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UNMIL Nigerian Contingent commissions a school building project in Monrovia

Monrovia, Liberia – In a move to support peace-building and recovery initiatives, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Nigerian contingent on 30 August commissioned a school building project, which was funded and built by the troops as part of their community relations activities.



New school building commissioned by the UNMIL Nigerian contingent

The event, which took place at Unification Town outside Monrovia, was attended by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Operations and Rule of Law, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, the UNMIL Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, representatives from the government of Liberia, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Edwin Snowe, Jr., the diplomatic corps and other UNMIL senior officials.

During a vibrant ceremony that included traditional Nigerian performances, Special Representative Doss thanked the Nigerian contingent for the work that they had done. “I would like to praise you for your hard work and your financial contribution to this project,” he said.

Speaking about the importance of cooperation between UNMIL and the local communities, Mr. Doss thanked the residents of Unification Town for their contributions to building the school and said “not only have you built a school building, but you have begun building the future of Liberia by investing in its most precious resource, its children.”

Lt.-Col. Y.M. Abubakar, the NIBATT 9 Contingent Commander, explained that this project was made possible as a result of the financial contributions made by each of the 850 soldiers in this contingent and their desire to help the people of Liberia.

Part of the ceremony included the planting of trees by the dignitaries. The new school building, consisting of two classrooms and an office, will increase the capacity of the Robertsfield Baptist Academy by up to 100 students. This project is part of a larger Peace Building and Recovery Support Programme (PBRSP) that UNMIL has coordinated with local authorities and communities. The PBRSP was established to support the local communities by helping them with projects vital to improving their lives and promoting recovery from years of conflict. So far, the PBRSP in Sector I has facilitated projects in the areas of sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure, health, sports and education.

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