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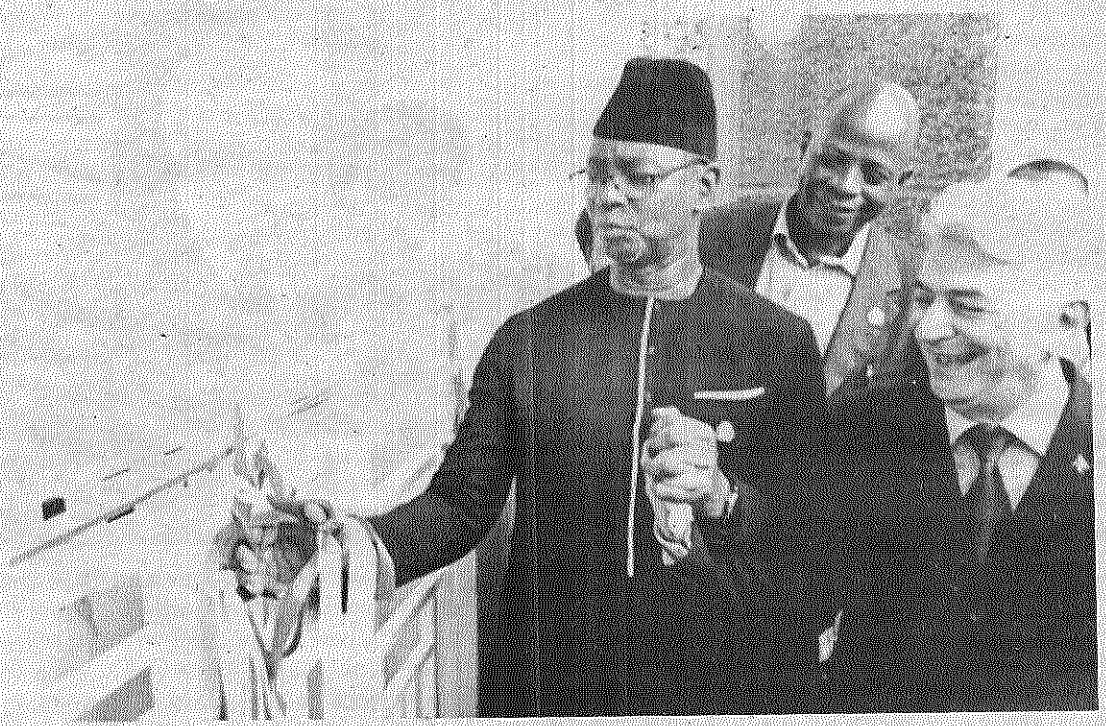
New Blood Transfusion Centre for Western Area



Health Minister, Prof. Alpha Wurie cutting the tape to the new facility

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Orange Money partners with Zenith Bank

Zenith Bank MD/CEO and Orange Money CEO officially launching the partnership

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LOCAL NEWS

New Blood Transfusion Centre for Western Area

By Ibrahim Tarawallie

In a bid to strengthen safe blood transfusion in the country, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has commissioned a regional blood transfusion centre for the Western Area.

Stationed at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital(PCMH), the construction of the ultra-modern facility was funded by the Italian Agency for Development and Corporation (AICS) and implemented by the Italian Association of Solidarity Among People (AISPO).

The centre will help ensure the preservation and safety of blood to save lives.

Head of National Safe Blood Services, Professor Sahr Gevao, disclosed that the cost of the project is 1.3million euros, including the training of six laboratory technologists' and modern techniques in blood transfusion, development of standard operating procedures and computer software for blood donors.

"We anticipate that transmission of blood components will commence after the installation of the necessary equipment and training. The centre will also be used for sophisticated testing and diagnosis metrological disorders such as sickle-cell anemia," he said.

He described blood as a useful therapeutic tool and noted that it is necessary for pregnant women with complications of delivery, but can prove dangerous if not handle properly.

Project Manager of AISPO, Stefano Ferroni, recalled when together with the current Minister of Works and Public Assets, Peter Bayuku Conteh, visited the Health Minister, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, to discuss about the possibility of having a blood transfusion centre in the Western Area.

He said they discussed very frankly about the various things they had in mind and decided to move ahead with the project, starting with the planning, land identification and construction work.

He disclosed that the construction of the facility, which has state-of-the-earth equipment, was carried out within nine months and noted his satisfaction of the work done.

According to him, the project is not only limited to the construction of the facility but procurement and stock control management, as well as training of personnel.

President of Sierra Leone Association of Voluntary Blood Donors, Desmond Lewis said: "I am happy to always talk on issues associated with saving lives through blood. Blood donation has been in existence over a decade but the organization came into existence in 2006. This construction is a grand facelift towards the health services, especially blood management."

Health Minister, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, welcomed the conduction of the new facility and commended the Italian Gove nt for the financial and technical support provided.

"We will start addressing rapid rate of response for blood issues in the western area. This project will progress to do various blood components. We will get the equipment hopefully next year to do blood separation," he said.

Orange Money partners with Zenith Bank

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

In their continuous quest to promote financial inclusion and cashless society, Orange Sierra Leone, one of the leading GSM providers and one of the leading financial institutions, Zenith Bank Sierra Leone, have launched a partnership that will enable their customers to conduct banking transactions anywhere at any time.

The partnership will enable an account holder with Zenith Bank to withdraw and deposit into his or her account, using Orange Money platform and also check their account balance.

Speaking at the official launch of the partnership at Orange Telecom's Rawdon Street Shop, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Zenith Bank Sierra Leone, George Meze, said the partnership was a great step for both institutions and that it will create an impact to both of their customers.

He said the partnership was integration of the bank to satisfy their customers, noting that his bank started partnering with Orange since 2010 with another system called Airtel zap.

He said he believes the partnership would be appreciated by the customers of both institutions because it will definitely help make banking transactions easy for their customers.

Also speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of Orange Money, David Mansaray, said the partnership was a key milestone to both institutions and to the people of Sierra Leone as a whole.

He said the system was designed to promote financial inclusion in the country, noting that they are the first company to introduce bank to wallet system in the country.

Zenith Bank MD/CEO and Orange Money CEO officially launching the partnership

He disclosed that Orange money has over six thousand agents across the country that can easily help any Zenith Bank account holder to access and use their money at any time and at everywhere.

He said the partnership was so unique that it enables customers of Zenith Bank to do all banking transactions at any time and at everywhere, even during weekends and holidays when banks are not operating.

He said the Orange Money platform has partners with many other institutions across the country with the aim of promoting financial inclusion and make the country a cashless society.