's Head Office, which will soon be rolled out to demonstrate standalone solutions.

He further noted, that "VRA has deployed the use of technology to improve our thermal plant operations and reduce operational cost and the cost of energy to customers.



Mr. Yaw Osafo-Maafa (4th from left) and Speakers at the forum

VRA SUPPORTS FODZOKU COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT **WITH GH¢ 10,000**

Benjamin Quarshie, CRU/CSR, E&SDD, Akosombo



Mrs. Rhoda Arthur performing a Sod Cutting ceremony for the commencement of the project

The Chiefs and people of Fodzoku have received a cheque for GH¢10,000.00 from the Volta River Authority (VRA) in support of the construction of a Community Centre at Fodzoku, one of the six resettlement communities impacted by the construction of the Kpong Hydroelectric Power Station in Akuse.

Senior Community Relations Officer, Mrs. Rhoda Arthur, said Management

of VRA is committed to the welfare, safety and security of the community and was pleased to support their growth and development programmes.

Making the donation on behalf of the Chief Executive, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, during the celebration of the annual Gligbaza, (festival) of the Chiefs and people of the Fodzoku Traditional area, Mrs. Arthur assured them of Management's commitment

to support developmental projects through its Community Development Programme (CDP).

In the context of the CDP, she noted that Management was in the process of introducing Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) to replace the VRA educational scholarship scheme to support skills development in the impacted communities, following the introduction of government's free Senior High School education policy.

She said VRA had supported the Fodzoku community in the areas of scholarship for brilliant but needy students, donation of educational materials, support for cultural activities, rehabilitation of its six unit classroom block, provision of water pump booster to increase the flow of water supply in the township among others.

In separate addresses, Togbe Misrobi III, the Mankrado of Fodzoku and Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Member of Parliament for the North Tongue constituency cautioned the youth against the Western Togoland Secessionist Group and volunteer information on it to the police.



Traditional leaders of Fodzoku and Mrs. Arthur in a pose at the project site



Mrs. Arthur delivering the Chief Executive's speech

VRA ASSURES AKWAMU & MANYA KROBO ADEQUATE SECURITY

Linda Appiah & Benjamin Quarshie, CRU/CSR, E&SDD, Akosombo



Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III the Paramount Chief of the Akwamu Traditional council

A combined team of security enthusiasts led by Ing. Emmanuel Dankwa Osafo, Deputy Chief Executive, Engineering and Operations (E&O) of the Volta River Authority (VRA), the Akuse police command, Military and Immigration have paid separate courtesy calls on the Paramount Chiefs of the Akwamu and Manya Krobo Traditional areas.

The visit was to detail them on the security situation in the VRA impacted communities and operational areas following attempts by the Western Togoland secessionist group to capture the Kpong Generating Station.

Interacting with the Paramount Chief of the Akwamu Traditional area, Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III, Ing. Dankwa Osafo, said the unauthorized attempt of the protestors into the Authority's

catchment areas prompted VRA to deploy security to its work locations and environs.

He noted that, the Akosombo and Kpong Dams are now under the surveillance of the National Security Agencies and asked, the communities to give them the necessary cooperation to enable VRA proceed with its

mandate for effective work under safe environment.

In his response, Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III noted that the Akwamuland had condemned the action of the secessionist group openly and issued a press release to that effect.

He was grateful to VRA and the Security Agencies for their prompt response to the situation and promised to ensure maximum cooperation since the issue is of common interest to the mutual benefits of the Traditional Area and VRA.

For his part, the Paramount Chief of the Manya Krobo Traditional area, Nene Sakite II also acknowledged that the people of Manya Krobo had nothing to do with the secessionist group.

He said as a proud Ghanaian, he issued a press release to dissociate the Kroboland from the criminal activities of the said group and assured VRA and the security details of their total cooperation by providing necessary information where needed but cautioned the security agencies to be fair and firm in their operations.

The Akuse District Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Winfred Asare-Nyarko, said their work can be made easier if the communities are willing to volunteer information on those involved in the



Nene Sakite II (Konor) of the Manya Krobo Traditional council flanked by the team

→ Contd. from pg.15

criminal act, since security surveillance has indicated that some members of the Western Togoland group resided in the various communities.

He assured the traditional authorities that police patrol teams would be extended to the adjoining communities

and called for effective collaboration to help them conduct an independent and transparent investigation.

