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PRESS RELEASE

UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER COMMISSIONS CLASSROOM BLOCKS FOR TOKEH VILLAGE SCHOOL

Freetown - The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, Major General Sajjad Akram Monday 23 February 2004 commissioned two eight-classroom blocks at the Bangla-Sierra Khulafai Rashideen Islamic Primary School, at Tokeh village outside Freetown. The blocks were built by the third Bangladesh Signals battalion 3 (BANSIG 3).

General Sajjad Akram told the community people that as part of their service to the communities in their areas of deployment, UNAMSIL peacekeepers had been providing basic amenities such as building schools, vocational institutes, churches, mosques as well as food, clothing and free medical treatment to Sierra Leone's needy populace. The Force Commander said UNAMSIL military units have so far implemented eighteen quick impact projects throughout the country. He described the pupils of the school as "the life, hope and future of Sierra Leone and the world in general", urging all parents and guardians to invest in them. He further emphasized that sound educational and moral training for Sierra Leone's children would bring about a more stable, prosperous and peaceful country in the days ahead.

Responding, the Head teacher of the school, Mrs. J Coker said the school, which was founded on April 13 1983 had a pupil capacity of just twenty, but that with the latest development it can now accommodate up to four hundred pupils. She expressed gratitude to officers and soldiers of BANSIG 3 and UNAMSIL in general.

Other dignitaries who graced the occasion included the Sector West Commander, Brigadier General Nuhu Bamali, the Ghanaian Contingent Commander Colonel Michael Amuzu and the chiefs and opinion leaders in the Tokeh community.