

VRA NEWS

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'WE SHALL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE' -CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSURES AS VRA CELEBRATES 60TH MILESTONE



The Chief Executive and other Management Staff cutting the Anniversary cake.

The Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa has pledged the Authority's preparedness to rise above the prevailing challenge in the power utility sector by building a resilient,

viable and responsible "New VRA", which would continuously deliver on its mandate of providing reliable energy solutions for the electricity dependent public.

According to him, VRA has begun an ambitious move to drive down the cost

of power in the country through innovation and digitization, which would help boost economic activities and ensure the competitiveness of Ghanaian businesses.

"Innovation and digitization will be the major enablers of the business, so we are preparing ourselves for the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technology advancements that will manifest globally," he stated.

The Chief Executive made this known when he was addressing a cross-section of staff, stakeholders, representatives of sister utility companies and the VRA Retirees Association to mark the 60th anniversary celebration of the VRA in Accra.

The event, which was held under strict COVID-19 protocol measures, was on the theme: "Celebrating 60 years in the Power Business: Our Legacy, Our

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VRA PLANTS 600 TREES TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In partnership with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Management of the Volta River Authority (VRA) joined millions of Ghanaians in planting Five million trees as part of the "Green Ghana Agenda".

The partnership was enacted with a symbolic tree planting ceremony, held at the forecourt of the Electro-Volta House on June 11, 2021, the day was marked as the "Green Ghana Day". The exercise saw the planting

→ Contd. on pg.2

IN THIS ISSUE >>

- ♦ VRA signs MoU with Ghana Navy to protect Akosombo and Kpong Dams p20
- ♦ NPG collaborates with GNA for effective Nuclear Power Communication p7
- ♦ Covid-19 vaccination - 615 Accra-Tema Staff vaccinated p9
- ♦ Dr. Valmont Heads Medical Team to deliver Siamese Twins p15



**VOLTA
RIVER
AUTHORITY**

→ Contd. from pg.1

VRA PLANTS 600 TREES TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

of 10 *Polyalthia Longifolia* (Mast Trees), of the estimated 600 tree species to be planted at all work locations.

The Green Ghana Day initiative, which was incorporated into the VRA at 60 Anniversary celebrations, had the theme: “VRA at 60: Investing in the Greening Ghana Initiative for Energy and Environmental Sustainability”, was observed across the Authority's work locations in Akosombo, Akuse, Kpone, Tema and Aboadze.

Addressing a mini durbar in Accra, the Chief Executive of VRA, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, said the Green Ghana initiative tied into the Authority's “Volta Gorge Reforestation Programme (VGRP)”, aimed at forest cover restoration through the protection of the existing vegetation and restocking of all degraded lands.

He said the initiative was important because sustainable development was key to the Authority's business and its stakeholders, adding that issues of climate change and environmental protection were of utmost importance to the organization.

He detailed that the VGRP consisted of 23 reforestation projects being implemented in 23 riparian communities along both the Eastern and Western banks of the Volta Gorge in the Asuogyaman district. “We have so far covered a substantial amount of area with new vegetative cover consisting of both plantation and natural forest”, he said.

He said the Authority owed it a responsibility to the public to operate and ensure that all water resource systems in the country, particularly the Volta River system, was kept pristine and managed in a sustainable manner.

The Chief Executive reiterated that, in consolidating our role as the premier power generator in the country, the Authority would lead efforts towards building clean, financially resilient and more environmentally efficient and sustainable power generation systems, that would provide a safeguard for future generations. “This is why we continue to embark on significant investments in



renewable projects and other low carbon power generation technologies to maintain the country's low and acceptable carbon footprint”, he stated.

Director, E&SDD, Mr. Ben Sackey noted that VRA was complementing the nationwide afforestation effort by planting trees in various parts of the country where it operates, including its catchment areas.

He mentioned that, “because we are 60 this year, we decided to multiply the number of trees by 10 and plant 600

trees. In Akosombo, we are planting 400 whilst the other 200 will be distributed in other areas.”

The 600 tree species used in the exercise, were nursed, harvested and distributed by the Tree Nursery Unit of the Environment & Sustainable Development Department (E&SDD). These trees, symbolize the Authority's contribution to the National Afforestation Agenda and its target of attaining environmental sustainability in both operational and economic sectors.

→ Contd. from pg. 1

'WE SHALL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE' ...

Future”, and observed across all VRA work locations.

Mr. Antwi-Darkwa said digitization would facilitate the integration of the other sources of clean energy into Ghana's power generation mix and will help the VRA better monitor and maintain its generation assets for improved, stable and reliable power operations. He added that, “We see a future for clean, cost-efficient, diversified sources of energy mainly through solar, wind and biomass.”

He mentioned that E-mobility, which encompasses the use of fully electric, conventional hybrid, plug-in hybrid, as well as hydrogen, to fuel vehicles, offered another business opportunity for the VRA to explore. “In the short term, VRA would establish charging stations for electric vehicles across the country and explore the means of establishing an assembling plant for electric vehicles in the near future.”

He said the Authority was embarking on numerous projects such as converting the Akosombo Township into a smart city. He detailed that, “as part of our digitization drive, VRA has commenced a project to convert Akosombo into a 'Smart City' by transforming it to become the technology hub of the country.”

Apart from that, he said, the VRA was also working on a rooftop solar project at its Head Office in Accra to serve as a



Mr. Antwi-Darkwa addressing the audience.

precursor to the establishment of solar parks and rooftop solar facilities in the Akosombo, Aboadze and Akuse enclaves.

Already, he said, the Authority had embarked on a number of renewable projects to meet the national demand in an environmentally sustainable manner. The projects, he said, included the 60-Megawatt (MW) Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam Project, which had

an additional solar component of 50MW, the 19.6MW Kaleo/Lawra solar plant and a wind project in Ada and Anloga.

He acknowledged the support and cooperation of successive governments, stakeholders, Staff (present and retired), sister power utilities, the media, diplomatic corps and the general public towards the success of VRA's business over the past six decades. He assured stakeholders of the Authority's commitment to expand as an engine of rapid industrialization and electrification.

In their goodwill messages, the Managing Director of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), Mr. Kwame Agyeman Budu; Chief Executive of the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo), Ing. Jonathan Amoako-Baah and Mr. Moses Tawiah of the Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo), congratulated VRA on the successes chalked in the past 60 years, and encouraged the leadership to remain dedicated to the development of the power sector by maintaining its leadership role.



The Executives applauding after the cake cutting.

→ Contd. from pg. 1

'WE SHALL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE' ...



ANTWI-DARKWA WINS TOP CEO AWARD

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



Mr. Antwi-Darkwa receiving his award from the First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Maxwell Opoku-Atari as Dr. Ernest Kofi Abosti, Dean of UPSA Law School looks on.

The Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa, has been named 'CEO of the Decade' in the Power Sector by the Chief Executives Network Ghana at

the 5th Ghana CEO Summit organised in Accra recently.

He received the CEO of the Decade Award (Business Person of the Decade) – Energy/ Power Sector, in recognition of his invaluable

contributions to the energy sector through his active roles in VRA where he has championed a conscious change in the Authority's business model and organisational mind-set to ensure improved operational and project implementation efficiencies.

The CEO of the Decade Award is created to honour an individual who has successfully achieved, toiled and contributed to organizational success through a lifetime commitment to business and the country's economy.

