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Sierra Leone News & Information

Giving Knowledge to the People

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## **NEWS: LOCAL NEWS**

## In Sierra Leone, Siva Group/Bio Palm Donates \$30,000 to 3 Chiefdoms in Pujehun

By Augustine Samba

Iul 13, 2011, 17:00

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Generous investors do not only rely on exploitation but also give out kind gestures to their operative communities. Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA), has keen interest in investors that will come to Sierra Leone and share the plights and needs of the people. Siva Group/Bio Palm Star Oil Energy Sierra Leone Limited, one of the major foreign direct investments, facilitated by SLIEPA on last Saturday demonstrated its corporate social responsibility by donating the sum of thirty thousand United States Dollars to three chiefdoms in the Pujehum District.

At a symbolic ceremony held at Blama Massaguoi that attracted over hundred representatives including section chiefs, chiefdom speakers, paramount chiefs, SLIEPA, the 50th independence anniversary committee, a member of parliament of the host communities, councilors and other indigenes of beneficiary chiefdoms. Kpaka, Galliness Peri and Barri Chiefdoms were those that received ten thousand dollars each as symbolic donation from Siva/Bio Palm.



SLIEPA CEO and one of the investors

In his statement, the chairman of the ceremony Mr. Leonard B. Koroma, who also doubles as acting chairman and coordinator of the 50th independence anniversary committee said the donation was made by Siva/Bio Palm to the anniversary committee for onwards donation to the three chiefdoms to implement a project that will serve as a remembrance of the 50th anniversary cerebrations. He disclosed that some few weeks ago the sum of \$100,000 dollars was donated by Siva/Bio Palm to the 50th independent committee to carryout projects for the celebration. Fifty thousand United States dollars for the committee, twenty thousand United States dollars for the National Museum and 30 thousand United States dollars was meant for the three host chiefdom to carry out their own celebrations.

He went on to say that his being to Pujehum was to inform all the natives about the money for the sake of accountability and transparency. He advised the people to work amicably with the Siva/ Bio Palm investors in order to gain more facilities and

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opportunities including employment and developments of the chiefdoms.



Hon. Massaquoi assuring the investors

The Paramount Chief of Kpaka Chiefdom, PC Alhaji John Salia Rogers, expressed happiness over the donation. He informed that Siva/Bio Palm came to their chiefdoms at the time when they needed development. "After the war, we reintegrated, embraced ourselves and now we are scouting for development," he maintained. He said since they meet with the investors in Freetown, they came to their various chiefdoms and informed their people who wholly and solely welcomed the investors.

Further, he advised all his subjects and colleague chiefs not to politicize the development as he puts it will hinder the success of the project.



Representatives of the host communities

Honorable Alicious Massaquoi representing the host communities said the money was not a payment for their land but a gesture. He said the money was meant in order to implement a legacy project in the respective chiefdoms. He advised his people to create an enabling environment for the investors.

Patrick Coker, CEO for SLIEPA said they were always doing research to encourage good investors to come to Africa, specifically Sierra Leone. He disclosed that Siva/Bio Palm is one those investors that have chosen Sierra Leone to invest. He assured that the investors intend to deliver more in their corporate social responsibility. "Once you work in unity with Siva/Bio Palm, a lot of opportunities including good roads, safe drinking water, better schools will be constructed in these chiefdoms," he concluded.

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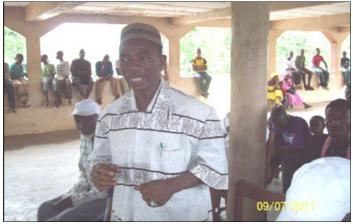
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PC Rogers advising his subjects

Bio Palm Country Manager Harding Tommy said an environment social impact assessment survey has already been conducted and the report were going to be out soon. He also revealed that a total of five thousand hectares have been surveyed and two million seedlings would be nursed soon.

Further, he disclosed that representatives of the three chiefdoms have already opened an account for their various chiefdoms at Rokel Commercial Bank and the money will soon be transferred there.

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