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Tel: +232-30-321001
Tel: +232-77-321001news.sl/.../article_200510951.shtml**NEWS : LOCAL NEWS****In Sierra Leone, Develop Africa Dishes out Interest Free Micro Finance**

By

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A non-profit-making non governmental organization known as Develop Africa Sierra Leone, on Saturday 17th January 2009 concluded a two-day sensitization and micro finance seminar at the Pademba Road basement of Christians in Action in Freetown. The interest free micro finance was given to the first batch of 10 beneficiary parents in order to help them sponsor their school going children.



The Coordinator John Tucker, in his opening statement, emphasized that education and poverty alleviation are key components in the realization of sustainable national development. He said Develop Africa is being headed by Sierra Leoneans based in the United States of America; Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester and Jasmine Renner. "Donors have over the last three years focused on human resource development, by supporting education in Sierra Leone through the distribution of learning materials and the provision of scholarships," he stated.

He added that "Based on monitoring and evaluation of the projects, the donors saw the need to further assist parents/guardians with the provision of loans that will enable them meet the needs of their children.

During the training, the participants were sensitized on how to develop and manage businesses in order to maximize profit

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In Sierra Leone, Develop Africa Dishes...

develop and manage businesses in order to maximize profit. Loans were distributed to parents according to their capabilities.

On their part, the participants thanked the organization not only for the loan granted them, but also for the knowledge they have gained in running a profitable small scale business. They expressed gratitude to the organization's founder, whilst expressing hope that other Sierra Leoneans will emulate such a laudable venture.

In her closing remarks, an executive member of Develop Africa, Mrs. Janet Tucker advised the beneficiaries not to forget what they have been through and that it should always be at the back of their minds that the money is not for their personal use but to help them send their children to school. She said they will be monitored from time to time, to ensure that their businesses are progressing well and the proceeds used for the intended purpose.

She said since they are the first lucky ones to gain from the Develop Africa micro finance loan, they should take it very seriously, noting that they do not know what other benefits are coming.

At the end of the two-day workshop, loans were presented to the first set of beneficiaries to help them set up their own small scale businesses and by so doing, reduce the impacts of poverty in their respective homes and the country as a whole.

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