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United Nations Envoy renews commitment to protect Liberians; turns over newly-renovated police depot and community town hall

Monrovia, Liberia – The Liberia National Police (LNP) on Thursday, 10 August, received a boost in its drive to combat and prevent crime when the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, turned over a newly-renovated Police sub-station financed by UNMIL at a ceremony, which was attended by the Solicitor General of Liberia and the LNP Inspector General.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony of the Soul Clinic Police Community Depot located in the Paynesville suburb of Monrovia, Mr. Doss said he was happy to see the Police depot restored after being destroyed by the war and assured community residents that the United Nations is committed to working to restore the effectiveness of the LNP.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that UNMIL had already trained over 1,800 LNP officers and that several hundred others were undergoing training. Mr. Doss said “our aim is that by this time next year, there will be approximately 3,500 LNP officers properly trained and equipped and deployed throughout the country. To do that, we need infrastructure, and this Soul Clinic Police sub-station is part of a bigger programme funded by our Quick Impact Projects to construct police stations all over the country.” He added that UNMIL had already committed to constructing 10 police stations in six counties, of which three had been completed, and that another 12 police stations in nine counties were under consideration for funding during the next few months.

Mr. Doss hoped that the Paynesville community “will not just see this as a building that the UN has put up and LNP occupies, but see this as a community center in which they have a great investment, and which they have a responsibility to help maintain and to help function properly.” Liberia’s Solicitor General, Tiawon Gongloe, in his remarks echoed these sentiments to the community, stating that, “to do effective policing, you must know that the Police exist for your protection; you must take ownership of the Police by cooperating.”

In another positive rule of law-related development in Paynesville, Thursday, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General also turned over the Paynesville Community Town Hall, which contains magistrate courts, to the local community, after completion of renovation works undertaken by UNMIL. Participants in the hand-over ceremony included the mayor of Paynesville and the superintendent of Montserrado County.

Both the Soul Clinic Police Depot and the Paynesville Community Town Hall were renovated by UNMIL through its Quick Impact Projects.



Soul Clinic Police Depot before renovation



Soul Clinic Police Depot after renovation

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