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UNMIL commences construction of magistrate court house in southeast;
Deputy Special Representative tours remote counties

Monrovia, Liberia – As part of its continued assistance to extend the Rule of Law to all parts of the country, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) yesterday commenced the construction of a magistrate court house in Cestos City, capital of the south-eastern county of River Cess.

The construction of the court house, one of several Quick Impact Projects (QIP) undertaken by UNMIL, began as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Operations and Rule of Law, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, began a one-day working visit to River Cess and Sinoe Counties to assess the needs of the local population and to take stock of the existing facilities.



DSRSG da Costa meeting with local authorities in Cestos City, River Cess County

In Greenville, Sinoe County's capital, the Deputy Special Representative visited the magistrate court which was rehabilitated and furnished through assistance from UNMIL's Quick Impact Projects. The project also provided assistance to the Circuit Court, which is now functioning.

In both Greenville and Cestos City, the DSRSG held separate meetings with the local authorities whose common priorities were the rehabilitation of roads, security, additional deployment of Liberian National Police officers, job creation, education, and humanitarian assistance through NGOs and UN Agencies. Sinoe County authorities highlighted the absence of international non-governmental organizations operating in the county.

"I will take your requests back to Monrovia, we will jointly discuss not only with the government but also with our international partners," Mr. da Costa assured the local authorities. He also pointed out that considering the myriad challenges facing the country and the government's limited budget, not all these priorities could be achieved in the short term. Regarding security, he assured the local authorities of the continued presence of UNMIL in Liberia to maintain peace and security.

During the visit, Mr. da Costa also toured the UNMIL facilities and held discussions with UNMIL staff deployed in the counties on their challenges and priorities. Recognizing the difficult conditions under which they work, he encouraged them to remain committed.
