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PRESS RELEASE

UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL TO KENBATT 10

Freetown – The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Major General Sajjad Akram, on 29 November bade farewell to officers and other ranks of Kenyan battalion (KENBATT) 10 stationed in Masiaka, in the Port Loko district, northern Sierra Leone.

Addressing the departing peacekeepers, Maj. Gen. Akram said the battalion had “successfully and professionally accomplished” its tour of duty with UNAMSIL. “Your contributions towards the peace process in Sierra Leone are noteworthy especially the Force Reserve roles, which is not an easy task”.

Referring to the humanitarian assistance the peacekeepers extended in their areas of deployment, the Force Commander said, “The people of Sierra Leone especially the Masiaka community would live to remember you always.” In Masiaka, KENBATT 10 rehabilitated and constructed several churches, mosques and schools. They also provided HIV testing kits and expertise to the local health centre, organised HIV/AIDS awareness groups and helped renovating the Masiaka Health Centre.

KENBATT 10 joined UNAMSIL in December 2002 and conducted airmobile operational tasks and patrol duties in various districts in northern Sierra Leone, including Kambia, Bombali and Koinadugu. They were also involved in conducting robust security patrols of supply routes, and providing escort for UN re-supply. Their joint patrols with the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) enabled all three institutions to better coordinate their operations.

***UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-295-000 Fax: 232-22-295-189***

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chief PIS, Kemal Saiki, Tel. 232-22-295-583 mobile 076-692801 email: saiki@un.org

Editor: Rachel Eklou-Assogbavi, Tel. 232-22-295-814, mobile 076-627774 email: eklou-assogbavi@un.org

While KENBATT 10 start their 2-week-long withdrawal on 1 December, a new battalion, KENBATT, 12 will replace them.

The Force Commander was accompanied by the Kenyan contingent commander in UNAMSIL, Colonel Raymond Cheruiyot.

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