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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NATIONWIDE SENSITIZATION ON UNAMSIL DRAWDOWN KICKS OFF IN PORT LOKO AND MOYAMBA DISTRICTS**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone* - In an orchestrated effort to create confidence in Sierra Leoneans following the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the Public Information Section earlier this week began a nationwide sensitization campaign in Port Loko and Moyamba.

The campaign, comprising a 30-minute performance by the Young Professionals comedian group, has already covered the towns of Songo, Bauya, Rotinfunk, Moyamba Town, and Tiama with hundreds of onlookers, including local authorities, youths, women and children, being entertained and educated.

The key message in each one of the presentations encourages Sierra Leoneans to become the main actors in their own development. Everywhere the Young Professionals go, it is emphasized that UNAMSIL came to the country to restore peace and security. That has been achieved and the mission is now preparing to withdraw.

Now with local councils in place, communities have the tools to start their own development. People can prioritize the most pressing needs and propose solutions to their councillors.

The performance also highlights confidence-building measures such as training provided by the UNAMSIL military force for the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), which should be able to guarantee the security of Sierra Leoneans.

Responding, the local authorities assured that they would help people unite and continue to build the peace that UNAMSIL brought to the country. Each called on their constituencies to be involved in ensuring security of their areas by sharing information that would complement the efforts of the SLP and RSLAF.

Among the local authorities present were Paramount Chief Alfred Saidu Ndomawa Banya II of Kongbora Chiefdom (Moyamba District), Huthman Y.Mansaray, Chief of Songo (Port Loko District), and a number of local Administrative Officers.

The sensitization will continue in other parts of the country during the upcoming weeks.

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