



PRESS RELEASE

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**UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER WELCOMES NEW NIGERIAN AND PAKISTANI PEACE
KEEPERS TO THE MISSION , ALSO BIDS FAREWELL TO REPATRIATING
BANGLADESHI PEACEKEEPERS.**

Freetown, Sierra Leone - UNAMSIL Force Commander, Major General Sajjad Akram, on Thursday 23 Dec2004 officially welcomed new Peacekeepers of Nigerian Battalion 19 to the mission.

Briefing the Peacekeepers, the Force Commander noted that everyone in Sierra Leone values the professionalism, dedication and the contribution of the Nigerian soldiers towards achieving lasting peace and stability in the country.

General Akram who was earlier briefed on the security readiness of the Unit by the Commanding Officer Lt. Col Jibril Ismail, expressed optimism that the newly arrived Peacekeepers will set even higher standards of professionalism and contribution towards sustainable peace in Sierra Leone. He urged the Peacekeepers to demonstrate highest standards of discipline, personal conduct, and rich traditions of the Nigerian Army, adding, that “the UN has zero tolerance for indiscipline”. He charged them to seize the opportunity to “fulfill their personal qualities”.

General Akram eulogized the outgoing Commander of the defunct UNAMSIL Northern Command Brig. Gen. Nuhu Bamalli whose outstanding contributions towards UNAMSIL’s success story has paid off with his recent elevation to the rank of Major General.

The Force Commander also paid a similar visit to the newly arrived Peacekeepers of the Pakistani Provost Platoon at Goderich where he commended their efforts and urged them to be more alert to their duties.

In another development, the Force Commander recently bade farewell to Bangladeshi Peacekeepers of BANSIG 4 who have repatriated having completed their tour of duty with UNAMSIL.

Addressing the outgoing Peacekeepers, the Force Commander stated that the Bangladeshi peacekeepers have done exceedingly good job and have been a source of inspiration and encouragement for other Units and Contingents in the mission area. He added that “their contribution towards peace building in Sierra Leone will never be forgotten by the International community and Sierra Leoneans”.

General Akram further pointed out that one of the outstanding contributions of the Bangladeshi contingents of UNAMSIL has been the provision of Signals operators, and drivers all over Sierra Leone during the Country’s local government elections. He extolled the professionalism and hospitality of the leadership of the Bangladeshi Peacekeepers in building the peace in Sierra Leone and wished them journey mercies as they repatriate.

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