



THE SIDI OSHO FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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SOF ENTERPRISE, SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP PROJECT HELD AT THE NOUN MCCARTHY CENTRE, OBALENDE, LAGOS STATE 19TH SEPTEMBER 2015

The **Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)** organized an Enterprise, skills and Leadership Project on Thursday 17th September 2015 at The NOUN McCarthy Centre Obalende, Lagos.

The **SOF Enterprise, Skills and Leadership Project** was created to promote capacity building, employment opportunities and job creation for Nigerian youths and the National Open University students.

The principal objective of this Project is to promote **Entrepreneurship, Employability, Leadership, Job creation and Skills Development** in accordance with both parties collaboration principles, with due regard to the continued pursuit of SOF's mission and strategic goals.

The criteria to be eligible for this loan is firstly, becoming a **member of an SOF club** and secondly **opening an account with the NOUN Micro-finance bank.**

This project has as its defining ambition:

1. Employability and Job Creation;
2. Entrepreneurship training and entrepreneurial skills development;
3. Skills acquisition and Knowledge transfer;

4. Quality Assurance Unit periodic evaluation through research;
5. Research collaboration and publication and
6. Generation of IGR through the NOUN Micro-finance

These free, optional and certified training will avail participants opportunity to apply for a credit facility from the NOUN Micro-Finance bank limited.

17th & 19th September 2015-SOF Enterprise, Skills and Leadership Workshop held at the NOUN Macarthy Centre Obalende.

Prof. Sidi Osho **the first speaker** after her brief introduction stated areas, which the project will focus on:

In the course of her presentation she stated that this initiative was as a result of two (2) major factors.

- (i) A research study on education program was carried out across the nation and the result of the research revealed that Nigeria

has over six hundred and ninety-nine higher institutions including: Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics, Colleges of education and many others

- (ii) All these listed higher institutions release

about 7.5 million students into labor market but the available jobs for all these graduates is merely 4 million. This tells us that over 3.5 million graduates will not be employed every year. Furthermore, with the economic status in Nigeria presently, it is clear and certain that there will be huge unemployment levels ahead.

Prof. Sidi Osho in her presentation also opened the mind of the students to qualities that one needs to possess in order to be a successful entrepreneur, which include:

Now that we have this special project, SOF, NOUN and the NOUN microfinance has come together to form an alliance, the NOUN students will not face unemployment. Surveys have revealed that many people have undergone different types of skills acquisition training but the challenge they always have is finance.

Subsequently, SOF and NOUN came up with the initiatives of training students and helping them finance their businesses through the NOUN Micro-Finance bank.

Finally, Prof. Sidi Osho gave several analyses to making money without looking or waiting for a white-collar job

and concluded by advising the participants to key in to these initiatives and to take their future into their own hands.

Mr. **Sheu Abba** the **second speaker** was represented by Miss. Agwatulu Theodora a NOUN Microfinance officer in her presentation appreciated Prof. Sidi Osho for a good job well done. NOUN microfinance bank was established by NOUN for NOUN staff and NOUN students. The main objective for establishing this firm was to give comfort to NOUN staff and students by giving financial support to eligible applicants. She affirmed the partnership between NOUN MFB and Sidi Osho Foundation, which was to actualize the entrepreneurial objectives of the foundation. The idea behind this program is to get the NOUN MFB to assist students and participants of this project financially.

NOUN MFB have understanding with other banks all over the country especially Zenith Bank to guarantee any interested person that, once an account is been open with MFB, they will get all the necessary support they desires. She further explains that the starting stage is to collaborate with SOF by becoming a member of SOF Club after which an account will be opened with NOUN MFB.

The operational strategy of NOUN MFB is to set students up financially after they have undergone trainings with Sidi Osho foundation for twelve weeks. The bank will then set up a team that will investigate the business ideas of any

student, to ensure that they're eligible to receive a NOUN MFB loan.

She then concluded by appreciating everyone present and the organizers of the program, and encouraged the students to start thinking of our how they will become entrepreneurs.

The third speaker Mr. Tunde Animashaun is a physiotherapist. He started by explaining what a physiotherapist do. He said a physiotherapist is a person that deals with muscular issues, bones, and pains in the body. He introduced his business where he attends to people along with a team of other qualified physiotherapists. He explained that he had some challenges while starting up this business but with personal savings and loans he got from different people he was able to provide for himself.

Mr. Robert Ekat **the Fifth speaker** who is a NOUN alumnus, a writer and a business man, started his presentation with a poem titled **'tears from a lay man eyes'**. Explained how he started earning money from 200L because of his writing skills. He explains that he became successful in his business because he was able to identify the kind of business that would work for him.

He further encouraged the participants to chase after their dreams. He then told the participants that in order for them to be successful in any line of business they needed to

find the right people to work with. He then concluded by advising everyone present to key into the SOF entrepreneurial initiatives.

C. Conclusion / Question and Answer

The summit concluded with an interactive session. Participants asked questions and answers were provided accordingly.





QUOTES

Tunde Animashaun *"I didn't have anything to start up but when I had an idea, I wrote it down and made it my goal"*

"Rice takes a process before you can eat it but no matter how hungry you are, you need to cook before you can eat it"