Since its inception five years ago, the Ghana CEO Summit annually brings together Business Leaders, Heads of States and CEOs to deliberate and help unlock Ghana's economic potential by offering concrete, innovative and actionable solutions to build the country and business leaders.

This year's event was organized on the theme; 'Digital Transformation: Powering Business and Government Reset for Post-Pandemic Economic Resilience – A Public/Private Sector Dialogue'.

'PWALUGU DAM CONSTRUCTION TO COMMENCE AFTER DUE PROCESSES ARE COMPLETED'- E.D OSAFO

PMPD Team



Ing. E.D Osafo addressing the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Engineering and Operations (DCE, E&O) of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Ing. Emmanuel Dankwa Osafo, has served notice that the civil construction work of the Pwalugu Multi-Purpose Dam and Irrigation project, would officially commence after all legitimate processes and engagements are completed.

He disclosed that “we have spent some time in designs, data collection and surveys, among others and we would be liaising with other state agencies to discuss the resettlement of people presently occupying the area that would be covered by the reservoir.”

“So the project has started. We have come out with an EIA, a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to discuss with all stakeholders, but construction of the

dam itself will start when we finish with all these processes. If all documentation and settlements are completed, and the land is acquired through legitimate means, the actual construction of the dam would start.”

Ing. Osafo made this known when he was addressing stakeholders including technocrats, traditional leaders, security personnel, journalists among others in Bolgatanga during a Stakeholder's Validation Meeting on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on the Pwalugu Multi-Purpose Dam and Irrigation project.

He told the stakeholders that the fact that actual construction of the dam had not begun did not mean that nothing was being done on the project. “For projects of this nature, the first and second years are used for design and survey activities, which largely

determine how the project will look and which communities fall within the project area.”

He noted that the project had four key objectives, the capacity to generate 59.6 Megawatts (MW) of hydro power, 50MW of solar power, develop irrigation potential for the cultivation of 25,000 hectares of land and develop fisheries resources of the White Volta and the floor control element.

“For flood control, we know the perennial problems that people in the Upper East Region have concerning flooding, especially during the rainy season. It is our aim that by the time we finish with the construction of the dam, we will mitigate it as much as possible,” he indicated.

The Upper East Regional Minister, Hon. Stephen Yakubu, expressed satisfaction about VRA's commitment towards processes that will lead to the actual construction of the project, saying that, “I am refreshed by the assurance from the VRA that the completion of the EIA report will enable the acceleration of physical work on the project.”

He said the project was on course and remained the “game-changer for the social and economic transformation of Northern Ghana and everything is being done to bring that to fruition.”

According to him, the evidence of the commitment of the government and VRA, is demonstrated through the stakeholder forum on EIA and RAP, which aim at engaging relevant regional agencies including the EPA, Forestry Commission, GIDA, DCEs and MCEs, NADMO among others who are key players in the implementation of the project.

VRA EAGER TO POWER GHANA'S DIGITAL AGENDA WITH CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



The Chief Executive and the VRA Team at the Summit.

Management of the Volta River Authority (VRA) has given a firm assurance of the Authority's continuous commitment to supporting Ghana's Digital transformation agenda towards the growth of the local economy.

"Ghana's Digital transformation agenda will obviously lead to increased electricity demand. As the nation's strategic and pioneering electricity generator, VRA has plans to support this laudable vision with affordable, reliable, clean and sustainable energy."

The Deputy Chief Executive, Finance, of VRA, Dr. Ebenezer Tagoe gave this assurance when he was addressing government officials, business leaders and corporate executives on the topic: "Powering Ghana's Digital Agenda with Clean and Sustainable Energy", on behalf of the Chief Executive, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa at the 5th Ghana CEOs Summit in Accra.

The annual Ghana CEOs Summit is an assembly of decision makers, CEOs,



heads of institutions, business leaders, entrepreneurs as well as investors and ambassadors to unravel Ghana's economic potential by offering concrete, innovative and actionable solutions.

This year's event which was organized on the theme: "Digital Transformation: Powering Business and Government Reset for a Post-Pandemic Economic Resilience. A Public-Private Sector Dialogue", served as an avenue to champion private-sector led growth, and discussions around innovative public policies and best growth-oriented business practices to help the country build resilient companies and outstanding CEOs.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Tagoe noted that VRA has a track record of reliable power supply over the past six decades, which has championed the socio-economic development of the country. "We have done this for 60 years and look forward to partnering public and private institutions to help Ghana realize its digital transformation agenda."

He underscored that "VRA has a track record of successfully implementing digitization in its administrative process as part of the road map to the NEW VRA. The Authority is currently implementing a 5-year digitization strategy for the period of 2021- 2025 and is on the verge of rolling out a Digital Transformation and Innovation Programme."

He said using clean and sustainable energy in powering Ghana's digitization agenda, will bring on board environmental, social and economic benefits to the economy. Adding that, clean and sustainable energy would result in the avoidance of greenhouse emissions and contribute to global efforts to mitigate global warming and climate change.

Furthermore, Dr. Tagoe stated that "climate change has generated worldwide discussions on alternative sources of energy. The only way to alleviate the threat of climate change is to decarbonize the global economy by

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NPG COLLABORATES WITH GNA FOR EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR POWER COMMUNICATION

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



Dignitaries and Invited Guests in a group photograph after the signing ceremony.

Nuclear Power Ghana (NPG), the body designated to Own and Operate Ghana's first nuclear power plant, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ghana News Agency (GNA) to promote strategic and effective communication on nuclear power technology.

The pact seeks to, among other things, create awareness, expand knowledge and share information on nuclear energy that will build public trust and strengthen understanding on the choice of nuclear power as a base load plant for the country.

General Manager of the GNA, Mr. Albert Kofi Owusu and Executive Director, MPG, Dr. Stephen Yamoah, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions.

In an address, Dr. Yamoah said one of the key recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency to countries seeking to develop or expand their nuclear power programme was firm sustenance of social license, adding that NPG was, therefore, keen on establishing a strong steady relationship with its stakeholders.



Mr. Kofi Owusu on the other hand gave an assurance that the GNA was ready to deploy its hard-working journalists to ensure that the nuclear energy communication agenda goes nationwide.

“We hope that other institutions, including state enterprises, will join

forces with the GNA through a strategic partnership to drive Ghana to become a self-reliant and industrialised nation,” he said, adding that, “I am confident that together we can propel Ghana's quest to ensure energy security, reliability and affordability of electricity by augmenting the generation mix with nuclear power.”

Addressing the gathering on behalf of the Chief Executive of the Volta River Authority (VRA), Ing. Alfred Sackeyfio, Director, Engineering Services noted that, as a major shareholder of Nuclear Power Ghana, the VRA was pleased with the initiative to explore partnership with the GNA to be able to broaden information outreach on the establishment of Ghana's nuclear power plant.

“The VRA therefore, gives its firm approval to support this strategic partnership between the NPG and GNA aimed at broadening information dissemination and effective communication broadcast on the Nuclear Power project. Let me use this opportunity to assure GNA of VRA's preparedness to equip them with the needed information and skills to thrive”, he stated.

Chief Executive Officer of Bui Power Authority (BPA) and Board Chairman of NPG, Mr. Fred Oware, launched the GNA's Energy Desk. The Energy Desk initiative mooted by NPG is to promote effective Energy reporting, knowledge sharing and the stimulation of public discourse on Nuclear Power Science and Technology in Ghana.

