



PRESS RELEASE

Ref No UNAMSIL/PIO/PR/184 /2004

1 October 2004

UNAMSIL's DSRSG OUTLINES HIS MANDATE

Freetown, Sierra Leone – Newly appointed Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sierra Leone (DSRSG), Mr. J. Victor Angelo, has said his mandate is to give special attention to issues from transition to development, as well as the partnership between the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and UN agencies based there.

Before his new appointment, the DSRSG was the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative in Zimbabwe since September 2000 and served with the United Nations for 26 years. Mr. Angelo, whose mandate is also to support the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sierra Leone (SRSG), Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago in assuming his functions, stated that his objective “is to coordinate with the different UN agencies to make sure that they implement joint programmes and agree on key priorities for the work of the UN in Sierra Leone, taking account of resolution 1562 adopted by the Security Council on 17 September”.

The DSRSG said his main areas of interest were governance, Civil Affairs, CIVPOL and the recovery and development aspects of UNAMSIL's work, adding that he would make sure that he would spend time on resource mobilization for national capacity-building.

On what he hopes to achieve, Mr. Angelo noted, “I hope to accomplish the smooth transition from the recovery period to the development phase; a strong partnership between UN development agencies and the international community, on one side, and the Government and citizens of Sierra Leone on the other; and to mobilize a good amount of resources for Sierra Leone to resume the process of sustained development”.

Commenting on the Mission's drawdown process, he said that issue raised the challenges of ensuring that the UN agencies in the country would keep building on the foundations that UNAMSIL had created. “UNAMSIL has done a great job of keeping the peace and in terms of responding to recovery needs. Now the UN agencies have to take the process forward and assist the country to grow and create the institutions of governance that are the pillars of a modern state. So we will spend a lot of time looking at the capacity building of key government institutions,” he emphasized.

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