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PRESS RELEASE

SRSB VISITS SECTOR WEST

Freetown – The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSB) in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago yesterday visited Sector West, Murray Town, Freetown, and told officers and men of the sector that the UN was proud of their achievements.

Ambassador Mwakawago stressed it was necessary to sustain the peace in Sierra Leone. “With peace being sustained, Sierra Leone will be a success story. We have a



Ambassador Mwakawago (middle) being introduced to officers and CIVPOL by Commander, Sector West Brig. Bamalli

lot of work to do. With commitment and determination, we shall succeed,” he said. The SRSB said Sector West was well known for its strategic location and visibility in Freetown, Lungi, Port Loko and Masiaka adding that the Sector oversees the security of the capital Freetown with the sea port, industrial and commercial establishments; and with over half of the country’s population. “It, therefore, confers on you,” he said, “a heavy responsibility, which I am glad to say, you are performing well. UNAMSIL has earned for itself the accolade as one of the most successful peace keeping missions of the United Nations.”

Ambassador Mwakawago admonished the peacekeepers to be aware that the world has become a more dangerous place. “Enemies of peace and perpetrators of terrorism no

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longer spare even the United Nations peacekeepers. You should, therefore, be very vigilant in your daily operations.”

He lauded the relationship between the sector and the Sierra Leone security sectors particularly the Sierra Leone Police and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. “I am glad you are working together well,” he said and informed that UNAMSIL’s withdrawal “will not be precipitous but gradual and well organized in such a way it will interface and dovetail smoothly with the process of assumption of full responsibility by the government of Sierra Leone.”

Ambassador Mwakawago thanked the people of Murray Town for their hospitality and admonished them to take the education of the girl child seriously. “We cannot afford to have a section of our population left behind. We cannot develop in Africa if our women are left behind. That is not an option in the 21st century,” he said.

The Commander, Sector West, Brigadier General Nuhu Bamalli in his address said they were privileged to host the SRSG and disclosed that the Sector has been working harmoniously with the local people, the SLP and the RSLAF.

Gen. Bamalli also gave the SRSG detailed briefing on the security situation within his area of responsibility. He disclosed that the Sector was about completing a youth center at Wilberforce, which is expected to alleviate the plight of youths in the area.

The commander of the RSLAF Freetown Garrison, Col. Thomas Koroma and the Regional Police Commander, S.I.S. Koroma made remarks. Both said they were working closely with UNAMSIL to improve the security situation.

Highlights of the ceremony were traditional dancers from the various contingents that make up the Sector and from the Murray Town local community. Children from Murray Town Nursery and Preparatory School sang and presented a bouquet of flowers to the SRSG.

Senior UNAMSIL civilian and military personnel including Acting Force Commander, Brig. Gen. Adrian Foster and Chiefs of Sections accompanied the SRSG. Acting Chairman Freetown City Council, Fumi Davies and Section Chief of Murray Town, Pa Alimamy Koroma were also present.

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