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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)*

PRESS RELEASE

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UNAMSIL CHIEF MILITARY OBSERVER VISITS NORTHERN TOWNS

Freetown – The Chief Military Observer (CMO) of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, this week toured military observers' team sites in the towns of Port Loko, Makeni, Moyamba, Kabala, Mile 91 and Kamakwie to assess their readiness for the 14 May presidential and parliamentary elections.

During his visit, the CMO received briefings from team leaders on the arrangements they have put in place in preparation for the elections, and the coordination mechanisms with UNAMSIL troops and Civilian Police (CIVPOL). Maj. Gen. Athar Ali, commending the observers for their plans, urged the team leaders to ensure that their communication systems were in a state of readiness and to liaise closely with the National Electoral Commission.

Maj. Gen. Athar Ali also called on the military observers to identify flash points in their areas of responsibility and prepare plans for addressing any eventuality.