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PRESS RELEASE

CIVPOL BEGINS THREE-DAY INDUCTION COURSE

Freetown – The Civilian Police (CIVPOL) of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) today began a three-day induction course for 31 police officers from 14 Commonwealth countries.



Steinar B. Bjornsson and Hudson Benzu at opening ceremony

Speaking at the opening ceremony which took place at the UNAMIL press briefing room, the Director Of Administration (DOA), Steinar Bjornsson said he was privileged to open the first induction course for this year and urged the officers to keep in mind that the military came in to bring peace while the police was expected to maintain that peace.

The DOA hoped the officers realized how important their role was in

in keeping the peace. “You should always try to be heard so that you will get the support needed. Help us to help you,” he noted. “The purpose of this course is to brief you on the operations of UNAMSIL,” adding that as this was the final year of the Mission, “this means you should be able to double the efforts of the Sierra Leone Police so that they will be able to maintain peace when UNAMSIL leaves.”

Earlier CIVPOL’s Commissioner Hudson Benzu, in his address, said he was glad the DOA accepted to open the course for officers from Commonwealth countries of which Sierra Leone was a member. “When you receive conflicting reports, you are to cross check with headquarters,” he told them. “Your coming is very critical as you are expected to improve on what your predecessors have done,” he said and stressed that they were expected to show professionalism in training personnel from the Sierra Leone Police.

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Induction courses are organized by the CIVPOL section for newly arrived police officers to enable them to settle down quickly, to give them the tools for the job and to make them understand the structures of UNAMSIL. The courses also offer them the opportunity to clear any misconceptions they may have about Sierra Leone.

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