

**Freetown Pitch Night- August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017.**

The theme for the August month Freetown Pitch Night was “The Circular Economy: Waste to Wealth”.

A circular economy addresses mounting resource-related challenges for business and economies, and could generate growth, create jobs, and reduce environmental impacts, including carbon emissions.

The circular economy’s potential for innovation, job creation and economic development is huge: estimates indicate a trillion-dollar opportunity.

In Sierra Leone, we have an opportunity to create new businesses and jobs through recycling, waste management and collaborative consumption.

At the Freetown Pitch Night, we met three pioneers that are leading the creation of exciting and innovative businesses within converting waste to household products and building material and converting waste to energy.

**Briquette Making Enterprise** was represented its founder and CEO, Sheku Kamara. Sheku collects wastes of various types, not including plastic, which is converted into briquettes.

Sheku is concerned with the use of coal as energy for cooking. Coal is a major contribution to deforestation in Sierra Leone. Equally important is that the burning of coal for cooking is a major contributor to respiratory illness, especially among women and children. Briquette Making Enterprise vision is realising clean cooking fuel for all Sierra Leoneans.

**Blessings Recycling Enterprise** was represented by Joseph A Kamara. Blessings have identified the problem Recycling Management, and Health and safety issues.

To solve this problem, Blessings Recycling Enterprise collects and create household item. For example, the company has a toothpaste holder made of our plastic waste.

The company has a range of products such as tooth brush holders (Pencil case, broom, wall frames, ropes and cups).

**Envirotech General Services Ltd** was presented by its founder and CEO, Abdul Karim Kamara.

Envirotech produce quality, durable and affordable outdoor pavement tiles made with plastic waste and sand that helps to protect the environment from erosion, mud, beautifying the environment and enhance easy movement within the environment and also by collecting plastic waste from the environment makes the environment clean and healthy.

According to Abdul Karim Kamara, plastic waste has been a complete environmental and health hazard in the world today and Sierra Leone is not exempted. In Sierra Leone today plastic waste is all over the place and there has not been any effective and efficient sustainable strategy by both the private and public sector to mitigate this problem completely.

### **About the Freetown Pitch Night**

Freetown Pitch Night is a night which provides budding entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone the opportunity to pitch their post revenue business. At pitch night entrepreneurs provide a holistic view of their business to a vibrant Sierra Leonean entrepreneur community allowing them to market their business, solicit feedback, advice and potential partnerships.

Francis Stevens George

MD, Global Entrepreneurship Network Sierra Leone (GEN Sierra Leone)

GEN SL is a SOBA Freetown Pitch Night Partner.

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