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**UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER INAUGURATES VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL IN MAGBURAKA**

Freetown – Inaugurating a vocational institute in the town of Magburaka in Tonkolili District yesterday, the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande, reminded people who had gathered for the ceremony that peace is a prerequisite for development.

The Bangla-Sierra Friendship Vocational Institute, situated along the Magburaka-Bo Highway, is expected to train students in academic and vocational fields such as agriculture, carpentry, metal work, tailoring and computers. It was funded with proceeds from the Bangladeshi Battalion (BANBATT) 6 based in Magburaka.

Addressing local residents and UNAMSIL peacekeepers who had gathered to witness the occasion, the Force Commander stressed that development could only take place where there is peace, adding that without peaceful co-existence, there can be no meaningful development anywhere. He urged the people of Magburaka to guard jealously their hard-won peace so that their children could enroll in the institute and benefit from the goodwill of the Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

The Force Commander also appealed to non-governmental organizations operating in Magburaka to augment the goodwill of the Bangladeshi peacekeepers by providing additional assistance to the institute.

Speaking at the same occasion, a community leader and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Mr. E. M. Kargbo, thanked the peacekeepers for their kind gesture, pointing out that the institute's governing board is proposing to build resort and recreational facilities in Magburaka and use the proceeds to maintain the school. Paramount Chief Ori Faruala of Magburaka also expressed his gratitude to UNAMSIL for restoring peace in Sierra Leone.

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