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UN Deputy Envoy da Costa commends Zimbabwean UN Police Contingent in Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia – The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, yesterday awarded United Nations peacekeeping medals to the Zimbabwean police contingent deployed in Liberia during a ceremony held at the Monrovia City Hall.



Mr. da Costa awarding medals to the Zimbabwean police officers

Commending the Zimbabwean contingent for their professionalism and dedication, Mr. da Costa stressed the importance of ensuring that the re-structured Liberia National Police (LNP) evolves as a repository of public confidence and a guarantor of law and order. “In any society, a modern and professional police force is a key element of the democratic fabric. In a post-conflict situation such as in Liberia, that is even more vital,” he said. Mr. da Costa also emphasized the role of the police in maintaining public peace: “A police force that is fully committed to upholding the Constitution and the rights of the people that it serves is critical to sustained peace.”

The Officer-in-Charge stressed the importance of supporting the Government by providing security, helping in the fight against crime and giving it the space it needs to focus on the many development challenges faced by Liberia. “I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the role that the Zimbabwean contingent has been playing in helping to reduce crime. This has been performed in close collaboration with the LNP and the level of cooperation is commendable” Mr. da Costa added. He also pointed out that in response to public concern about crime and security, the UN Police and the LNP are jointly carrying out **Operation Sweeping Wave** which has already produced results as the crime figures for the month of September show a downward trend.

UN Police Commissioner, Mohammed Alhassan, who also spoke on the occasion, praised the Zimbabwean police officers for being good ambassadors of their country, worthy of UN medals. Recognizing that many of the officers are first timers in peacekeeping, the UN Police Commissioner called on them to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the cause of peace.