Professor Audrey Gadzekpo, Dean, School of Information and Communication Studies, University of Ghana, who chaired the function, described GNA as “the wind beneath the wings of media houses”, that has a long track record of providing credible news.



EDITOR'S CORNER

60 YEARS OF POWERING

GHANA'S INDUSTRIALISATION AGENDA AND BEYOND

Ghana's quest to become an industrialised nation was given a major boost with the establishment of the Volta River Authority on April 26, 1961, under the Volta River Development Act, Act 46 of the 1961 Constitution.

In October 2020, activities to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Authority were rolled out with the launch of the 60th Anniversary at the Kempinski Hotel. In his keynote address, at the well-attended event being celebrated on the theme: "Celebrating 60 Years in the Power Business; Our Legacy, Our Future," the then Senior Minister, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo, extolled the Authority's achievements in the last sixty years, and rightly so.

Today, 60 years on, we have been able to build on this mandate as stated in Act 46 and transitioned from our well-known hydro power generation operations to thermal power generation and now our new focus; renewable energy. Suffice it to say that, our evolution in power generation has also been impacted by the amendment of Act 46 and the Government of Ghana's Power Sector Reform, which now largely restricts us mainly to the generation of electricity.

The restrictions notwithstanding, we have maintained our status as an engine of rapid industrialization and electrification. As a matter of fact, the longevity of VRA's existence is a tribute to our professional excellence. Indeed,

our operational excellence is benchmarked by many industry players as the standard for professionalism.

Alongside the business activities, the Authority through its Community Development Programme (CDP) has also committed to 60 years of providing interventions in the areas of: Education, Sanitation, Health, Disease Eradication among others, to improve the livelihoods of the persons in our impacted communities.

Our anniversary, therefore, provides us the opportunity to reflect on our consensus-based solutions to problems in our sector. It also gives us an opportunity to look forward to the future, learn from where we have succeeded and fallen short, and recommit to making an even greater impact in the lives of our stakeholders and the general public.

As a strategic asset to Ghana, we have travelled through thick and thin to arrive at our current destination. We have done everything humanly possible to constantly supply power to our cherished customers in the domestic and international markets through commitment, our 'can-do spirit', and the spirit of nationalism. As an organisation, we are proud of our contribution and dedication towards national development and are eager to continue on that path in the years ahead.

As stated by the Chief Executive, Mr. Emmanunuel Antwi-Darkwa, in his

keynote address on the anniversary day, we shall focus on our long-term plans, and remain mindful of our duty to ensure that there is adequate competitively-priced electricity to support industrial and social development of the day. As a contemporary measure, Management is envisaging Innovation and Digitisation as significant enablers of the electricity business going into the future.

Let us rally behind Management as we prepare ourselves for the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technological advancements that will manifest globally in the near future, since these enablers will compel us to drive down the cost of our operations and remain competitive. We must be determined to fully embrace all opportunities that will come our way.

As we reflect on lessons learned and apply them to future action, we should also be mindful that the VRA is focusing on areas critical to the advancement of clean power generation, human capital development, financial recovery, business sustainability and market leadership to ensure that we do not stray from the path of progress in the future. The aim is to ensure the 'NEW VRA' is able to compete favourably in the emerging energy market by diversifying and expanding our business portfolio with the view of sustainability in all aspects of the business and maintaining market leadership.

PMDP STAKEHOLDER TEAM ENGAGES FIVE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES ON RESETTLEMENT ISSUES

PMDP Team



Mr. Kwaku Wiafe (middle), Director, PMDP engaging inhabitants of Digaari, Kparipkiri and Kulunga.

A stakeholder team from the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam Project (PMDP) Directorate has engaged the five communities to be displaced by the construction of the Dam on the plan for their resettlement.

The purpose of the engagements was to present the proposed resettlement package and to elicit the views and concerns of the affected persons. It was also to assure them that VRA is committed to ensuring that the resettlement scheme improves their standard of living and that they receive due compensation for the properties and livelihoods they are losing.

The engagements exercise took place from June 15, 2021 to June 18, 2021 in Nungu, Gubeo, Suhuluya, Kparipkiri, and Digaare and saw the stakeholder team, which comprised officers from VRA, representatives from Tractebel

Engineering of France, experts from the University of Development Studies, and officials from the Northern Development Authority receive an enthusiastic reception from each of the communities they visited. The communities expressed their delight at the news of the construction of the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam Project since they have long had to bear the brunt of perennial flooding from seasonal rains and the spillage of the Bagre Dam and scanty water access for year-round farm use.

Manager for Resettlement on the Project, Mr. Emmanuel Martey, assured the communities that the resettlement communities that will be created will be connected to the national grid, have boreholes and water points for the supply of potable water, school facilities as well as improved road network systems.

He added that cash compensation will be paid to affected persons for the loss of land, crops and ancillary structures

such as farm huts, hen coops, kiosks etc., and capacity training will be given to affected persons to enhance all local economic activities like shea butter processing, crop and fish farming techniques, the processing of livestock products amongst others.

On the subject of relocation, Project Director of the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam Project, Mr. Kwaku Wiafe urged the communities to suggest potential sites for resettlement since it is they who know their land best. The suggestions would then be weighed against technical considerations to ascertain their suitability. He made this point in the hopes that there will be no discontent when the communities are moved.

The engagements took into consideration the input from the people, who requested VRA to ensure that the land for resettlement is acquired without conflict and that suitable and enough land is made available for farming, which is their primary source of livelihood.

The communities assured VRA their cooperation, highlighting their belief that VRA will see to the actualization of a successful resettlement that will enhance and sustain their standard of living.

Senior Government and Public Relations Officer for the PMDP, Mr. David Prah, reiterated that the Project is a demonstration of Government's dedication to ensuring that Northern Ghana enjoys improved power supply systems, proper water access for farm and domestic use, aquaculture expansion, and ultimately the protection of lives and property through the mitigation of the Northern perennial floods.

AKOSOMBO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WINS BRITISH COUNCIL'S 'YOUR WORLD COMPETITION'

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



Mr. Onyemerela presenting a plaque to the Assistant Headmistress as the Director HR and the Students look on.

Akosombo International School (AIS) has emerged national and Regional winners of this year's 'Your World Competition', instituted six years ago by the British Council for its Partner Schools Global Network (PSGN).

The victory makes AIS three times national winners in a row having won the climate change-based video competition since it made its first appearance in 2019.

Over the past six years, the British Council through its PSGN, has been organizing the 'Your World Competition' a video challenge for its partner schools who take UK qualifications (IGCSE/GCSE/O and A-Level) examinations to help in the fight against climate change and other global issues.

The students received certificates of participation while the school received three certificates and three plaques, representing two national awards for 2020 and 2021 and one regional award for 2021.

At an award presentation ceremony organized in honour of the school, Mr.

Chikodi Onyemerela, Director, Programmes and Partnerships, British Council Ghana, commended AIS for presenting the best video and winning the competition in a row from 2019 to 2021 and emerging Sub-Saharan Africa regional winners for the first time.

He said the rationale behind the initiative is not just to win awards but challenge the creative abilities of the participating schools to showcase their talents and compete with their peers from around the world to help find solutions to “our fragile world to win the fight against climate change.”

“We are looking for the best innovative approach to transform and sustain our stay here on earth, so initiatives of this nature is what we want to see more”, he stated.

