



PRESS RELEASE

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UNAMSIL Force Commander Visits Kenema

Kenema Sierra Leone - UNAMSIL's Force Commander, Major General Sajjad Akram, yesterday paid a one-day visit to Pakistani military units in Kenema, Southern Sierra Leone.

The FC was at the UN Military Observers Team 6 site where he was briefed on the security situation in the area by the team leader, Lt Col Abdul Malik

Responding, the FC, Major General Sajjad Akram applauded the teams' performance and encouraged them to maintain blue vigilance so that law and order are maintained in the area.

At Pakistani Battalion X (PAK-BATT X), the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tahir Mohamed briefed the Force Commander on training programs organized for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP). He was also informed that a school constructed in Kailahun by PAK-BATT X was ready for commissioning.

In his response, the Force Commander commended the battalion for playing a significant role in the peace process in the country and for setting lofty standards. He said Pakistani peacekeepers are highly rated by UN officials for their humanitarian assistance and development projects. He lauded Pak Batt-X contingents for their generous contribution for the repairs and construction of mosques, churches, roads, schools, skill centers, and bridges. He stressed that those Quick Impact Projects would give the people of Sierra Leone fond memories of Pakistan Contingents for many years.

Major Akram also visited the Free Medical Camp established by Pak Field Hospital and where Pakistani Specialist Doctors attend to patients from Kenema town and its environs. He commended them for its services to humanity.

Earlier, the Commanding Officer Pak Field Hospital Lt Col Asif Mumtaz told the FC that free medical camps are regular feature of Pak Field Hospital which was established for the welfare of civil population of the area. He also informed Major Akram that Pak Field Hospital regularly attends to civil outdoor patients including members of various NGOs operating in the area.

Speaking at the occasion, the Resident Minister South, Mr. Randolph Fillie Faboe, paid glowing tributes to Pakistani peacekeepers in Sierra Leone. He noted that such projects would produce healthy trends and play a vital role in the promotion of peace and stability in the country.

High points of the visit were the inauguration of a US \$ 1700 Skill Training Center constructed by Pak Batt-X, and the distribution of sports gears, sewing machines, medicines, and wheel chairs, as well as school uniforms, books, food items and clothes by the Force Commander.