

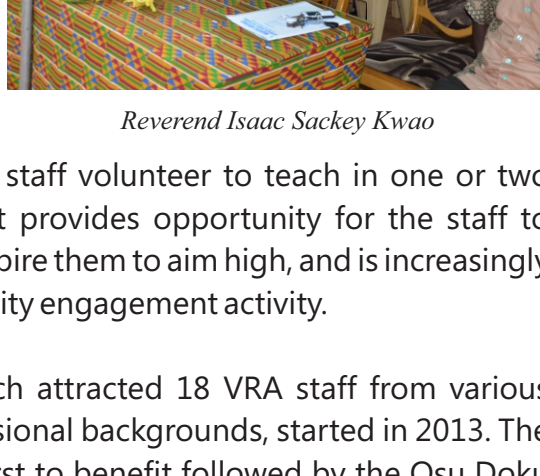
School Authorities Applaud Volunteerism of VRA Staff

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future” – Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Volta River Authority (VRA) staff volunteer programme at the Manya Krobo Senior High School (SHS) will go down the memory lane for the profound remarks it drew for the Authority from school authorities and students.

The Headmaster of the school, the Reverend Isaac Sackey Kwao, after an hour and half session on time management and career guidance by the volunteers with the entire students and staff, retorted: “I am so overwhelmed over the array of professionals and intellectuals that we are interacting with today from VRA.

He applauded the time and energy the volunteers put into the day. “Let’s give VRA a very big clap for that. Previously they were only visible to us through the power that we use. But now we are seeing them in the public”.



Reverend Isaac Sackey Kwao

Every year since 2013, 10 to 20 staff volunteer to teach in one or two secondary schools for a day. It provides opportunity for the staff to interact with the students and inspire them to aim high, and is increasingly becoming an important community engagement activity.

The volunteer programme, which attracted 18 VRA staff from various departments with diverse professional backgrounds, started in 2013. The Akuse Methodist SHS was the first to benefit followed by the Osu Doku Senior Technical.

Addressing the over 800 students under a canopy of wide trees, the headmaster urged them (students) to make good use of the opportunities and lessons presented to them by the volunteers saying, “It is up to you to identify them and make good use of the knowledge.”

He was also full of praise to corporate VRA for its educational scholarship programme, which he noted some students of the Manya Krobo SHS are benefiting from. “We believe the mustard seed VRA had sown in the school and the community will grow into a very big tree,” the Rev Kwao added.

“After the introduction of the personalities, I felt that I have had enough and their (volunteer staff) disposition is even enough motivation and inspiration for the students to go higher than where they have reach,” Mr Aaron Onyame, the Assistant Headmaster, also noted.

The words of gratitude produced much motivation to the staff volunteers, who proceeded to the classrooms and took over the teaching lessons. The staff handled subjects including Mathematics, English, Economics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Business Management, and Information Communication and Technology.

The interaction with the students created a feeling of contentment. Shortly after coming out of the classroom Ing. Dan Onny of the Engineering Services Department, who taught Physics noted, “Charlie, this year’s programme is more exciting. The students are good and it made the teaching more enjoyable”.

Another, Francis Boateng of the General Services Department said: “I was highly elated seeing colleague employees teaching in classrooms with great enthusiasm”.

An excited teacher of the school after visiting some classrooms also opined: “Wow! You guys handled the subject areas like professional teachers. Thank you so much”.

Making the presentation on time management, Madam Joana Bartels of the VRA Akuse Training School cautioned students against time wasters such as “whatsapping” and “facebooking”, lack of daily priorities, personal disorganisation, procrastination, unhealthy communication and attempting to do much things at the same time. These time wasters, she noted, had the potential to deny them success in exams.



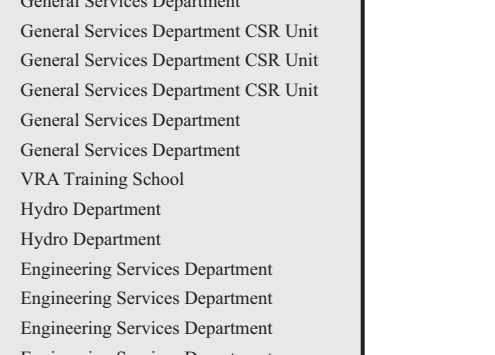
Mrs Joana Bartels educating students on time management

“We are not here to teach you to write your exams and pass. But to add on to what your teachers continue to give you and to encourage you to remain committed. Please listen to your teachers if you want to go out of this school successfully,” Mr John Chobbah of the Corporate Communication Unit added.