The Assistant Headmistress, in-charge of Academics, AIS, Mrs. Sarah Freda Adei, said this year's competition which had the theme, 'Building a Brighter Future', tasked the students to make a three-minute video of a social action project that focused on a specified issue related to an identified problem such as sustainable development and building resilience.

She said this gave a fantastic opportunity for the students from around the world to use their creative ideas and connect with each other while providing a window into their unique lives, environments and experiences.

Mrs. Adei who has been supervising and providing tutelage to the students on the projects for the successive wins over the past three years, noted that aside the competitive nature of the challenge, she always impresses on the students to see it as a clarion call to find solutions to global problems.

She indicated that, “this always provides a compelling reason for us to compete through effective collaboration and self-organizing methodology to bring solutions.”

In 2011, she was awarded the British Council Teacher Award of Excellence and was adjudged Regional Winner in Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Microsoft Partners in Learning (Middle East and Africa – MEA) in 2012.

The five-member team who made the school proud included; Messrs. Jeffrey Churchill Adei, Jonas Kwasi Barimah Asare Boateng and Miss Anastasia Hewlett; all final year students, whereas, Miss Roberta Obiribea Aduama and Miss Akua Oforiwaia Omane-Manu, second year students complemented the team. They received support from Miss Princess Ijeoma Emmanuel and Master Albert Yalley, the Head Prefect.

Mr. Eric Mensah Bonsu, Director, Human Resources at the Volta River Authority (VRA) who has oversight responsibility for VRA Schools thanked British Council for using an educational challenge to find sustainable solutions to climate change and urged the students to work hard to be part of a solution to global crisis.

ADA STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE GOOD CAREER CHOICES

Linda Appiah, CSR, Kpone



A group photograph of VRA Staff, Management and Students of the School.

Mr. Samuel Fletcher, Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), of Volta River Authority (VRA) has urged students of Ada Senior High School to make meaningful career choices as they strive for a successful future.

Addressing a student population of about 500 and staff of the school, at the VRA Employee Volunteer Programme (EVP), Mr. Fletcher told them that the career choice they make out of the numerous available options will be a deciding factor to achieving a successful livelihood in future.

He said pursuing a good career always required effective planning with clear and strong set objectives since the achievement of goals would not happen overnight.

He urged them to have mentors and build strong networks which are very essential. "If you have a vision you want to pursue, people will discourage you, but when you become successful, the same people will say we knew you could make it"

**THE BEST WAY
TO PREDICT
THE FUTURE
IS TO CREATE
IT**

Abraham Lincoh

VRA in 2013 initiated the EVP as a CSR initiative to promote the spirit of volunteerism among VRA employees to give back to society through teaching and coaching of students in the VRA impacted communities.

The CSR Section under the Environment & Sustainable Development Department (E&SDD)

organizes the EVP twice annually by mobilizing Staff from various departments in the Authority to take up a day's career guidance and teaching session in Senior High Schools located in VRA's operational areas.

The volunteers handled subjects including English Language, Literature, Mathematics, Business Management, Social Studies, Economics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Information Communication and Technology (ICT).

Mr. Kojo Ayibor, the Headmaster of Ada SHS, was impressed with the exercise and expressed gratitude for the time and energy the volunteers committed to teaching the students.

He urged the students to make good use of the opportunities and lessons presented by the volunteers, saying that, "it is up to you to identify opportunities in the lessons you have learnt and make good use of the knowledge."

OPTIMIZING REAL ESTATE ASSETS...

THE PROPCo WAY!



Akuse Motel After



Akuse Motel Before

The Volta Place| Airport Residential Area

- Grade A Office Development
- 4,000 Gross Lettable Area (GLA)
- Income Yield circa 9.76%
- Occupied by multiple high-profile International tenants to include:
 - Proctor & Gamble
 - Ernest Chemist
 - Woodfield's Energy
 - Early Power
 - Sanofi
 - British American Tobacco
 - Africa Works
 - STL
 - Café Kwae (roof top bar & grill)

1st Phase

Garden Lodge – 15 standard Rooms
Lodge E9 - 3 executive rooms

Features:

- ✓ Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All rooms are ensuite rooms.
- ✓ Smart TVs in all rooms
- ✓ Modern furniture
- ✓ Lounge with garden view
- ✓ Beautiful landscape grounds and gardens

Taking a cue from its parent company's mission of powering economies, PROPCo in small steps is striving to “power” the real estate assets of VRA by optimizing assets which over time have evolved and positioned as commercially viable development opportunities.

The “PROPCo way” focuses on hands on real estate asset management backed by deep market knowledge and research to influence its development concepts. This underlying fundamental approach has helped in optimizing the demand for our assets, compared to our competitors, and retained our patrons.

PROPCo's maiden development project, The Volta Place, which was

transformed, from a desolate old bungalow site in a prime location is a typical example of the “PROPCo way” where deep market knowledge, research, and hands on asset management backed a development which commenced with no anchor tenant but achieved excellent occupancy within six months from practical completion, compared to its peers.

Kudos! to the PROPCo asset management team for listening to our tenants and maintaining a high level of customer service against all odds that the COVID-19 pandemic threw at us to sustain occupancy. The Volta Place is firmly rooted as an established address within the prime Airport Residential area.



Volta Residences| Akuse... Opening in July 2021!

The “PROPCo way” journeys to leafy Akuse in search of value and asset optimization. More importantly the objective is to help address its parent company's accommodation needs whilst utilizing its anchor demand to

address the fundamental requirement of demand to support the viability of the project.

PROPCo is most grateful to VRA for the support and believe!

Personality Profile

VOYAGE EXPERIENCE WITH CAPTAIN JOHNSON GARIBA ON DODI PRINCESS

Credit: Graphic Online



Captain Gariba doing what he knows best



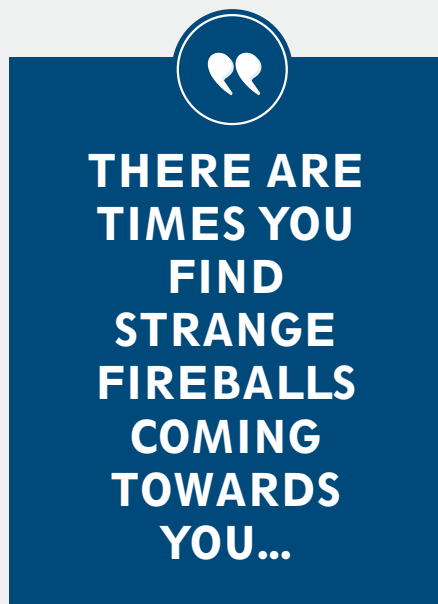
Captain Johnson Gariba on the Captain's Bridge.

If there is anyone who knows so much about the boundaries, depth of the Volta Lake and its surrounding communities, then it is Captain Johnson Gariba.

He can simply be described as the veteran and commander who has been cruising smoothly on the Volta Lake for the past 48 years without any form of accident on the lake. Even after hitting the official age of retirement at 60 in 2014, he was given a contract to continue to do what he knows best.

He played a vital role in evacuating materials for the building of major bridges around the Volta Lake.

Captain Gariba is the mastermind behind all the exciting cruises on the Dodi Princess II in Akosombo in the Eastern Region. Once you decide to go and have fun at Dodi World, Ghana's foremost cruising destination which offers a unique package of adventure, entertainment, history and education



on the beautiful banks of the Volta River, then you can definitely not miss the captain on board.

