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**UN Envoy declares open renovated market buildings and
a newly-constructed bridge in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County**

Buchanan, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, on Thursday declared open the newly-renovated Central Market in the coastal city of Buchanan, in eastern Grand Bassa County. The construction was financed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), through its Quick Impact Projects.



Market women attending the official opening of the renovated Buchanan Central Market

During a lively ceremony attended by large numbers of Buchanan city residents, marketers, local authorities, senators and members of the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus, Special Representative Doss said that markets help create a strong and prosperous country. “I hope this market will be one of the many important initiatives that will bring prosperity to Buchanan and Grand Bassa County,” he said, adding that the rehabilitation of the Buchanan Central Market is one of the many developments that marks the return of Liberia from the wilderness of conflict and violence. “Liberia is back and we must all work together to build a strong and prosperous country” the SRSR added.

Representing President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the occasion, the Acting Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Estella Liberty extended her appreciation to the international community and the United Nations family, for implementing infrastructure development programmes in Liberia. She urged the marketers and other residents to work together to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives. Representatives of the Buchanan Marketers Association and the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus also expressed their appreciation to UNMIL’s Civil Affairs Section for spearheading and coordinating the renovation.



The Kofi Annan Bridge constructed by UNMIL’s Pakistani Engineers

While in Buchanan, Mr. Doss also officially opened a critical bridge connecting Grand Bassa and River Cess Counties that was reconstructed by UNMIL Pakistani Engineers after it was washed away by heavy rains earlier this month. “This bridge will restore road links between Grand Bassa, River Cess, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe Counties which are vital for security and commerce,” he said.

The Grand Bassa County Superintendent Julia Duncan Cassell unveiled and named the new bridge as the Kofi Annan Bridge. “It is Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s vision that brought the United Nations Mission to Liberia, so I would like to dedicate this bridge in his honour,” she said.

UNMIL through its Quick Impact Projects has financed the construction and/or rehabilitation of numerous schools, clinics, court houses and government buildings, while UNMIL’s military engineers have repaired a number of roads and bridges throughout Liberia.
