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PRESS RELEASE

NEPALESE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE VISITS UNAMSIL, UNMIL

Freetown – The Inspector General of the Support Division of the Nepalese Police, Rohit Thapa, ending a three-day visit of the United Nations Missions in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), yesterday called on the Mission’s Civilian Police (CIVPOL) Commissioner, Hudson Benu. Inspector General Thapa also paid a three-day visit to neighbouring UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Commissioner Benu praised the Nepalese officers, saying they had been “resourceful and hardworking” and had adapted well to their assignment in Sierra Leone. While commending the Nepalese Government and its Police Force for its contribution to UNAMSIL CIVPOL, Commissioner Benu called for an extension of the tour of duty of the 12 Nepalese officers currently serving in UNAMSIL, saying their “training and mentoring of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) must continue uninterrupted”. Moreover, Commissioner Benu noted that the frequent rotation of the 129 CIVPOL officers negatively impacted on the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) officers, as the latter needed time “to familiarize themselves with their new mentors”

Inspector General Thapa disclosed that the Nepalese Police had completed an assignment mission in neighbouring Liberia and that his Government intended to deploy, by mid-December, 120 civilian police officers for UNMIL. These Nepalese policemen would be armed with weapons and anti-riot gears, and would provide escort to other CIVPOL personnel in UNMIL. He said his country was also considering sending unarmed civilian police personnel to Liberia.

In Sierra Leone, Mr. Thapa and his delegation also visited the southern provincial district of Moyamba where Nepalese peacekeepers are based, and expressed satisfaction at the conduct of his men there.

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