



PRESS RELEASE

Ref No UNAMSIL/PIO/PR/213/2005

Date: 26 January 2005

**DSRSG, NaCSA HAND OVER POLICE QUARTERS AND PRISON
IN KOINDU AND KAILAHUN**

Freetown, Sierra Leone – Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, Mr. J. Victor Angelo, yesterday with the Deputy Commissioner of the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Justin Bangura, handed over reconstructed police quarters and prison to local authorities in Koindu and Kailahun, eastern Sierra Leone.

The building of the five-block police quarters and the 150-inmate capacity prison were funded by the UNDP with NaCSA as the implementing partner under its Support, Resettlement and Reintegration Programme. The two projects are examples of the collaboration between UNDP and NaCSA aimed at extending Government authority beyond Freetown.

At the handing over ceremony of the police quarters in Koindu, Mr. Victor Angelo, noted that the quarters demonstrated that national security institutions were being strengthened. “If these institutions are stronger, your peace and stability will be stronger,” he stressed, adding that one of the aims of UNDP was to find more funds to help the police and military carry out their traditional functions. He encouraged Government to inform donors that UNDP and NaCSA had the capability to build more institutions aimed at decentralizing State authority.

NaCSA’s Deputy Commissioner, Justin Bangura said the ceremony underpinned the relationship between UNDP and Government in the restoration of local government authority in the provinces. “These buildings are now structurally better than before the war”, he stated.

Assistant Inspector General of Police, Richard Moigbe, emphasized that the quarters would lead to more deployment of personnel as the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) were mindful of UNAMSIL’s drawdown.

During the handing over ceremony of the Kailahun newly constructed prison, Mr. Angelo reiterated that UN agencies work as a team for the development of Sierra Leone and emphasized that the UNDP was very much supportive of Government’s efforts at decentralization.

“My office is currently writing letters to potential donors to obtain funds for the development of the prison service,” he disclosed.

The Director of Prisons, Foday S. Conteh, said the newly built Kailahun prison was the most secure nationwide.

MEDIA CONTACT: Kemal SAIKI, Chief Public Information, Spokesman

☎ +232-22-295-583 ☎ Mobile +232-076-692-801 Email: saiki@un.org

MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon McPHERSON, Head Media Relations Unit

☎ +232-22-295-136 ☎ Mobile +232-076-757-802 Email: mcpherson1@un.org