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NCD Governor's initiative to support and empower SMEs in the city through the NCD SME Service Centre, with Women's Micro Bank and Digicel Cell Moni.



Over 40 market vendors from Waigani Market have been up-skilled through a two-day financial literacy training by qualified professionals from the Women's Micro Bank and Digicel Cell Moni.

The training is a crucial part of NCD Governor's initiative to support and empower SMEs in the city through the NCD SME Service Centre. The vendors, who received their certificates, were the first beneficiaries of the programme and operate in the informal sector.

NCD Governor Powes Parkop congratulated the vendors for taking the first step towards becoming entrepreneurs in the city.

"You are doing business and have been making money every day. We are here to support you and teach you about budgeting and saving. It will only get bigger and better from here."

Governor Parkop encouraged the vendors to dream big in becoming successful businessmen and women and not just being content as market vendors at Waigani Market.

The new initiative is in partnership with corporates like Women's Micro Bank and Digicel Cell Moni. 40 savings boxes were donated to the proud participants as part of their training session, complemented by a demonstration of mobile banking and free sim card distribution.

The CEO of Women's Micro Bank, Mr. Gunanidhi Das, said, "Through this training, the vendors have learnt to save and use their income wisely. We want to provide the necessary support for them to progress in their business."

Governor Parkop made a pledge of K20,000 to the Waigani Vendors Association, stating that he is confident that they have the potential to become PMV owners, shop owners and running SME businesses in Port Moresby.

Vendors expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the first-of-its-kind training in the market. Grace Kubuni said, "Most of us are semi-literate and are unemployed but yes we do make money every day at the market. This training has made us realized how important it is to save money and also directed us to who we can go to seek help."

In the next few months, the Governor and the National Capital District Commission will further drive the SME programme in other parts of the city.