The delegation was accompanied by: Ing. Kenneth Arthur, Director, Hydro Generation, Ing. Johnson Hlordjie, Director, Environment & Sustainable Development, Mr. David Adomako-Mensah, Director, Real Estates &

Security, Mrs. Vivian Yebuah, Manager, AMC, Mr. Thomas Mahama, Head of Security, Mrs. Rhoda Arthur, Senior Community Relations Officer

Others were: Captain R.B. Gyau, 2nd Lt. Antwi-Frimpong, both from the Ghana Army, and ASP/Rockson Gyasi of the Ghana Immigration



Bonding or having a good relationship with others occurs at any time in life. From the moment a woman conceives, a bond is created with the growing foetus till the baby is born and finally exits the world in death. People feel loved and have a sense of belonging when they realize that the other person is concerned about him or her.

Bonding as mentioned earlier can take place at any time, but I believe a festive season like Christmas is a good time for you to exhibit genuine love and affection. There are a number of different ways to bond with someone whether to get closer to your neighbours, coworkers, family members, or with a romantic partner. It's fun to have people close especially knowing that you are loved.

"Having people in your life with whom there's mutual trust and genuine caring is an important part of the human experience and is essential to living a healthy, successful life," says [relationship expert Antonia Hall over email](#). "[Creating a bond instills an emotional attachment, which is foundational for relationships.](#)"

Real bonding takes time but there are certain activities that can be undertaken to make the bonding more interesting. We shall discuss a few of these activities.

As a family, it is important to create a common goal. You can decide to have fun together by exercising together through jogging, having aerobics, or even a dancing competition. These create togetherness and strengthen family ties that make people feel at ease in each other's company.

Going for a trip together can also create bonding. Due to pressure of work, school and other strenuous activities, it becomes a challenge for families to make time to bond as they are supposed to. However, taking a trip outside home can help. You decide to go on a trip outside your home, spend a few days together in a relaxed atmosphere and undertake activities that will bond you the more.

Neighbours can also decide to organize a get-together in a serene atmosphere where they can easily interact and discuss issues of common interest.

Cooking and sharing a meal together can be interesting. You may decide to prepare different dishes which you are not familiar with and share. This is a great way of learning to cook and enjoy different kinds of meals in a new environment.

To create bonding and intimacy between two people, you need to dive deep into personal questions. By asking personal questions you get to know each other better and you feel free to discuss issues and share acquaintances.

Decide to do something nice for someone. Offering to help someone is a great way to take your relationship to the next level, whether it is for a friend or someone you are dating. If you are in a romantic relationship, it is best to focus on the little things you can do every day rather than opting for grand gestures. Research shows that smaller gestures of support [are more effective than overt favours, which can make someone feel trapped or obligated, according to Psychology Today](#).

Multiple studies show that emotions can even be conveyed [through just touching or physical contact. Think a hug, a pat on the back, or other signs of affection that can create intimacy](#).

Creating a bond is healing to the soul and I think though we can all bond at any given time, considering this festive season will not be a bad idea because the atmosphere is already laced with love and you can easily bond in such an environment.

KPONG FARMS LTD.

KPONG RICE

APPROVED PRICE LIST



RETAIL PRICE

GRADE	QTY	UNIT PRICE GHS
A	5 x 5kg	160.00
	1 x 25kg	150.00
	1 x 5kg	35.00
C	1 x 50kg	160.00
	5 x 5kg	90.00
	1 x 25kg	80.00
	1 x 5kg	16.00
RICE BRAN	30kg	15.00

NOTE: ** C IS 100% broken

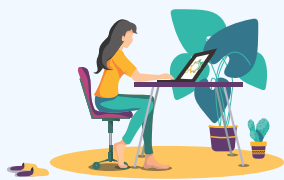
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0362196362 | 0362196363





Security Tips on Working from Home



Keep your computing devices secure

- Install anti-malware software and personal firewall
- Ensure all software / firmware are patched and updated
- Enable security features to prevent unauthorised access to your devices



Secure your network

- Avoid using public Wi-Fi network
- Use secure connection (e.g. Virtual Private Network (VPN))
- Use WPA2 or WPA3 encryption for home Wi-Fi



Protect your user accounts

- Adopt strong passwords and/or multi-factor authentication
- Do not share your personal accounts with others
- Log out remote access account when not in use



Protect your data

- Back up your important data and keep the backups in a secure, off-site location
- Adopt data encryption when storing sensitive data in storage devices or cloud storage
- Do not overshare your personal data in social networking sites



Be aware of phishing scams

- Do not click links in suspicious emails / websites
- Do not open / download email attachments from suspicious sources
- Be cautious before submitting any personal / sensitive information



Provide adequate support for remote working

- Remind employees to comply with the information security guidelines and policies of your organisation
- Ensure employees have good awareness of the IT support facilities
- Ensure the incident response plan and business continuity plan are up to date