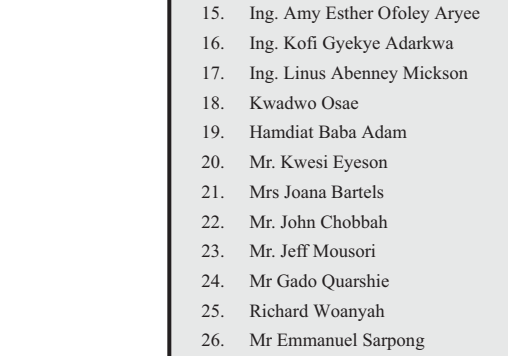
This year, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Unit of the General Services Department plans to implement the staff volunteer programme in two senior high schools.



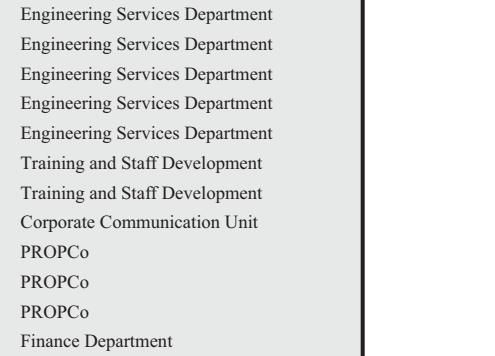
Ing Ama Daaku of ESD teaching Physics



Ing Love Aryee of ESD teaching ICT



Student asking question on Career Development



Ing Amy Aryee of ESD teaching Chemistry

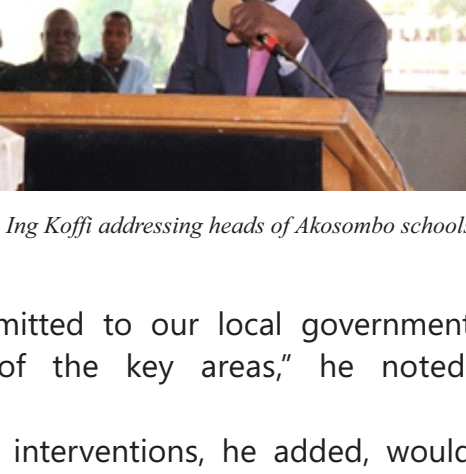
WE CONGRATULATE OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF

NAME	DEPARTMENT
1. Ms Abila Fiaidjoe	General Services Department
2. Mr. Lawrence Quartey	General Services Department CSR Unit
3. Mr. Francis Boateng	General Services Department CSR Unit
4. Moyna Rufina Nyankah	General Services Department CSR Unit
5. Christian Agyeman	General Services Department
6. Augustine Zaghe	General Services Department
7. Reverend Samuel Okine	VRA Training School
8. Hector Ofori	Hydro Department
9. Kpende Mawutor	Hydro Department
10. Ing. Emmanuel Kojo Antwi	Engineering Services Department
11. Ing. Love Aryee	Engineering Services Department
12. Ing. Dan Onny	Engineering Services Department
13. Ing. Ama Kesewaa Ovasu Daaku	Engineering Services Department
14. Ing. Kofi Kalai Kubiti	Engineering Services Department
15. Ing. Amy Esther Ofoley Aryee	Engineering Services Department
16. Ing. Kofi Gyekye Adarkwa	Engineering Services Department
17. Ing. Linus Abenney Mickson	Engineering Services Department
18. Kwadwo Osae	Engineering Services Department
19. Hamdiat Baha Adam	Engineering Services Department
20. Mr. Kwesi Eyeson	Training and Staff Development
21. Mrs Joana Bartels	Training and Staff Development
22. Mr. John Chobbah	Corporate Communication Unit
23. Mr. Jeff Mousori	PROPCo
24. Mr Gado Quarshie	PROPCo
25. Richard Woanyah	PROPCo
26. Mr Emmanuel Sarpong	Finance Department
27. Mr Frank N. Etti	Finance Department

VRA leads efforts to improve education performance

A responsible organisation like the Volta River Authority (VRA) cannot afford to show little concern to the education of children in its impacted communities, Ing Kirk Koffi, Chief Executive of the Authority has said.

Addressing education officials of the Asuogyaman District and heads of basic institutions at Akosombo recently, Ing Koffi said the VRA was committed to making education one of its most important corporate social interventions since it creates opportunities for sustainable and viable growth now and in the future.



Ing Koffi addressing heads of Akosombo schools

“We are expecting our children in our communities to aspire to the greatest heights possible. We are ever-committed to our local government function and education is one of the key areas,” he noted.

