

PRESS RELEASE

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CIVIL AFFAIRS OPENS ART AND CRAFT MARKET AT LUMLEY

Freetown, Sierra Leone – An Art and Craft market built at a cost of \$13,000, has been officially opened by Civil Affairs Section of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) which facilitated its completion. The market, constructed by Mission's Engineering Section, caters for souvenir marketers who specialize in handicraft.

Chief of Civil Affairs, Mr. Ismael Diallo, said the opening of the market was significant, as it would contribute to tourism activity in Freetown. "What we have done for the souvenir sellers is just a demonstration of UNAMSIL's assistance, but other agencies may have to help as well," he noted.

The representative of the National Tourism Board, Abu Bakarr Barrie, said "the Board has plans to provide electricity, water and other facilities". He appealed to vendors to utilize the structure properly.

In his vote of thanks, chairman of the souvenir marketers, Unisa Kamara, commended UNAMSIL and the Tourism Board for what he described as "assisting young artists to be self-sustainable and contribute to nation building".

The ceremony, which took place over the weekend at Lumley west of the capital Freetown, attracted representatives from the National Tourism Board, the Trade and Industry, and Youth and Sports ministries, UNAMSIL Engineering and Civil Affairs Sections, the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce and the Councillor of Aberdeen.