VOLTA HOTEL
AKOSOMBO

Christmas Getaway

PACKAGE & ACTIVITIES

STANDARD ROOM

GHC 650

per night

EXECUTIVE SUITE

GHC 1,200

per night

ACCOMMODATION

(DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

Elegant rooms with Dam View, Buffet
Breakfast, Mini Bar, Swimming pool,
Lawn Tennis



DAILY ACTIVITIES

Christmas Carols, **24TH Dec.**

Xmas Family Buffet,

Jazz and barbeque Night **25th Dec.**

Kiddy Carnival, Boxing Day Buffet,

Open Air Happy Hour **26th Dec.**

Family hangout, Akosombo Theatre

Festival **27th Dec.**

Poolside Hangout, Christmas made

in Ghana, Pizza feast, Lovers Rock

28th Dec.

Intimate Dinner **31st Dec.**

New Year Family Buffet **1st Jan.**

Happy Hour **2nd Jan.**

MEALS

(CONTINENTAL, LOCAL, CHINESE)

Buffet lunch and Dinner

Adults GHC 150 | Kids GHC 100

SIDE ATTRACTIONS

Dodi Princess Cruise | Mini Safari |

Island Adventure | Water sports | kiddy playground

| Massage Parlor



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PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT — PART 3

INTRODUCTION

This is the third episode of this year's series on Project Risk Management. Thus far, we have discussed the phases of the VRA project life cycle and management of common risks affecting project identification and detailed preparation phases. This chapter focuses on the need and means to identify and address key risks that occur at the Project Procurement Phase to ensure successful project delivery.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT PHASE

At the project procurement stage specified goods and services are secured to meet the project's requirements. At this stage, a vendor or supplier of goods, works and/or services is engaged by applying suitable procurement methods or contractual arrangements, based on make-or-buy recommendations in the feasibility or front-end engineering design report and draft procurement documents.

Procurement is inherently a high risk endeavor, because it entails real commitment of resources that brings into effect enforceable rights and obligations. Suppliers/contractors can fall short of the mark in terms of quality, quantity or delivery timeliness. Rogue spending and fraud can occur and erode presumed project benefits. Internal processes may not be optimized, resulting in costly errors and exceptions. As a result, procurement risk management is a key part of effective and strategic project sourcing. Some common risks associated with this stage are discussed below.

1. Inadequate Risk Assessment

Project procurement usually encounters unnecessary or avoidable setbacks due to lack or inadequate risk assessment. Procurement process must include thorough risk assessment covering key supply disorders and their subsequent implications.

Solution: Update the project risk register, compiled at the detailed preparation stage and carry out full risk assessment on the project's procurement, identifying all the possible procurement issues and their corresponding mitigation actions. Implement these measures to address all the unnecessary risks. Seek the help of risk management experts, in case the procurement team lacks this expertise.

2. Delay/Non-Availability of Funds for Smooth Procurement

There is a possible risk of non-availability of funds or delay in accessing funds for the procurement process to start as scheduled. This could be as a result of unanticipated cash flow challenges or disappointment from the project sponsor, due to the sponsor having financial challenges at the time or losing interest in the project.

Solution – Establish and confirm a reliable source of funding for the project. The procurement team must constantly be in close liaison with the project finance team and the project financier concerning funds for the project. Fallback plans in event of irregular flow of funds must be established.

3. Over-Focus on Cost Reduction /Lower Costs

Cost reduction is one of the key focus for most procurement functions. An often-desired goal is having procurements accomplished on time and under or within budget. Some businesses may choose cost, even when the effects are detrimental to the product quality. Several problems may arise if cost is over-emphasised to the detriment of other key considerations in procurement. The most classic example is outsourcing to least cost or low-cost supplier and contractor, without considering

implications on quality, delivery lead time and other “hidden costs”.

Solution: Care must be taken not to be overly focused on low cost. The procurement team must equally consider implications on goods and service quality, delivery lead time, freight cost, trade compliance issues, etc. Low cost is not always and necessarily the best.

4. Providing Unclear Specifications & Requirements

Unclear specifications and requirements undermine competitive procurement and is recipe for costly procurement disputes. Suppliers deliver based on their understanding of the requirements of the buyer. This makes proper requirement specification a sine qua non for effective procurement transaction.

Solution: No effort, including involvement of product/service experts, users, consultants etc. should be spared in specifying requirements for any material procurement transaction. Where the procurement entity is unclear about its requirements, soliciting proposed solutions from potential vendors ahead selection and contract award could help.

