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## KDDA SHIPMENT TO KONO DISTRICT

The Kono District Development Association (KDDA) United Kingdom's shipment of medical equipments arrived in Freetown on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The items included two theatre beds, nine single hospital beds, thirty five mattresses, medical books, various hospital furniture, beddings, and medication. Most of the items are for the Koidu Government Hospital, being the central hub Hospital for Kono District. Among the items were also specific items for the UMC Health Centre in Jaiama Nimikor. The consignment was received by the Mayor of Koidu New Sembehun City Council (KNSCC), His Worship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina.

Prior to the arrival of the twenty feet container at the Queen Elizabeth 11 Quay, the Ministers of Finance and Health were notified of our effort in contributing positively towards improving the health of our people. Both ministries responded commendably by ensuring that all relevant government legislation vis-à-vis waivers for such shipments were promptly and speedily dealt with thus facilitating the timely transportation of the consignment of medical equipments to Kono District.

We also attempted to reach out to most stakeholders in Kono District, kindly appealing to them to afford our venture the necessary assistance as required. Among the stakeholders contacted were:

- His Excellency Hon. Vice President Alhaji Chief Sam Sumana
- Mrs. Sia Koroma, the First Lady of Sierra Leone
- Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance & Economic Development
- Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi, Minister, MLGRD
- Mrs. Harriet Turay, Minister of State, Vice President's Office
- PC Paul Ngaba Saquee V, Chairman, Council of Chiefs in Kono District
- All Paramount Chiefs in Kono District
- All Members of Parliament in Kono District
- The Chairman, Kono District Council
- All Councilors in Kono District
- The Kono Tribal Administration Western Area
- The Chairman KONDU
- The Kono Union USA
- The Kono Students Union (KONSU)

- District Medical Officer (DMO), Kono District
- Konos in the Diaspora

After the clearance from the Queen Elizabeth 11 Quay, the consignments arrived in Koidu City on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 4 PM. This was followed by an official presentation ceremony organised by His Worship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina at the Koidu New Sembehun City Council New Hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Most stakeholders, the media and friends of Kono District were invited to the ceremony.

Clearing and transportation costs from Freetown to Koidu city was challenging. KDDA is grateful to the following sponsors for their financial assistance:

- Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, for donating one million leones (Le1, 000,000.00) to the venture.
- Paramount Chief Sheku Fasuluku Sonsiama 111, MP, for donating two million leones (Le2, 000,000.00) to the venture.
- Mrs. Hanna Lamina (Wife of Mayor Lamina), for donating a substantial financial assistance to the venture.
- Koidu New Sembehun City Council, for their invaluable assistance to the venture.

The presentation ceremony was a colourful event and well attended. Among the dignitaries were:

- ❖ PC Paul Ngaba Saquee V, of Tankor Chiefdom.
- ❖ PC Aiah Denton Bona Foamansa 111, of Nimikor Chiefdom.
- ❖ Rev. Gbundema, Gbense Koidu City Town Chief.
- ❖ Mrs. Sia Evelyn Nyandemo, KDDA representative and Chief Executive Officer of Sickle Cell Carers Awareness Network (SCCAN).
- ❖ Chief Saa Y.O.Lebbie, former Chairman of KDDA
- ❖ Rev. Sahr Christian Fayia, Chairman of the Presentation ceremony.
- ❖ Dr. Francis Jayah, District Medical Officer, Kono District.
- ❖ Mr. Patrick Mansaray, Representative of Health Alert in Kono District.
- ❖ Sister Kanie Turay, Sister-in-Charge, UMC Health Centre, Jaiama Nimikor.
- ❖ Mrs. Princess Pratt, SLPP Chairlady in Kono District.
- ❖ Mr. Francis Gbondo, APC Chairman in Kono District.

The total cost of the operation covering clearing at Quay, Transportation, Media, Labour and miscellaneous was thirteen million and four hundred thousand leones (Le13, 400,000.00).

His worship Mayor Lamina has already put a monitoring system in place to ensure these medical equipments are not only used for the intended purpose but properly maintained. The monitoring committee is headed by Councilor Francis Tamba Foyoh and made up of members from the Hospital, Council and the vibrant civil society organisation called Health Alert.

KDDA wish to express our gratitude to the following donors who played vital role to the success of this venture:

- 1. Mrs. Gladys Boahene.
- 2. Mr. & Mrs. Saa Dingiswayo Nyandemo.
- 3. Northwick Park Hospital in London, United Kingdom.
- 4. Mr. & Mrs. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe.
- 5. Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel in London, United Kingdom.
- 6. Mr. & Mrs. Kai Ngegba.
- 7. The Kono Development Union (KDU) in London, United Kingdom.
- 8. Mr. & Mrs. David Tumoe Saffa, Barrister in Sierra Leone.
- 9. Chief Saa Y.O.Lebbie, former Chairman of KDDA.
- 10. Mr. & Mrs. Saa Augustine Tutu.
- 11. Mr. & Mrs. Tamba J.S.Lamina, former Chairman of KDDA.
- Mr. & Mrs. Dr. Sahr Kortequee

Despite a few challenges, there has been an excellent team effort by everyone involved. On behalf of KDDA, I wish to thank His Worship Mayor Lamina for his selfless effort, the highly committed members and executive of KDDA, all our friends, and supporters in Sierra Leone and the Diaspora for your continued support.



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