



## **'Expose youths to entrepreneurship training'**

By Success Nwogu

Friday, 20 October 2006

The Founder and Chief Executive Officer, House of Mercy Children's Home, Bunmi Awoyinfa, has stressed the need for young people to be exposed to entrepreneurship training to enable them tap their potential for business development. She said this would aid national economic growth and empower the youths for productive life.

She said this in an interview with The PUNCH on the sidelines of an outreach programme by HOM for homeless young people, in Lagos on Thursday.

She that early business and vocational training in the youths would focus their intellect and talents to productive and useful activities and reduce juvenile delinquency and other anti-social indulges.

She said this would increase national productivity, enhance developmental efforts, create employment and accelerate economic growth.

Awoyinfa said her non-governmental organisation would continue to reach out in this direction to harness the great and abundant human potential in the nation for economic acceleration, social security and society's well being.

She said, "Some of the young ones will be encouraged to work in small businesses to learn business skills. Internship in businesses will teach them how to run their own businesses. Also, a broad range of vocational training will also be provided and they will be apprenticed to a micro-business of their choice.

"They could be exposed to such trades as furniture making, rewiring, mechanical and electrical works, show manufacturing, dressmaking, barbing or hairdressing and exterior and interior decoration."

She said many developed economies invested much in the development of the business skills and vocational potential of their young ones.

She called on the federal and state governments to focus more on the implementation of programmes and policies that would encourage vocational skills acquisition and micro business development in the young ones.

She also called on corporate organisations, privileged individuals and philanthropists to aid the development of these budding talents.

She added, "My experience is that most of these young ones are really gifted. They want to acquire education, develop the vocational skills and business talents and contribute meaningfully to economic, commercial acceleration and industrialisation of this nation.

Both the government at all levels, corporate organisations, and philanthropists should assist these young ones develop their business and vocations talents."