

# **Familiarization tour to Ghana Water Company treatment plants by Parliamentary Select Committee on works and housing**

A ten member parliamentary select committee on Works and Housing led by its chairman Hon. Nana Ampofo on Monday February 12, 2018 paid a one day familiarization visit to the Ghana Water Company treatment plants at Weija, Teshie and Kpong.

The visit to the sites was for members of the select committee to acquaint themselves with the operations at the various treatment stations and the challenges being faced by the utility provider at the three stations.

The visit was against the background of the alleged statement issued by the Ghana Water Company Limited to the effect that the company was going to embark on water rationing as a result of challenges the company was going through.

The first point of call by the team was at the Weija treatment site.

The team was received by Mr. Charles Brobbery, Chief Manager, Accra production.

He informed the members that the Weija site produces 40 million gallons of water a day which is supplied to the western part of Accra. He said though the company is trying to meet the demand for water required by residents, it is still faced with challenges because of population expansion. He said for now it would be difficult to do any expansion works at the

Weija site.

Touching on the challenges facing the Weija site, Mr. Charles Brobbery mentioned the issue of security and the high cost of treatment of water for distribution.

He said the Weija dam area is very porous in terms of security and as a result, people always encroach upon the land for farming and housing project.

He also mentioned the issue of land guards which most often threaten their staff. On the request by one of the members of the committee to fence the whole area, Mr. Charles Brobbey said it's an option that should be considered by the government to safeguard the national asset.

The members called for an effective collaboration with national security to provide maximum security to the facility.

He debunked the notion that the company was going to ration the supply of water because according to him, there was sufficient water for the company to treat. At the time of the visit, the water level was 44.7 feet as against the maximum of 48 feet.

He lamented about the human activity which is polluting the water and causing the company to spend more money on treatment.

The members were conducted round the various treatment processes.

The next point of call for the members was the Teshie desalination plant site at Teshie. But the members could not get the opportunity to be briefed and taken through the facility because of the absence of staff.

The members of the committee proceeded to Kpong.

**Arrival at Kpong**

The team was met at the office by management and staff of the company. The members were once again taken through the operational mechanisms by Mr. Charles Brobbery, Chief Mnager, Accra Production.

There are two major production plants at Kpong which collectively produces almost 100 million gallons of water a day. According to Mr. Brobbery, the Chinese plant has the capacity to process additional 40 million gallons. He said the lines have already been laid and what was needed was the connection to the pump.

He explained that there are two major intake points for the Kpong plant facility. He said the demand for Accra water supply is almost 200 million gallons and there is a deficit of almost 40 million gallons of water which needed to be produced to meet demand.

Mr. Brobbery mentioned that the major challenge is the encroachment at the areas for expansion.

The members of the select committee again called for collaboration with the National Security to provide adequate security at the place especially at the Control Room which also serves as the communication hub of the production facility.

The committee members were accompanied on the tour by the Ag. Chief Director of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources Mr. Joseph Obeng- Poku, who also doubles as a board member of the Ghana Water Company Limited and the Director for Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Patrick Affum Asamadu.

The tour was very successful and quite educative.

**Complied by**

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