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- Thomas Sankara

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Mobile Clinic for sickle cell sufferers in Kono

Sickle Cell Carers Awareness Network (SCCAN) led by Sia Nyandemo and her team will be leaving UK to bring a Mobile Clinic to the Kono District from the 16th to 31st July 2011.

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) of Switzerland are facilitating the trip.

AEMRN members strive to contribute to the physical, mental, social, educational and sound well-being of people irrespective of race, creed, beliefs and social affiliation.

In an exclusive interview the Chief Executive Officer of SCCAN said the Mobile Clinic will provide free diagnosis and treatment for Sickle Cell Sufferers in Kono from Kangama Ngorama, Jaiama Nimikoro through Sandor. The CEO said the medical service is bound to have positive effects on targeted communities.

SCCAN was founded in 2008 by Sia and her family in remembrance of her two beautiful daughters who died after sickle cell attacks in the 70s. It is to seek after the well being of sickle cell patients in Sierra Leone as lack of knowledge of how to care for such patients led to the loss of those children. Awareness gained in the UK gave her the inspiration to establish SCCAN to offer a variety of services to meet carers, individuals, families and the community needs and to empower them to effectively manage the disease.

The CEO of SCCAN said taking a Mobile Clinic to Kono is also answering the call of President Koroma to promote free health Care services for infants, the old and vulnerable in the country.

SCCAN henceforth invites the Ministry of Health and other organisations to assist in making the trip a success.

She further disclosed to Awoko that the biggest challenge they are faced with at present is the purchase of an Electrophoresis machine to facilitate screening of people with the Sickle Cell disease. "Once diagnosed, with proper education and management, sufferers can go on to lead active lives. Infant and child mortality can be significantly reduced and maternal survival increased" she said.

By William Freeman

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