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(UNAMSIL)*

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**NIGERIAN PEACEKEEPERS DONATE RELIEF MATERIAL
TO WAR AMPUTEES**

Freetown – Peacekeepers from the Nigerian Battalion (NIBATT) 10 serving with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on Wednesday donated food and non-food items to amputees based at the Aberdeen Amputee Camp in Freetown.

Presenting the donation at a special function held at the camp, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, commended the peacekeepers for their generosity, noting that the gesture was in addition to the professionalism and competence shown by NIBATT 10 in executing its duties.

The donated material, which was part of NIBATT 10's farewell gift before the peacekeepers leave the mission following the completion of their tour of duty, included more than 100 bags of rice, 100 plastic chairs, a TV set and a video cassette player, four bales of used clothing, 20 containers of palm oil and numerous other items as well as cash donations. The peacekeepers also undertook to renovate the Amputee Video Center and to provide a three-day free medical camp for the amputees and their families.

Mr. Sadry said that the donation was "yet another proof that our brothers and sisters who are in uniform are also humanitarians. They are not merely soldiers of war, but they are also soldiers of peace."

The Acting Special Representative commended NIBATT 10 for the rehabilitation of churches and mosques. This also reflected a very good tradition in Sierra Leone to accept all religions.

Also speaking at the same occasion, the Sierra Leone Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Mrs. Memunatu Koroma, applauded the immense contributions and supreme sacrifices made by Nigeria and its peacekeepers towards the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone.

The dignitaries who attended the occasion included UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande and his deputy, Maj. Gen. Martin L. Agwai, the Nigerian Deputy High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL Sector One Commander Brig. Gen. Steve Guar and his counterpart for Sector Two, Brig. Gen. Emmilino Tonui.

*UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189*