



PRESS RELEASE

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UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL TO NIBATT 17, PAKISTAN PROVOST COMPANY

Freetown, Sierra Leone - Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Maj Gen Sajjad Akram on Monday 11th October bade farewell to the seventeenth Nigerian battalion (NIBATT 17) serving with UNAMSIL ahead of their routine departure in November when they will be replaced by NIBATT 19.

Addressing the officers and men at their Spur Road Headquarters in Freetown, Major General Akram expressed delight and happiness to the peacekeepers for completing a “successful tour of duty in Sierra Leone .» He praised NIBATT 17 for their “exemplary, professional and dignified conduct” while in the mission area, noting that he felt “privileged and honoured to have commanded such a highly disciplined and professional battalion”.

The Force Commander praised the peacekeepers, noting that besides being involved in the peacemaking process in Sierra Leone, the battalion had also provided security to the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL), trained the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and helped with humanitarian activities including implementing various Quick Impact Projects (QIPs).

He offered prayers for their colleagues who lost their lives in « this worthy cause" and wished the troops a safe flight back home.

Earlier, UNAMSIL Northern Commander, Brig Gen Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli and the NIBATT 17 Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel SP Ovadje received the Force Commander.

Meanwhile, the Force Commander also bade farewell on Tuesday 12th October to the Pakistan Provost Company of the Pakistan Army Contingent to UNAMSIL stationed at Goderich in the western outskirts of Freetown.

While congratulating the peacekeepers for “an exemplary performance” in Sierra Leone, he wished them a safe journey back home.

On arrival at Goderich, Major General Akram was met by UNAMSIL Southern Commander, Brig- Gen. Sajjad Ahmed Bakhshi and PAK Provost Company Provost Marshal, Lieutenant Colonel Zahid.

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