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UNMIL Deputy Special Representative visits Western Liberia; Meets local authorities to discuss priorities of the County

Monrovia, Liberia – The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Operations and Rule of Law, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, yesterday traveled to Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, approximately 120 km west of the capital, to acquaint himself with the priorities of the County during this period of peace consolidation and restoration of civil authorities. During his visit, Mr. da Costa toured several facilities, including an orphanage, the Magisterial Court, the Superintendent's Office, the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.



DSRSG da Costa visits the Charity Orphanage Home in Robertsport

Ms. Catherine Watson-Kusue, Superintendent of Cape Mount County, said that much remained to be done in terms of personnel, supply, communications and transport in order to ensure the extension of state authority across the county. During discussions with the Superintendent, Mr. da Costa assured UNMIL's continued support in prioritizing education and health and added "we will also continue to discuss with the international partners on ways to improve the infrastructure in the County, specifically the roads."

Commenting on the issue of Rule of Law, DSRSG da Costa said UNMIL and the Government had to ensure adequate LNP presence in Grand Cape Mount. He pointed out that an UNMIL Quick Impact Project (QIP) was authorized to help refurbish the police station. He also highlighted the need for correction and detention facilities in the County.

At the Charity Orphanage Home in Robertsport, DSRSG da Costa pointed out that UNMIL was concerned about the human rights of children, particularly in orphanages. He was pleased to see an orphanage facility that was being run privately with the basic needs and education for children as a priority. "I am very grateful to the UNMIL staff in Robertsport, who through their personal efforts and financial support, have enabled the facility to be upgraded," he recognized. "But more is needed and I will see what UNMIL can do to mobilize further funding," Mr. da Costa said.

In addition, Mr. da Costa visited the UNMIL facilities and was briefed by the UNMIL civilian and military personnel in Robertsport, during which issues of concern were discussed. He was also appraised on the recent establishment of the County Support Teams in support of good governance and development on a county level.

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