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PRESS RELEASE

**UNAMSIL TRANSPORTS GINGER SEEDS TO FARMERS IN
KAMBIA AND MOYAMBA DISTRICTS**



Freetown – Twenty trucks provided by the Ukrainian contingent of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) today transported 53 tons of ginger seeds to some farmers' associations in Kambia and Moyamba districts in the northern and southern provinces of Sierra Leone. The People's Republic of China donated the seeds to Sierra Leone under a trade protocol recently signed between the two countries following a visit to Beijing by Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Kadi Sesay.

The ginger seeds will be planted by the farmers under an experimental programme being implemented jointly by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Institute of Agricultural Research and the Sierra Leone Export Development and Investment Corporation (SLEDIC), a department in the trade ministry. The participating farmers have already been sensitized and land preparation for cultivation completed. After its harvest at the end of December or early January next year, value would be added to the high quality ginger crop and subsequently exported under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), an American law that aims to promote trade between the United States and African countries.

Speaking to journalists at the Freetown Port where the seeds were off-loaded from ship containers onto UNAMSIL trucks, the Director of SLEDIC, Abu Bakarr Kebbay, said the seeds would be given as loan to more than 1,000 farmers who would repay it after harvest in six months' time. He said the proceeds would be ploughed back to farmers in other areas.

UNAMSIL and Government officials witnessed the take-off of the convoy of UN trucks which were provided upon request from the Government of Sierra Leone.

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