



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**UNAMSIL DSRSG AND FORCE COMMANDER TOUR**  
**CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT WILBERFORCE BARRACK**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone* – The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Sierra Leone who also doubles as the Resident UNDP Representative, Victor Angelo, and UNAMSIL’s Force Commander, Maj-Gen Sajjad Akram, accompanied by Sierra Leone’s Deputy Defence Minister, Joe Blell, today toured construction works on water and sanitation facilities at the Wilberforce Barrack, west of the capital Freetown.

Speaking after touring various sites, Mr. Angelo said he was very satisfied at the rate the construction was going and promised that the UNDP would provide an additional \$100, 000 to the RSLAF for further constructions. “And when talking to big donors, please advocate that the construction be done by locals,” he said.

Responding, Deputy Defence Minister Joe Blell expressed how elated he was, and promised on behalf of the military total commitment towards taking over responsibilities for the maintenance of the facilities when they would have been completed. “As we were going around, you could see the enthusiasm of residents towards the construction,” he added.

The Force Commander, Maj. General Sajjad Akram admonished the officers and men of the RSLAF to give priority attention to maintaining the sanitary condition of the barracks in the spirit of ownership of the facilities been provided.

The facilities in these two barracks, like in all others, are either dilapidated or completely non-existent. UNAMSIL and UNDP considered their rehabilitation very critical within the context of strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces which is necessary for sustainable peace and development in Sierra Leone, and an excellent indication of cooperation between UNAMSIL, UNDP and the Government of Sierra Leone.

Apart from the construction of the public taps and latrines, Pakistani Engineers IV of UNAMSIL are also constructing feeder roads within the barrack that is housing over 7,000 residents.

Also present at the briefing and touring were Sierra Leone’s Chief of Defence Staff, Maj-Gen Sam Mboma, and top RSLAF officers.