Looking smart in an all-white uniform with a cap to match, Captain Gariba offers a memorable voyage experience on board the 150-capacity

pleasure boat, the famous MV Dodi Princess II, to Dodi Island, an 84-hectare island located five kilometres off the shore of the Lake Volta. It provides tourists and holidaymakers with an opportunity to experience nature, as well as enjoy the daring thrills on varied water sports equipment.

On Mother's Day, The Mirror team took some mothers from Accra to Akosombo for a fun-filled voyage with Captain Gariba and his team and the experience left multifold excitement on the minds of the guests on board.

As a result, The Mirror decided to share in the cruising exploits of the sexagenarian who is the leader of the entire vessel, whose expertise includes navigation, operation of the ship's equipment and monitoring of duties performed by all crew members.

CRUISE IDEOLOGIES

For Captain Gariba who has worked with almost all the boats on the Volta Lake, the duties on the ship go far beyond the scope of a management position as the ship captain must be proficient in every aspect of running a ship, from ship operation to maintenance, and in the instance of touring ships, playing host to the passengers.

The entire success of a ship's voyage lies on the captain's shoulders and how well he or she manages the crew.

“Every ship is like a woman, so always polish it like a woman. Although it may sound strange to refer to an inanimate object as 'she', this tradition relates to the idea of a female figure such as a mother or goddess guiding and protecting a ship and crew. That is why we give them names of women such as Queen Elizabeth, MV Dodi Princess, Auntie Dede among others,” he said.

Inspiration for navigation

Touching on the motivation behind him becoming a captain of a ship, Captain Gariba disclosed to The Mirror that he wanted to become a professional teacher.

“As a pupil teacher, one day I left Tamale in the Northern Region to Atebubu, which is now in the Bono East Region, for an interview for admission to the teacher's training college. When I joined the ferry at Yeji, I saw how the captain was steering the vessel so I became thrilled and decided to talk to the superintendent and enquired if I could also learn to steer the ferry,” he recounted.

According to him, the superintendent asked if he wanted to be trained and he answered in the affirmative. “As a result of this, I went for an interview and I was picked as a coxswain trainee. The master I was to serve was from Ada in the Greater Accra Region. He wasn't

educated but was very excellent at his work. I studied about the deck, engine and captain's bridge for three years,” he stated.

After three years of training, he was sent to then Ghana Nautical College, now known as the Regional Maritime University, based in Accra in 1976. “There, I met people from various countries such as Liberia, Cameroun and Nigeria and I studied for a one-year programme and went back to Yeji after completion and worked with the Ghana Highways,” he said.

Captain Gariba said in 1984, there was a merger of Ghana Highways and Volta Lake Transport; therefore, he stayed in Yeji until 1986 and moved to Akosombo to date.

He recalled his involvement in Operation Team 85 which had the Ghana Navy and Ghana Army with their counterparts from Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Togo who he had to ferry for a month to Dwarf Island within the Afram Plains where they were having a military exercise.

“The late President J.J Rawlings and late President Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso were all part of that operation, so I had the opportunity to work with them at close range by picking them from Akosombo to Dwarf Island for a month. I have also been on the 'Onipa Nua' boat,” he said.

“The VRA used to run hospitals in Accra, Akosombo and Aboadze equipped with excellent facilities and provided free specialist and general medical care to communities along the Volta Lake accessible only by boat, through its medical boat christened MV Onipa Nua. I was on the Onipa Nua as well from 1995 to 2016,” he said.

Night tales on the Volta Lake

Although the veteran captain has an unblemished record of accidents, he was quick to say sometimes there were challenges with windstorms and heavy rains. “Therefore, if you don't know the lake so well, you might end

up hitting rocks or tree stumps,” he said.

When asked about some of the tales about spirits and other scary things on the lake at night, he said it was true.

“There are times you find strange fireballs coming towards you in the middle of the lake at night and they finally go to land on a tree. However, I'm not scared because I believe in the Most High God. Sometimes you'll be surprised to see a long pole in the middle of the lake or some heaviness at some sections of the lake and instantly I feel it, but we always sail through successfully by his grace,” he intimated.

He recounted a sad situation when he lost his second in command. “We were coming from Kete Krachi and Victor went to fetch water whilst on board. Unfortunately, he went overboard. I put on my searchlight and stayed on the river for about three hours to look for him but it proved futile. Another time, I was coming from Buipe, the capital of Central Gonja District in the Savannah Region with some white men and one of them went down. However, he dived and was saved. But my ship or boat being involved in an accident, that has never happened to me.

I sometimes meet other smaller boats which have capsized and I have to give a helping hand on the Volta Lake many times,” he recounted.

Captain Gariba, who was born in 1954, hails from Bunkpurugu, the capital of Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District in the North East Region, adjacent to the border with Togo. He is a devout Muslim with four daughters and two sons who are all Christians.

“I believe in religious tolerance so I don't interfere in their religion and that of my wife Comfort,” the captain, who is also an Alhaji, indicated.

DR. VALMONT HEADS MEDICAL TEAM TO DELIVER SIAMESE TWINS

Linda Appiah, CSR, Kpone



The Siamese Twins.



Medical Team performing the Surgery.

A team of medical doctors led by Dr. Taurus Valmont, an Obstetrics & Gynecology specialist of the Volta River Authority's Health Services Department, has delivered a set of male Siamese twins at the Akuse Government Hospital through a caesarean section.

The section lasted an hour but took about three hours to resuscitate the conjoined twins before they were referred to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) for further examination.

According to Dr. Valmont, the twins who were conjoined at the thorax (the chest) to the abdomen were in good condition and have separate organs

but further scans would be carried out to check for vessels they might be sharing for a successful separation.

He said as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility policy of the Authority, medical personnel from the VRA Health Services Department undertake periodic medical outreach programmes to provide support services to health facilities under the Ghana Health Services within the VRA catchment areas.

Dr. Valmont also noted that the partnership was in line with the Millennium Development Goals, 4 and 5 and, the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

He noted that the VRA-GHS collaboration has played supervisory roles in four health facilities in the zone which are normally without Obstetrics & Gynecology specialists. These include the Akuse Government Hospital, St Martins Hospital, Atua Government hospital and Somanya Polyclinic. "We undertake emergency operative procedures in these facilities whenever we are called upon," he stated.

→ Contd. from pg.8

60 YEARS OF POWERING GHANA'S INDUSTRIALISATION ...

As we pat ourselves for 60 years of excellence, the VRA NEWS strongly believes that our ability to focus on the 'BRAISE' strategy and the Sustainability Plan, which obliges us to work with a private sector mindset even though we a

public sector organisation, is critical if we are to achieve our vision of becoming a Model of Excellence for Power Utilities in Africa.

To conclude, we want to appreciate all

our stakeholders for their continued support over the years and trust that, we will continue to partner with them to achieve our shared values and deliver on our mandate of generating electricity to power industrialization and promote the socio-economic development of the West African sub-region through power exports.

ABOADZE, TEMA & KPONE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VRA AT 60 DONATIONS BY DRONE

Nathaniel Ekue Mensah / Linda Appiah



Some proud beneficiaries displaying their items.

Five basic schools in Aboadze and its adjoining communities in the Shama District of the Western region have received their share of the VRA 60th anniversary educational and Covid-19 relief items delivered by drone technology.

The items included VRA branded school bags, exercise books, mathematical sets, pens, pencils, water-bottles among others. The Authority also donated personal protective equipment such as nose masks, Veronica buckets and hand sanitizers to the selected schools as part of measures to fight the COVID-19 virus.

