



UNMIL-UNDP Press Release

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The United Nations in Liberia hands over fifteen vehicles to County Superintendents in first phase of nation-wide capacity building project

Monrovia, Liberia – The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have handed over 15 vehicles to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for use by the County Superintendents. One of the vehicles was symbolically presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ambulai B. Johnson, during a ceremony yesterday in the presence of the 15 County Superintendents, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator, Jordan Ryan, and the UNDP Country Director, Steven Ursino.



DSRSG Ryan handing over the keys to Minister Johnson

The local government officials had gathered in Monrovia for a one-day orientation workshop on the recently launched UN County Support Teams (CST), coordination and capacity building mechanisms aimed at facilitating the restoration of state authority and recovery in the counties. Also in attendance were the UN's CST Facilitators from the 15 counties.

DSRSG Jordan Ryan introduced the CST concept as an innovative way in which the UN plans to support the work of the local authorities. By bringing together the activities of the various UN actors in each county under one umbrella, the CSTs will ensure that the knowledge, tools and resources of the UN can best contribute to the restoration of state authority and realization of the national development vision.

Delivering the opening remarks at the workshop, Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs Toga McIntosh challenged the Superintends to contextualize each of their projects and programmes within the overall development process and to ensure adherence to national development priorities.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Ambulai B. Johnson, outlined the Government's vision for local development as "ensuring that services are delivered to the rural communities in a coordinated, integrated fashion, with the full participation of the people." The County Superintendent's responsibility is to ensure that this vision becomes a reality, the Minister said.

The UN in Liberia will continue to work closely with the Government to support the achievement of this vision. The CSTs mechanism is part of ongoing efforts to build the capacity of local authorities to increasingly assume responsibility for the management of development processes at the county and district levels.