The VRA’s community development interventions, he added, would continue but not without the collective efforts of stakeholders including district directorates of education and teachers.

This, the Chief Executive believes, will deepen VRA’s collaboration and communication with stakeholders and improve the fortunes of education in VRA schools.

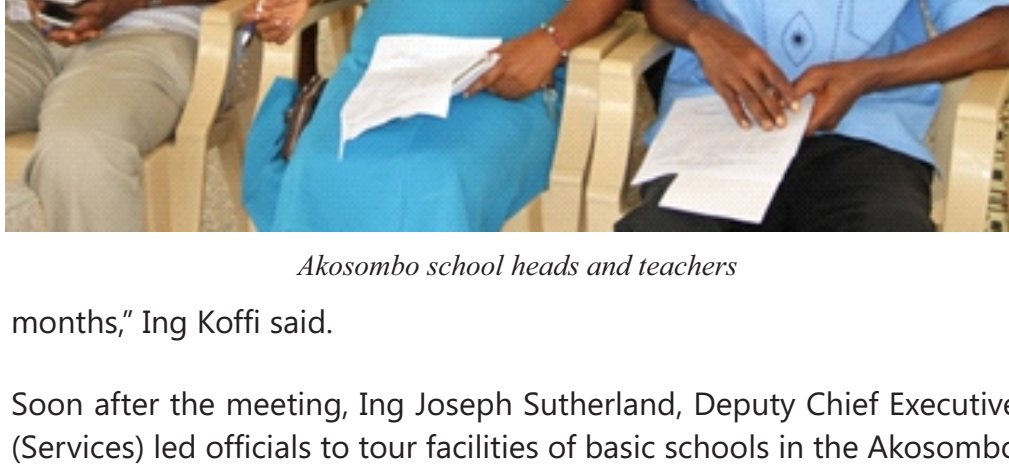
He announced that a number of interventions including setting up of an award scheme for teachers in basic schools would be rolled-out to engender the needed motivation to stakeholders and to improve overall performance.

CASH DONATIONS JANUARY TO MARCH 2015		
BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
1. FODZOKU TRADITIONAL COUNCIL	GH¢16,547.00	Renovation of Fodzoku EP Primary and D/A school blocks
2. ADJENA SENIOR HIGH	GH¢30,000.00	In support of Adjena Senior High school dining and assembly hall project
3. ANUM PRESBY SENIOR HIGH	GH¢20,000.00	Rehabilitation of Anum SHS boys’ dormitory

Performance at the Basic Education Certificate Education (BECE) level in the Asuogyaman District currently stands below 50% (at 47%) due to various factors including low teacher morale, poor reading and numeracy skills and lack of adequate supervision.

“In due course we will constitute a team of civil engineers, architects, and quantity surveyors to do a technical follow-up to this initial meeting and inspection to generate some working estimates for a thorough renovation of the schools

“I am committed to whatever I put my hands to; and God-willing, we shall begin the works at the various sites in the next foreseeable



Akosombo school heads and teachers

months,” Ing Koffi said.

Soon after the meeting, Ing Joseph Sutherland, Deputy Chief Executive (Services) led officials to tour facilities of basic schools in the Akosombo Township to assess the condition of their infrastructure.

Ing Sutherland called on the schools’ management to submit a detailed proposal on the needs assessment of the schools to the VRA for action to be taken as soon as practicable.

Expressing his gratitude to the VRA, the District Chief Executive of Asuogyaman, promised his outfit support to the vision of the Chief Executive to motivate teachers and help the children to improve performance.

The Asuogyaman District Director of Education, Madam Mavis Oparebiana Yirenkyi, also thanked the Authority for its continuous support to improve the standard of education in the district.

The schools visited included the VRA JHS Complex, VRA Church Ridge Primary, Methodist School, St Barbara Nursery, Islamic School and the Presby School.

Meanwhile, the Authority through its Corporate Social Responsibility Unit under the General Services Department had started implementing measures to improve reading, writing and numeracy skills for schools in some VRA communities.

For the last three years, the Authority had provided more than 180 scholarships to SHS and tertiary students, carried out career guidance and teaching programmes under the VRA Employee Volunteer Programme in senior high schools and donated thousands of exercise books to newly-enrolled pupils and story books to about 40 basic schools in seven districts.

Although VRA exists to provide electricity for every Ghanaian, it does that with the interest of its communities at heart.

VRA CSR “Championing Sustainable Solutions”