The donation formed part of activities marking the Authority's year-long Diamond Jubilee being celebrated under the theme: "Celebrating 60 Years in the Power Business; Our Legacy, Our Future". The beneficiary schools were drawn from Aboadze, Abuesi and Dwomo, all within the VRA operational area in the Western region.

Presenting the items on behalf of the Chief Executive of VRA, the Deputy Chief Executive (E&O), Ing. Emmanuel Dankwa Osafo disclosed that the Authority, over the last 60, years has been committed to skills development through its support to education in the various operational areas as part of measures being put in place to prepare the future leaders of the country to offer quality leadership when their time is due.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Services), Dr. (Mrs.) I. Stella Agyenim-Boateng on her part noted that the Authority settled on the use of drones for the distribution of the items to inspire the school children to take a keen interest in the use of technology to make life easier for themselves.

The Ghana Education Service (GES) Director for the Shama District, Madam Efia Amokowah-Quansah who received the items on behalf of the schools expressed appreciation to the Authority, assuring that her office would ensure that the items get to the intended beneficiaries.

Present at the event were the Director, Thermal Generation (SBUS), Ing. Edward Obeng-Kenzo, Plant Manager, TTPS, Ing. Jacob Brown Yawson, HR Manager, Mr. Thomas Ameyaw, Operations Manager, TTPS, Ing. George Amegashie, and Manager, CSR, Mr. Samuel Fletcher among others.

In a related development, Linda Appiah reports that five schools in the Tema and Kpone Katamanso Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies have received 5,000 VRA @ 60 branded exercise books, mathematical sets, pens & pencils, water-bottles, Veronica buckets, branded nose-masks, hand sanitizers and other stationery by drone.

The beneficiary schools included Nii Oglie Model 1, Kpoi- Ete KKMA, Kpone Presby A&B, Kpone Methodist A&B and Hanaa KKMA. Each school received quantities of the VRA branded educational & COVID-19 relief items for their pupils.

VRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MARKS AU DAY



Staff and Invited Guests in a group photograph.

Students, Pupils, and Staff of the Volta River Authority (VRA) International School in Aboadze marked this year's African Union Day with a thrilling ceremony to significantly draw focus on promoting Africa unity and solidarity.

The event was fun filled with a buzz of excitement as students, pupils and staff dressed in traditional African fashion, treated parents and patrons to a colourful display of the rich culture and heritage of Africa.

The occasion was used to promote the unique diversity of cultures in Africa through activities such as exhibitions, cultural performances, recitals, fashion

**THE BIRTH OF THE
AFRICAN UNION
SHOULD ENCOURAGE
US TO RE-EXAMINE
RELATIONS BETWEEN
AFRICAN STATES**

Omar Bongo

show and education with some African local drinks for refreshment. Present at the event were the Director, Thermal Generation, Ing. Edward Obeng-Kenzo, Shama District Director of Education, Madam Afia Amoakowah-Quansah, Mr. Willis K.M. Ampiah, Headmaster and many others.

The AU Day, hitherto known as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded on May 25, 1963 and subsequently changed to African Union (AU) in 2001. The African Union declared the Year 2021 as “The AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”.



The event was used to showcase the rich culture and heritage of the continent.



Some pupils displaying diverse African costumes.

MIRIAM DARKE

IS WOMAN PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



Mrs. Miriam Darke displaying her awards.

Director of the Procurement Department of VRA, Mrs. Miriam Darke has been adjudged the 'Woman Procurement Professional of

the Year', in the Public Sector. She was also named the 'Instinct Business Procurement Leader of the Year'.

Mrs. Darke received these awards for her astuteness, strong performance

and ability to strengthen resilience in the procurement and supply chain sector in the face of major challenges in the business environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

She was among several individuals, private entities and State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) that were awarded at the 3rd Africa Procurement and Supply Chain Awards held in Accra recently.

The Volta River Authority was the proud winner of the 'Best in Procurement & Supply Chain Compliance (Gold)' and 'Excellence in Procurement & Supply Chain (SOE) (Gold)' awards.

The awards ceremony, which was organized by InstinctWave, a spectrum publishing, branding, event management, technology and media solutions Company, sought to recognize and promote innovation, ethics, excellence and technology advancement in procurement and Supply Chain services.



The VRA Team at the Awards night.



Mr. Akin Naphtal, CEO of Instinctwave presenting an award to Mrs. Darke.



Doctor's Corner

IMPORTANT FACTS

TO HAVE ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

Dr. Emmanuel Sowah

A vaccine is a type of medicine that trains the body's immune system so that it can fight a disease it has not come into contact with before. Vaccines are designed to prevent disease, rather than treat a disease once you have caught it.

AIM OF THE COVID19 VACCINES

The COVID-19 vaccines developed are meant to prevent individuals from getting COVID-19 if they are infected with the SARSCoV2 virus, to reduce severity of the COVID-19 disease if one does develop the disease and therefore to reduce death rates from COVID-19 if one goes down with the disease.

TYPES OF COVID VACCINES

SUBUNIT VACCINES	WHOLE VIRUS VACCINES	NUCLEIC ACID VACCINES	VIRAL VECTOR VACCINES
Use a weakened (attenuated) or deactivated form of the pathogen, which have been specially selected for their ability to stimulate immune cells. Examples include whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria and meningococcal meningitis vaccines.	Use a weakened (attenuated) or deactivated form of the germ to trigger protective immunity to it. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and the chickenpox and shingles vaccine are examples of this type of vaccine. The flu and polio, yellow fever and measles (live attenuated vaccines), or seasonal influenza and hepatitis A (inactivated vaccines)...	Use genetic material from a disease-causing germ to provide the instructions for making a specific protein from the germ, which the immune system will recognize as foreign to stimulate an immune response against it. The genetic material could be DNA or RNA. Such vaccines are being developed against HIV and Zika virus. RNA vaccines need to be kept at ultra-cold temperatures, -70C, belong to this group.	They antigens or parts of the germ by using a modified virus (the vector) to deliver a genetic code for that part of the germ into the human cells. By infecting the human cells and instructing them to make large amounts of antigen, which then trigger an immune response.

There are four categories of COVID-19 vaccines: whole virus, protein subunit, viral vector and nucleic acid (RNA and DNA).

Whole virus vaccines– *Sinopharm and Sinovac Covid vaccine*

Subunit vaccines- *the Novavax Covid-19 vaccine is a protein subunit.*

Nucleic Acid (RNA and DNA)- *The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Covid vaccines*

Viral vector vaccines - *the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Sputnik V Covid vaccines*

The Oxford Astra Zeneca Vaccine

This vaccine is a [viral vector vaccine that contains the gene that encodes for the spike protein on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Once delivered to our cells, the gene is transcribed, prompting our cells to make the spike protein. The presence of this protein triggers the body's immune system to produce](#)

[antibodies to fight against the spike protein, which then prepares the body to fight against SARS-CoV-2 should it enter the body. Note that the vaccine does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus itself and does not cause COVID-19.](#)

Research has shown it is highly effective. Efficacy rate of 63% and over 90% effective against severe disease. It requires 2 shots taken 8-12 weeks apart. It can be stored at fridge temperature and is cheaper than current vaccine alternatives.

