

UNITED NATIONS



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(UNAMSIL)

PRESS RELEASE

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SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES UNAMSIL STAFF

Freetown - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, yesterday expressed his gratitude, and that of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to the staff of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for their contributions to the just-concluded elections in Sierra Leone.

In an address to the staff at UNAMSIL Headquarters in Freetown, Ambassador Adeniji said UNAMSIL was able to assist in the electoral process “in the best of its ability.”

The Special Representative gave his personal gratitude to all staff, noting that the UN Headquarters in New York greatly appreciated what UNAMSIL had achieved in Sierra Leone so far. He however emphasized that “there is still a long way to go to consolidate the peace here,” adding that the current conflict in Liberia could have spill-over effects on Sierra Leone.

Flanked by his two deputies, Mr. Behrooz Sadry and Mr. Alan Doss, as well the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande and UNAMSIL Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Ibrahim Zeekeh, Ambassador Adeniji read a message from Secretary-General Annan, congratulating UNAMSIL for its achievements in Sierra Leone thus far. The Secretary-General said he was delighted to receive the news about the successful conduct of the elections in Sierra Leone.

“All my colleagues at the United Nations Headquarters,” the Secretary-General said, “join me in extending to you – the electoral team, all the civilian and military personnel of UNAMSIL and also all other UN agencies operating in the country – warm congratulations for the dedicated and effective manner in which the international community supported the elections.”

The Secretary-General expressed his confidence that in the coming months UNAMSIL would devote itself to assisting the vital effort to consolidate peace in Sierra Leone.