

VRA EMBARKS ON SHORELINE WEED CLEARING INITIATIVE

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The Environment and Sustainable Development Department, VRA, has rolled out a Shoreline Aquatic Weeds Clearing Initiative as part of efforts to reduce the spread of bilharzia in communities affected by the disease.

According to a Senior Laboratory Technician, VRA, Mr. Tee Joseph, the initiative is expected to clear water contact points and destroy the aquatic plant (*ceratophyllum aquaticum*) which serves as habitat for the bilharzia snail vectors that cause the disease in the human host.

He explained that the parasites complete their life cycle inside the snails and release the parasites into the water during certain periods of the day. The para-

sites enter the human body and cause schistosomiasis, a condition which causes bloody faeces and urine.

Seven communities including Mepe, Battor, Anasoakope, Alorkpem, Morkplipkor, Volokome and Ma-



Senior Laboratory Technician at the VRA's Bilharzia Control Unit, Mr. Tee Joseph, presenting the implements to the Chief and people of Mepe

makope received simple hand held tools (wheelbarrows, wellington boots, rakes and cutlasses) to help them keep their water bodies clean.

Opinion leaders, assembly men and community heads who received the implements on behalf of their communities extend their sincere gratitude to the Volta River Authority.



The people of Alorkpem receiving their items



Mr. Kwesi Agyemang Prempeh donating the implements to the people of Mamakope



The people of Alorkpem using the Implements donated by VRA to clear their shoreline 2