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**NEWS**

## **STAKEHOLDERS IN OBUASI MARK WORLD WATER DAY WITH AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.**



For more than 160 years, Veolia, as the benchmark company in water management, has long been committed to protecting water resources and saving water. Water treatment technology must continue to develop in order to cope with resource scarcity, increasing consumer demand and increasingly stringent quality standards. Through diversified and innovative treatment solutions and professional technology, as well as the efforts of Resourcers, Veolia is committed to resourcing every droplet of water.

World water day has been celebrated in Obuasi with a call by Stakeholders for an increase in public education on the importance of groundwater which is a crucial water resource.

This year's event was sponsored by AngloGold Ashanti together with Veolia Ghana Limited, the Water Resources Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Water Company Limited, Rural Relief Services, the Obuasi Municipal Assembly, the Obuasi East District Assembly, Ghana Education Service Directorates in Obuasi Municipal and Obuasi East District Assembly.

This year's celebration which was on the theme "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible", had Mr. Nixon Asante, Senior Manager, Environment, AngloGold Ashanti Obuasi stressing the need to actively sensitize, mobilize, and educate the youth and communities on the importance of groundwater. He reaffirmed AngloGold Ashanti's commitment to managing water responsibly worldwide, avoiding negative impacts on local and regional water resources.



In his remarks, Mr. Laurent Piat, Managing Director of Veolia Ghana Limited, pledged Veolia's ongoing efforts towards improving access to water resources, preserving available resources, and replenish them. Veolia Ghana contracted in 2019 by AngloGold Ashanti Limited, part of the the South African headquartered gold mining company, AngloGold Ashanti, the world's third largest gold producer, operates and maintains water treatment plants for Anglogold Obuasi Mine, four water treatment plants and two drinking water treatment plants. He noted that Veolia is fully engaged as a long-term partner of Anglogold Ashanti Obuasi Mine, and is determined to have a positive impact on water but also outside the mine.



The Obuasi Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Elijah Adansi Bonnah lauded all stakeholders for the joint initiative saying the contamination of surface freshwater destroys groundwater, which affects humans and other living things that depend on water for survival.

Nana Kwamu Kwakye II, representative of the Adansihene, commended the Obuasi mine and the collaborating partners for a thoughtful initiative. "It is extremely obvious that the mine is doing something different and right since its launch" he noted. He encouraged the continuation of the public education on the sustainable management of water. "We, as traditional leaders, promise to be attentive to the geographical locations of water bodies, be cautious on how we demarcate lands and do all we can to protect the water we drink" said Nana Kwamu Kwakye II.



The local media houses offered free airtime for public education on the importance of groundwater, open defecation free society, 'galamsey' impact of water bodies, climate change spillage of oils and chemicals, agrochemicals, and indiscriminate land use patterns on groundwater. About One Hundred and Fifty Junior High School Pupils with teachers from selected schools in Obuasi were supported to embark on a site visit to the Anyinam Water Plant as part of this year's World Water Day commemoration.

The objective of this initiative was to help students understand the importance of water conservation. Personalities present at the Grand durbar were Paramount Queen Mother of Adansi, Nana Amoanimaa Dede II, traditional leaders (Odikros), Assembly members from both Obuasi Municipal and Obuasi East District Assemblies and students from selected schools. World Water Day is used to call for action to tackle the global water crisis, in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.



From L-R- Mr. Nixon Asante, AGAG, Senior Manager, Environment, Mrs. Abena Dufie Wiredu Bremang-Principal Officer & Head of Pra Basin Water Resources Commission & Mr. Laurent Piat-Managing Director, Veolia Ghana Limited, giving their remarks.



From L-R- Hon. Elijah Adansi Bonnah-Obuasi Municipal Chief Executive, Mr. Joseph Amoako-Principal Programme Officer-Environmental Protection Agency & Mr. Ezekail Nluki Mba-Hydrologist, Ghana Water Company Limited Ashanti Region giving their remarks.



As part of the World Water Day commemoration Veolia Ghana took the initiative to engage students from Various schools in Obuasi on waste water is made potable and safe to drink.



Mr. Gideon Kwarteng, plant operator of Veolia Ghana, presenting the Anyinam water treatment process flow diagram to students