SIDE EFFECTS

Individuals also commonly reported pain and irritation at the site of the vaccine injection. According to the vaccine's safety profile within the product information, the most common side effects include mild-to-moderate symptoms of one or more of the following:

[headache](#) (52.6%)
[fatigue](#) (53.1%)
 muscle or joint pain (44% or 26.4%)
[fever](#) (33.6%)
 chills (31.9%)
 nausea (21.9%)

The percentages are based on reports from four clinical trials with a total of 23,745 participants.

Additionally, an allergic reaction to certain ingredients in the vaccine may occur. Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include [hives, a rash, swelling, and respiratory symptoms. There have also been a few cases of anaphylaxis, which refers to a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. However, anaphylaxis is a very rare event.](#)

BLOOD CLOTS

Although COVID-19 is itself associated with blood clots in the veins of the brain, current research suggests that there is a small increase in the absolute risks of clots in the veins of the brain and a reduction of levels of platelets in the blood.

In spite of this risk, experts point out that vaccination remains overwhelmingly a safer option when compared with the risk of contracting COVID-19.

VACCINES AND VARIANTS

All viruses – including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 – evolve over time. When a virus replicates or makes copies of itself, it sometimes changes a little bit, which is normal for a virus. These changes are called “mutations”. A virus with one or more new mutations is referred to as a “variant” of the original virus.

When a virus is widely circulating in a population and causing many infections, the likelihood of the virus mutating increases. The more opportunities a virus has to spread, the more it replicates – and the more

opportunities it has to undergo changes. Most viral mutations have little to no impact on the virus's ability to cause infections and disease, but depending on where the changes are located in the virus's genetic material, they may affect a virus's properties, such as transmission (for example, it may spread more or less easily) or severity (for example, it may cause more or less severe disease).

- *Current vaccines were designed for earlier versions of coronavirus, but scientists believe they should work, albeit potentially less well.*

- *Latest research suggests two doses of either the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine still protect people from getting ill with the India variant.*

Early lab results and real life data

suggest the Pfizer vaccine can protect against the new variants, although slightly less effectively.

Data from the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine team

- *suggests it protects just as well against the Kent/UK variant. It offers less protection against the South Africa variant - but should still protect against severe illness.*

One recent study

- *suggests the Brazilian variant may resist antibodies in people who've recovered from COVID-19 before.*

- *Some early results suggest the Moderna vaccine is effective against the South Africa variant, although the immune response triggered may be weaker and shorter-lived*

Why we should take the vaccine

Everyone should take the vaccine in order to break the chain of transmission, reduce risk of new mutations, reduce risk of new variants unresponsive to vaccines becoming dominant type in circulation

Does the vaccine allow you to be traced by anyone?

Besides your data you provide about yourself, collected for follow-up there are no nano-particles in there for tracking and tracing of those vaccinated.

Can the vaccine change your genes?

The vaccine can only stimulate your own body to produce cells for you to fight diseases like the COVID-19 but has no capacity to change your genes.

VRA SIGNS MOU WITH GHANA NAVY TO PROTECT AKOSOMBO AND KPONG DAMS

Michael Danso, CA&ER, Accra



The Eastern Naval Commander exchanging the signed document with DCE, Services.

The Volta River Authority (VRA) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ghana Navy to critically secure and protect the Akosombo and Akuse hydroelectric dams against attacks by the Western Togoland secessionist group.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Services) of VRA, Dr. (Mrs.) I. Stella Agyenim-Boateng who witnessed the signing of the agreement on behalf of the Chief

Executive, Mr. Emmanuel Antwi-Darkwa noted that, in as much as the MoU would establish and firm up the already existing relationship between VRA and the Navy, it was very critical to guide the execution of responsibilities of both parties.

She said VRA is a trustee holding the Akosombo and Kpong dams in trust for the Ghanaian people and anybody who whole heartedly has the nation at heart, will be very excited with the asset protection initiative.

Captain (GN) Bright Atiayao, Director Naval Operations and Commodore Emmanuel Kwafo, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Commands, endorsed and witnessed the MoU for the Ghana Navy.

The Head of Security of VRA, Lieutenant Commander (rtd) Richard G.N.L Lamptey, said VRA requested the services of the Navy to provide security upstream and downstream of the Akosombo and Kpong dams when the secessionist group attempted to capture the Kpong plant in September last year.

In view of that, he said, the security agencies such as the Army and Navy were deployed as part of stringent measures to scale up security at the installations to forestall any future occurrence.

According to him, the MoU will serve as a guide of the Authority's corporate standard of procedure and rules of engagement to the Navy to carry out its operations without infringing on rights and privileges of the communities within which the Authority operates.

VRA DONATES FURNITURE TO NATRIKU D/A BASIC SCHOOL

Benjamin Yemo Quarshie & Narkie Aryeh, CSR/CR, Akuse



Mr. Fletcher exchanging pleasantries with Nene Amoako after the presentation.

The Volta River Authority (VRA) has donated classified classroom furniture valued at about GH¢30, 000.00 to the Natriku D/A Basic School, a community based school at Natriku, a resettlement community near Akuse to address infrastructure challenges in the school.

The ergonomic friendly furniture included; 49 Dual-Desks, 13 single wooden Desks, 94 Formica surfaced metal Desks, 86 metal chairs, 12 Kindergarten Benches and six Kindergarten Tables.

Making the presentation on behalf of Management, Mr. Samuel Fletcher, Manager, Corporate Social

Responsibility (CSR), noted that the donation was not only in fulfilment of the VRA's CSR policy but also, a way of giving back to the community especially towards educational development.

He said "as we know, the children are the future leaders of Ghana and we must do all we can to improve their way of learning to shape their academic performance. Sitting posture has a major impact on students learning and can immensely improve their performance if done right.

Management of VRA therefore, thought it wise to provide these sets of furniture that will fit the children and invariably encourage a good sitting posture and conducive learning environment."

Receiving the items on behalf of the school, Nene Tetteh Amoako IV, Chief of Natriku thanked VRA for the kind gesture and charged the school administration and students to take good care of the items and take their learning seriously.

Present at the brief event were Mrs. Rhoda Arthur, Senior Community, Relations Officer, Mrs. Euphemia Agbenyo, the Headmistress, teaching staff and Ignatius E. Okudordoy, Assemblyman for the area.

→ Contd. on pg.6

...VRA EAGER TO POWER GHANA'S DIGITAL AGENDA

reducing the use of fossil fuels and introducing more low-carbon energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower and nuclear."

"Cost reductions and sustained policy support are further expected to drive strong renewables growth beyond 2022. Solar PV and onshore wind are already the cheapest ways of adding new electricity-generating plants in most countries today."

He mentioned that VRA developed the nation's first utility scale PV Solar of 2.5MW (Navrongo Solar PV Plant) in

2013 as part of its Renewable Energy Development Programme. We are on course to complete a 19.6MW PV Solar facility in the Upper West Region of Ghana, which will be further expanded to 35MW. Other renewable plants also under various stages of development include the 60MW Pwalugu hydro power project which comes with a 50MW Solar PV complementation, the 75MW Wind Project in Anloga in the Volta Region, 40MW Bongo Solar PV Project, amongst others.

VRA is also developing renewable energy systems on all of its institutional

buildings to reduce self-consumption and increase its green credentials and has commissioned studies towards the Akosombo Smart City Project which is expected to be a pre-cursor that will assist Ghana in piloting the Digital transformation and Clean Energy Initiative in a comprehensive manner.

The Akosombo Smart City project, he said, will be an innovative city with a technological hub, smart grids, electric mobility, high speed connectivity, eco parks, SMART Medical Park, real-time surveillance systems, amongst others.

PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT (Part 4)

PROJECT EXECUTION

Corporate Risk Management Unit

INTRODUCTION

We have for some time now been deliberating on Project Risk Management, with special focus on the project management guidelines as defined in the VRA Project Life Cycle document. Thus far, risks affecting the first three stages of the project life cycle have been covered. In this episode, the key risks affecting the fourth stage of the cycle, namely the Project Execution (Implementation) and the plausible mitigation measures will be discussed in two parts. The project implementation stage is a very critical phase of the project life cycle, as events at this stage determine the success or failure of the project.

PROJECT EXECUTION PHASE

At the Project Execution phase, the project team actualizes the project plan, by carrying out all the planned activities and construct or develop deliverables as outlined in the project plan and addresses all related matters to meet project stakeholders' expectations, by the closeout of the project. Project implementation can reveal new issues and challenges that might not have been anticipated by planners from the onset and lead to more refined strategies, products and processes. Effective discharge of respective contractual deliverables, terms, and conditions by key parties at this stage spells out the project's outcomes.

VRA's projects are normally executed under the supervision of a Project Director/Manager or a steering committee supported by a project team and in consultation with key stakeholders, such as the User Department, the Project Management Office, Finance and Procurement Departments, and where necessary, Subject Matter Experts.

KEY RISKS AT THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

Since the actual project works are carried out at this stage, to produce the project deliverables, most of the unanticipated risks are more likely to occur here. The Project Manager and his/her team are tasked to deal with such incidences, while minimizing impact on the project cost, schedule, scope, and quality.

The following are some of the common risks faced at this stage and their suggested solutions:

1. Uncontrolled Scope Variations Resulting in Scope Creep

Scope creep is an uncontrolled growth in a project's scope at any point, after the implementation begins. It entails expansion in project features and functionality beyond bounds of the approved budget and time. It could be the result of the project slowly growing out of control and consequently beyond its original scope. Scope creep does not involve proper planning and approval processes.

This can happen, when the scope of a project is not properly defined, documented, or controlled. It could also result from poor requirement analysis or underestimating the complexity of the project. Having a high level of scope creep can significantly increase the risk of the project going off-track, often over time and/or over budget.

Proposed Solution: *Control the scope, which is the process of monitoring the status of the project and scope against changes to the scope baseline. The key benefit of this process is that it allows the scope baseline to be maintained throughout the project.*

Document all project requirements well and refer to them frequently. There must be engagement among key stakeholders to review and approve reasonable changes per the established change control process and then updating the statements of work accordingly. Stick to the project plan and guard against unnecessary changes to the original plan.

The Project Manager must keep a close watch on other factors that could result in scope creep and take proactive steps to prevent it from occurring, or to manage it as it occurs. When a scope change is determined to be beneficial to the outcome of the project, approval and funding for the change must be secured. At this point, the Project Manager must follow the procedures defined in the Project Plan to implement the change.

Further, the Project Manager must incorporate any agreed-upon changes or addenda into the deliverables produced, during Project Initiation and Planning, to ensure that all project deliverables are in line with the revised Project Scope. Any lessons learnt from scope change control, should be documented and included in the project lessons learnt repository.

2. Inadequate/Ineffective Project Execution Risk Management

Project risk is the possibility that project events will not occur as planned or that unplanned events will occur that will have a negative/positive impact on the project. Known risks can be identified before they occur, while unknown risks are unforeseen. The crystallizing of unforeseen project risks in all cases could cause the project to experience schedule delays and additional costs.

Projects rarely go exactly as planned, because there are so many variables that can create unlimited possibilities. Project Execution risk analysis requires a review of the risks that the project will face during the 'go-live' or execution phase. Inadequate analysis of risk at the execution phase could result in increased unanticipated risks and even possible crisis in the project's implementation. Common risks prevalent in engineering projects, for example, include inadequate plans and/or specifications, errors in cost estimation, the project's scheduling, funding difficulties, procurement of faulty materials, inexperienced workmanship, natural disasters, health and safety issues and many more.

Solution: *The Project Manager must have the foresight to identify potential 'what if' scenarios and make up contingency plans and carry out effective risk management to identify all possible risks associated with each stage of the project and update the project risk register and the risk management plan, with the new information. The project team, where applicable, should consult experts and people with experience on similar projects for more information on the type of risks that could eventuate.*

Unlike the Project Initiation and Planning stages, where risks were remote events with uncertain probabilities, at the Execution stage,

risks become much more tangible. Constantly re-evaluating the Risk Management Plan for an entirely new and unexpected risk is a necessity. The Project Manager must continually look for new risks, reassess old ones, and re-evaluate the risk mitigation plans.

The three general possible response scenarios in this case are:

If the risk occurred as expected, the existing Risk Management Plan may be adequate for dealing with it.

If the risk occurred in a different manner, or other circumstances have come to bear, the Risk Management Plan may have to be modified.

If the risk event was unexpected and unanticipated, a whole new Risk Management Plan must be created to address it.

Regardless of the scenario, however, as soon as the risk event occurs it ceases to be a risk (future, possible event) and becomes an issue (current, definite condition). As a result, it should transition from the Risk Management Worksheet onto the list of current project issues, with the Risk Management Plan becoming the issues Action Plan. At the execution phase, risks must be checked off in the project risk register as activities are completed or mitigation actions implemented.

In order to achieve a fair and equitable allocation of risks inherent in projects, project risks should be allocated to the project's key stakeholders on the following basis:

If the risk is within the party's control

If the party can transfer the risk, for example, through insurance, and it is most economically beneficial to deal with the risk in this fashion

If greater economic benefit of controlling the risk lies with the party in question

If placing the risk upon the party in question is in the interest of efficiency, including planning, incentive and innovation and/or

When the risk eventuates, the loss falls on that party in the first instance, and

It is not practicable, or there is no reason under the above principles, to cause expense and uncertainty to be managed by attempting to transfer the loss to the best alternative.

Contracts which balance risks fairly between a contractor and an employer will generally lead to a reasonable price, qualitative performance and the minimized disputes.



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Our Mission:

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**



World Health Organization

Because the flu vaccine doesn't protect you from **COVID-19**, follow these precautions:



Clean your hands frequently



Keep at least 1 metre distance from others



Wear a mask when 1 metre distance from others is not possible



Cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or a tissue



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth



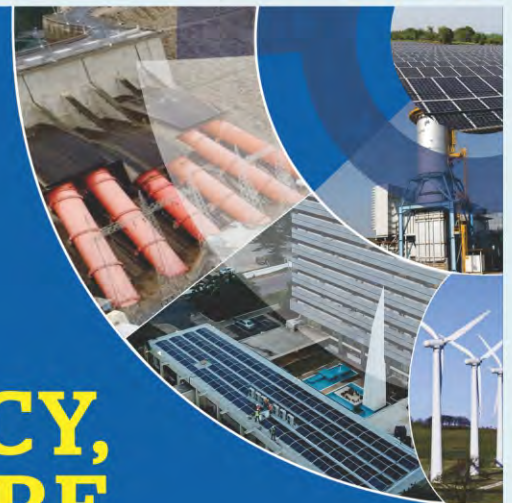
Avoid crowded public gatherings or activities



Open window



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IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- ♦ VRA boosts generation capacity at its Head Office with Solar Car Park
- ♦ VRA honours past Chief Executives with Live-Sized Busts

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

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