5. Working without Procurement Experts on the Project

Procurement is a specialist field and having knowledgeable and experienced personnel on the project is important. Tendency is for users or project implementing outfits to overlook the need for procurement experts due to the seeming ease of procurement process.

Solution - There should be strictly enforced policies and procedures assigning roles including those of procurement experts at relevant stages of the project life.

6. Ineffective Supplier Assessment

Organizations usually leave out supplier assessment or do not give it the due attention by solely relying on what suppliers promise on paper. Selecting suppliers without an effective assessment can result in irregularities and unpleasant experiences.

Solution: Conduct thorough supplier evaluation based on comprehensive checklist for due diligence including background and current viability checks. This leads to positive outcomes for the project.

7. Doing Business without a Formal Contract

One of the most common procurement problems is to have suppliers in the supplier list without a formal contract. Creation of legal contracts and paper works may be time-consuming and challenging but is necessary. This procurement problem could arise when there is regular request for Expressions of Interest, Proposal, Quotation, etc. and managing them take up time.

Solution: Create a straight, fair, and thorough approach for formal contracts. The process may be cumbersome and challenging but

whatever the situation, business should be done with official agreements. And it should be done regardless of how big or small the supplier is.

8. Cumbersome Project Procurement Process Causing Delay

The cumbersome bureaucratic nature of most procurement processes causes so much delay in procuring materials for projects. While normal basic purchasing processes are usually well defined, several essential procurements processes are cumbersome.

Solution: Review the procurement system and truncate the process by removing unnecessary and redundant steps from the process.

9. Wrong Orders

Ordering wrong items or quantities can lead to serious procurement problems with suppliers. Nowadays, the speed of transactions leaves little or no room for ordering errors. Accidental orders would necessitate several checks and balances all through the system. If there are no protocol permits or support reversals

safeguarding against mistakes, then such problems are likely to take more time, therefore delaying the project.

Solution: Owners and contractors must maintain good cordial relationship with their suppliers so that in case of ordering errors, an immediate follow up would be activated to rectify such mistakes.

Conclusion

Project procurement phase is a key area in the VRA project life cycle with many associated risks. As markets and technology continue to evolve, new procurement challenges are emerging. Understanding the complexities in the procurement process, vendor management, and contract management will help the Authority stay ahead of the competition and meet its procurement goals, improving project delivery.

The next epistle is project implementation. Watch out!

NEW NORMAL SOCIAL DISTANCING



special feature

TAKING A PRAGMATIC CUE FROM VRA'S ABOADZE FACILITY

OCTOBER, the global Breast Cancer Awareness Month noted for annual free breast screening, may have ended but for the women of Aboadze, the chargeless help is not over. There is gratifying news for them about a new scheme.

They now have access to weekly free breast examination, courtesy of the Volta River Authority (VRA), instead of once a year; available every Wednesday for the catchment area inhabitants.

Earlier this week, the good news came from the VRA, specifically from its hospital at Aboadze, Western Region. A Daily Graphic report of November 3 announced that: The Volta River Authority Hospital at Aboadze in the Shama District in the Western Region has instituted a year-round free breast cancer screening for its host communities.

The company has dedicated every Wednesday to free breast cancer screening in its health facility at Aboadze.

With this arrangement, the company said it would no longer wait for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October to screen and create awareness of the disease.

Speaking at a breast cancer awareness programme at Aboadze, the General Medical Superintendent of the VRA

Hospital, Dr Charles Arhinful, said it was important to check for the condition regularly and seek prompt medical attention.

The critical moment of breast cancer, he said, was the early detection, hence the need for free walk-in screening at the hospital, where people would be made aware of their status.

He, however, explained the hospital would soon establish a centre to provide treatment at a fee, saying “screening is free, but the treatment will not be free.”

Significantly, the theme for the Awareness observance this year was 'Early detection saves lives'.

A World Health Organisation source explains that “the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, marked in countries across the world every October, helps to increase attention and support for the awareness, early detection and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease.

“There are about 1.38 million new cases and 458 000 deaths from breast cancer each year Breast cancer is by far the most common cancer in women worldwide, both in the developed and developing countries ...

“Currently there is not sufficient knowledge on the causes of breast cancer, therefore, early detection of the disease remains the cornerstone of breast cancer control.

“When breast cancer is detected early, and if adequate diagnosis and treatment are available, there is a good chance that breast cancer can be cured. If detected late, however, curative treatment is often no longer an option.”

It appears that what is often overlooked is that it is not only women who can be afflicted by breast cancer. Men, too, can become victims, as explained by Dr Mawusi Kemetse of the Franklin Medical Centre, in Accra, in an article in this newspaper's issue of last week (October 31).

