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(UNAMSIL)

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**UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER PAYS FAREWELL VISIT TO  
BANGLADESHI AND KENYAN PEACEKEEPERS**

*Freetown* - The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande, yesterday visited the towns of Lunsar, Makite, Masiaka and Magbuntuso in the western area to bid farewell to peacekeepers from the Bangladeshi Artillery Battalion 2 and the Kenyan Battalion (KENBATT) 8 who are scheduled to return home following the completion of their tour of duty.

In his address to the officers and soldiers of the Bangladeshi Artillery Battalion deployed in Lunsar in the western district of Port Loko, the Force Commander commended them for their contribution to the Sierra Leone peace process, noting that their efforts would cement earlier sacrifices made by previous Bangladeshi Artillery contingent.

In Makite, Magbuntuso and Masiaka where KENBATT 8 is based, Lt. Gen. Opande praised the peacekeepers for their discipline, hard work and their role in the provision of humanitarian assistance. Lt. Gen. Opande later inaugurated and handed over a mosque built by the Kenyan peacekeepers to the Paramount Chief of Koya Chiefdom, Paramount Chief Bai Bure II.

In his acceptance speech, the paramount chief expressed his appreciation over the role played by UNAMSIL peacekeepers, noting in particular the provision of humanitarian assistance in the form of medical care, rehabilitation of schools and relief food.