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SRSR INSPECTS CONGO BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION SITE

Freetown - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, accompanied by the Commander of UNAMSIL Sector West, Brigadier General Nuhu Bamali Wednesday inspected the Congo Bridge at Congo Town in the west end of Freetown, under reconstruction by the fourth Bangladeshi Engineering Battalion (BANENGR 4).



Ambassador Mwakawago said he had long wanted to visit the reconstruction site “to boost the morale of my troops who are doing a very good job”. He said the bridge, once completed would reunite the two areas of the community both literally and figuratively, something he said that was good for the consolidation of the peace in the country. He urged that the new bridge should be followed by other development programmes for the community, and entreated the SLRA and the Sierra Leone Police to discourage

over-speeding on it.

Briefing the SRSR earlier, the Commanding Officer of BANENGR 4, Lt. Col. Islam Monwar said his predecessor battalion and the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) had conceived the idea to reconstruct the bridge, with the SLRA doing preparatory work and the Bangladeshi peacekeepers doing the main reconstruction. He said some difficulty had delayed the completion of the bridge, but assured it would now be inaugurated next month.

Lt. Col. Monwar said the prefabricated 110-ft long and 13.7-ft wide bridge with the load-carrying capacity of 32.4 tons would considerably ease the traffic congestion on the main PZ-Congo Cross highway. He suggested that the bridge should be made a one-way traffic so as not to create the same traffic congestion it was seeking to ease.

The SLRA Coordinator, Munda Rogers said his corporation was “happy that UNAMSIL is here”. He said the “versatility” of the Bangladeshi engineers had been of tremendous help to them and that

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they had had a good working relationship regardless of the military background of the peacekeepers.

In apparent appreciation of the reconstruction work, some community people chanted “God bless UNAMSIL” as the SRSG’s motorcade drove off.

Congo Town is so called because it used to be inhabited by Congolese fishermen who settled in the mainly slum-looking part of town during British colonial rule.

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