She suggested that men, too, should go for breast cancer screening as the cancer “could be more dangerous in men than women.” There is need for society to do away with the myths surrounding breast cancer, including the belief that it afflicts only women, “since the disease is no respecter of persons,” she pointed out.

In recent years, it has become the practice with some health facilities in Ghana, to offer free breast examination during the Awareness Month, in order to detect early signs of the terrible disease, and if a patient needs to be put on treatment, to begin it immediately.

I think the VRA initiative, the free screening throughout the year, is highly commendable and a strategy which should be adopted by other hospitals in Ghana. It's a wonderful,

progressive idea and the VRA leadership deserves praise for supporting its Aboadze management, as they must have done, to implement this novel health strategy.

Similarly, as indicated, it seems to me that the country would benefit immensely if Ghana's health system could make it possible to have regular free medical check-ups for other severe health conditions nationwide. However, as with the VRA Aboadze Hospital plan, treatment after the free examination could attract a fee.

One example that comes readily to mind is the annual screening for glaucoma, the eye disease that can cause permanent blindness. Every

year, during Glaucoma Month and Week, in March, free eye examinations take place in many parts of the country.

As glaucoma is 'the silent thief of sight', it is through these free eye checks that many people have escaped blindness because their affliction was detected early and they began treatment. Had they not benefitted from the free screening; they could have gone blind without warning.

Thus it would be a realistic move if vulnerable people could have access all year to free weekly, or even monthly, eye examinations, as well as for other critical diseases, without having to wait for a year if for some reason they miss the annual one.

Therefore, I hope that Minister of Health Hon Kwaku Agyeman-Manu and the Ghana Health Service have been made aware of, and are paying attention to, the Aboadze initiative. In my opinion, if the health authorities take a cue from the VRA's ingenuity, it would be of great benefit to all: early diagnosis, early treatment and lives saved.

So 'well done!' to General Medical Superintendent Dr Charles Arhinful of the VRA Aboadze Hospital and his management team for this brilliant, humanitarian idea.

Credit: Ajoa Yeboah (Daily Graphic, November 11, 2020)

SNR. ADMIN ASSISTANT ADJUDGED FIRST FEMALE SAFETY PERSONALITY AT KTPS

Lawrence Quartey, CSS/CSD, Accra

Mrs. Lily Essah, Senior Administrative Assistant, has been adjudged the first female staff to have won the Safety Personality for the third quarter of the year 2020 at the Kpone Thermal Power Station (KTPS).

Mrs Essah grabbed the award to break the long tradition of male staff dominance through her hard work and outstanding contribution in safety occurrence reporting towards improvement in workplace safety.

The Management of KTPS initiated the award scheme in 2018 to reward and motivate staff that devote time to reporting hazards. Since its inception, only male staff from the technical field had emerged winners.

A citation presented to her read: "Mrs Lily Essah dedicated herself towards creating a safe workplace environment at the KTPS by looking out for hazards in the form of Unsafe Conditions, Unsafe Acts, Good Catches and Near misses to



Mrs. Lily Essah

avert occurrence of accidents with their attendant negative impacts on human resources, plant equipment as well as business operations.

"The Management and Staff of Kpone Thermal Power Station appreciate and recognize this effort of yours and wish to confer on you the accolade; "KTPS SAFETY PERSONALITY FOR 3RD QUARTER, 2020."

Staff in the Safety Unit at the Station are exempted from winning this award since performing safety duties is their main job description. A framed picture of the award winner is boldly displayed at vantage points at the Station.

"This Safety Personality Award initiative at KTPS has been welcomed by the Safety Management Unit of the Authority and it is hoped that similar award schemes will be adopted by other departments to encourage staff to take active interest in safety activities." Hope this is not late. I received this from a safety officer at the KTPS.



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Energy**

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The Volta River Authority exists to power economies and raise the living standards of the people of Ghana and West Africa. We supply electricity and related services in a reliable, safe and environmentally friendly manner to add economic, financial and social values to our customers and meet stakeholders' expectations.

OUR VALUES

- ⚙ **Accountability**
- ⚙ **Commitment**
- ⚙ **Trust**
- ⚙ **Integrity**
- ⚙ **Teamwork**

Older people may find it difficult to stay connected during a #COVID19 quarantine. Loved ones should connect with them regularly through telephone, messaging apps, and social media to help them feel safe and secure.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- ♦ VRA @ 60 activities
- ♦ Annual Thanksgiving Service

Please send your concerns, questions, congratulatory messages, issues, worries, suggestions, etc., to corpcomm@vra.com

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