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**PRESS RELEASE**

**SECTOR WEST COMMANDER HANDS OVER SCHOOL AND CLINIC IN KAMBIA  
DISTRICT**

*Freetown* – The Commander, Sector West, of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Brig-Gen Nuhu Bamalli, today commissioned and handed over a reconstructed seven-classroom building and a clinic to the people of Kambia district, northern Sierra Leone.

In his address after cutting the tape to commission the Magbema Islamic Secondary School at Makatic, Rokupr, Brig-Gen Bamalli said the project, which was executed by NIBATT 16 under the supervision of the Civil Affairs Section, was part of the Quick Impact Projects (QIP) “initiated by UNAMSIL Force Headquarters in order to complement the efforts of contingents in the area of humanitarian assistance to the government of Sierra Leone.”

Brig-Gen Bamalli noted that the reconstruction of the school, “was completed within a record period of two months and there are other similar projects being implemented in various parts of the country under the UNAMSIL Quick Impact Project Fund”. Before he handed over the keys to the building to the school’s principal, Brig-Gen Bamalli personally donated 300,000 Leones as a start-up to buy furniture.

Earlier the Inspector of Schools in that district, Mr. Milton Mansaray Pearce, stated that the day was memorable because UNAMSIL had done something that would never be forgotten by the children who would now have a convenient place to learn. He thanked the UNAMSIL for not only helping to bring peace to the country but in the restoration of government’s authority in the districts.

The Section Chief, Pa Alhaji Alimamy Kafoir, noted that unlike some NGOs, UNAMSIL did not discriminate when it came to reconstructing the school because it was an Islamic one, adding that they were grateful to UNAMSIL for giving their children the opportunity to learn again.

A representative from the Civil Affairs Section, Karl Jorssen, disclosed that the school was one of two projects completed by NIBATT 16 and that members of the community were actively involved in the reconstruction. He stated that it was the first of the QIPs to be handed over and urged the community to maintain the school.

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In a related development, the Sector West Commander, today also commissioned and handed over an Under-Five clinic to the people of Ro-Meni Curve, Kambia district. He urged the “District Medical Officer to take keen interest and provide necessary inputs to make the edifice achieve the purpose for which it is meant.” He acknowledged the locals’ enthusiasm during the construction of the project. He also personally donated 300,000 Leones to buy start-up drugs.

The District Medical Officer, Dr. Santigue Sesay, assured that mothers who had been walking miles to get medical treatment for their kids would make good use of the clinic. He promised that the Ministry of Health would provide the necessary medical equipment, personnel and drugs so that it would start functioning within the next three days.

Mr. Osman Sheriff Fofanah, the District Recovery Committee chairman, noted that the clinic was strategically located because it would serve three chiefdoms, and that it would reduce the caseload on the main Kambia Hospital.

Paramount Chief Bai Shebora Bubu Ngbak advised his people to make good use of the clinic, adding, “UNAMSIL has done so much for us that we are lost for words to say thanks.”

The two occasions were climaxed with traditional dancing. Both projects are said to have cost 57 million Leones.

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