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PRESS RELEASE

SRSG DECORATES ZAMBIAN PEACE KEEPERS WITH UN PEACE MEDAL

The Special Representative of the Secretary General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago today decorated 821 officers and soldiers of the seventh Zambian battalion (ZAMBATT 7) with United Nations peace medal of the United Nations at a brief but colorful regimental ceremony at Tongo Fields in the eastern district of Kenema.

Speaking at the ceremony which is held for peacekeepers who complete 90 days unblemished, Ambassador Mwakawago expressed delight for being a part of the medal ceremony and reminded the peace keepers that "the UN medal award is in recognition of the excellent performance of Zambian troops in peace keeping operation in Sierra Leone". Commending the efforts of the peacekeepers, Ambassador Mwakawago noted that their "meritorious medal is another milestone towards achieving peace in Sierra Leone". He paid glowing tribute to the peacekeepers, urging them



not to relent in their efforts and good work. He called "all **UNAMSIL** personnel to redouble their toward efforts peace achieving Sierra in Leone". The SRSG expressed satisfaction at humanitarian the assistance rendered by the Zambian contingent to the people of Tongo and its environs. which he enumerated as reconstruction the of Roman Catholic Church Primary School, Sierra Leone Police quarters at

Tongo and the provision of medical facility to the people and urged them to embark on more humanitarian services to win the hearts and minds of the people.

The SRSG later expressed his condolence to the entire Zambian contingent on the recent passing away of one of their female soldiers, Sergeant Megani Forry who died of natural causes.

The Zambian contingent Commander, Col John Siame expressed appreciation to the SRSG and the entire UNAMSIL staff when he noted since their arrival in the mission in February they had enjoyed the "unflinching support of the SRSG, the Force Commander and the entire staff of

UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone Tel: 232-22-295-000 Fax: 232-22-295-189 MEDIA CONTACTS: UNAMSIL Headquarters". He said they had, since then, "contributed in their own small way to the total UN effort in Sierra Leone", adding he was "pleased to report that their discipline has been good and have also cooperated very well with the civil and traditional leadership in Tongo".

The Force Commander, Maj. Gen Sajjad Akram assisted the SRSG in decorating the peacekeepers. Also present at the ceremony were the Commander Sector West, Brig Gen Nuhu Bamalli, Commander Sector East, Brig Gen Sajjad Ahmed Bakshi, UNAMSIL Chief of Civil Affairs, Mr. I.A. Diallo, Chief of DDR, Mr. Desmond Molloy and UNAMSIL Civil Police Commissioner Bensu.