

# THE DEMOCRAT

TRUTH SETS US FREE

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## US rappers to tell diamond story

*Paw wall, Tego Calderon, and Raekwon are three rap celebrities, from the United States visiting Sierra Leone to produce a film on hip-hop and diamond. The three arrived in Freetown on Monday July 10.*

The movie which is titled 'Bling: A Planet Rock' will show Sierra Leone the country of diamonds,

her recovery after war, and the local hip-hop environment. Display of diamond jewelry is a huge identity stamp in hip-hop culture in the United States. Americans and hip-hop celebrities in particular however have no clue about the places, countries like Sierra Leone hold in diamond production or trade, says Raekwon at a reception hosted in honour of the visiting team or the Bintumani hotel. "Bling: A planet Rock" wants to tell the Sierra Leone

side of the "shine on the hip-hop artists neck, adds Gavin Simpson of Article 19 Films also a member of the visiting team.

There is great local involvement in the film production. Already, hip-hop movers Jimmy B and Kalleone Entertainment are involved in preparatory activities. The Americans left on Tuesday for Kono to shoot diamond-mining scenes on site.

While in Sierra Leone however, it won't be all work and no play for the rappers. On Wednesday July 12, the crew will be at the Old School to get a feel of US nightclub environment in Sierra Leone.

They will also be visiting Bunce Island, the beaches and other tourist attractions.

Paul Wall, Raekwon and Tego Calderon are all chart-bursting artists with number one songs - Raekwon is a member of the acclaimed Wu-Tang Clan. Tego Calderon is the king of the new music genre reggaeton. Paul Wall is famous for his both music and trade in hip-hop diamond.