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Flash

UNPOL MPO LUCIEN NDA AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER APPRECIATED BY ALL

UNPOL MPO Lucien NDA, Kisangani Chief of Sector is a composed and respectful person. Concerned about protecting the population, he doesn't hesitate to compare his job to that of a medical Doctor which consists in "helping persons in difficult situations, aiding persons who sometimes are desperate, saving lives". His colleagues appreciate him for his availability, seriousness and professionalism. His supervisors see in him a leader and this has earned him the post of Chief of Sector and interim Head of Office.

As you know, it is not easy to speak about oneself. Let me simply say that I am born from modest parents and eldest in a family of 11 children. On entry into the University of ABOMEY-CALAVI, my father convinced me to enroll into the Police in March 1995 as Police Constable. Not being able to manage studies and profession, I ended at First Degree level in Law. I came to the Democratic Republic of Congo on 18 January 2014 for my first ever experience in United Nations Missions. After Induction Training, I was deployed to Kisangani Sector where I have served till date. I am married and father of two.

PIO/UNPOL: Can you tell us why you chose to serve as a Police Officer in Peace keeping Operations and particularly in the DRC?

M. MPO LUCIEN NDA: The police profession is noble and passionate, though exalting and full of sacrifices. I worked at the COTONOU Central Police Station and in the hinterlands of Benin. This enabled me to discover the importance given to the Police by the population, especially when they are in difficulties. The arrival of the Police is often synonymous to relief, deliverance and rekindled hope. I often have the tendency to compare the job of a Policeman to that of a Medical Doctor, in the sense that it is about helping persons in difficult situations, helping people who sometimes are desperate and always saving lives. It is this urge to be useful, to bring my modest contribution to the return and consolidation of peace to the D.R. Congo that motivated me. To achieve this, I devote myself to my job which I try to do to the best of my capacity.

PIO/UNPOL: We hear about the drop in the rate of criminality in Kisangani, what has been your contribution to this as UNPOL Chief of Sector?

M. MPO LUCIEN NDA: The fight against criminality is permanent, given that there is no zero criminality level anywhere in the world. In November 2014, my UNPOL Colleagues and I, including even civilian staff and more especially the Head of Office, Mrs. Aissetou SANOGO, were very concerned by the high rate of criminality involving individuals dressed in military uniforms resembling those of the FARDC and sometimes of the PNC. Preoccupied by this and fearing that it could affect us one day, my colleagues and I discussed the issue during our traditional weekly meeting and proposed strong actions that the PNC could take to reduce this threat if not eradicate it. I exchanged with the Congolese National Police (PNC) Provincial Commander who, though reticent from the onset, was finally convinced that our proposals were pertinent and feasible. The anger of the population was perceptible. Having had the support of the Provincial Security Committee, the PNC did a marvelous job with the



support of the FARDC. From 28 cases of assault with the use of fire arms leading to the death of 06 persons in the month of January 2015, three (03) cases were recorded in March 2015. For the months of April and May 2015, no case of assault was recorded. I want to say that this is not my success alone, but that of the dynamic team that I head and that supports me daily. I also attribute this success to the PNC hierarchy with whom I have very excellent working relations. I cannot fail mentioning the various contributions of the Heads of Section and Head of Office.

PIO/UNPOL: Are there things you would have loved to do within the framework of the mandate that are still not implemented?

M. MPO LUCIEN NDA: Yes of course. I must recognize that despite the work accomplished by the Component, much still has to be done. The first is training that the PNC needs to be able to live up to the expectations of the population.

PIO/UNPOL: What has stroke you most in this Mission?

What has stroked me most in this Mission is diversity. To be welcomed by people who have never met you nor heard about you before is appealing to the heart. I think this builds confidence, facilitates integration, provides a good working climate and mutual respect. In other words, we enter as a stranger and exit as a member of a big family.

PIO/UNPOL: What was your feeling when the Kisangani Head of Office chose you as her interim?

M. MPO LUCIEN NDA: From 20 to 22 May 2015, I had the honour, in the absence of the Head of Office, to act in her capacity. I must admit that it was a surprise, but given that a Police Officer should expect everything, I immediately reported to my Chain of Command and got their support and joy. The Police Commissioner, General Pascal CHAMPION wrote to me expressing his pride and readiness to support me. I then took cognizance of the heavy responsibility that I had. But thank God, all went well.



PIO/UNPOL: Any final word?

M. MPO LUCIEN NDA: My final word is that of thanks. As a believer, I have first and foremost to give thanks to God the Almighty for his everyday work. I did not imagine serving in a United Nations Mission one day. I thank UNPOLs DOAMBA Clémence and NDIAYE Talla for welcoming me to Kisangani Sector. They believed in me, encourage and guided me. I thank the Police Commissioner and his Deputy for their clairvoyance and leadership, my immediate supervisors who have always encouraged and guided me each time I needed them. I thank them for this distinction. The Head of Office, SMT members and all the staff that I have met in one way or another, for their contribution. My infinite gratitude goes to my Colleagues of the Sector for their support, encouragements and availability. Without them, I would never have succeeded alone. I exhort them to continue supporting me more than ever before because the way is still long and rough and we owe a duty to deliver. Courage!

WHAT OTHERS SAY TO HIM ...

Tamsir Diouf DIAKHATE, Deputy Chief of Operations: Effectively, this Officer has impressed the Kisangani Sector that he heads through his seriousness, commitment, professionalism and duty consciousness. During the first semester of this year, he initiated an operational plan whose implementation by the PNC led to a considerable decrease of criminality in Kisangani town which was experiencing a high rate of crime wave that led to demonstrations denouncing the passivity of Defense and Security Forces in the face of this phenomenon.

As a result of his commitment and professionalism, he successfully held the post of Acting Head of Office to the satisfaction of the Component's high command. He is an influential member of the follow-up committee of the BAHUMA Camp in Kisangani where demobilized FDLR and their dependents are lodged while awaiting repatriation to their country of origin.



Aissetou Sanogo, MONUSCO Head of Office, Kisangani

Mr. Lucien MPO, Kisangani Chief of Sector objectively deserves to be designated as UNPOL of the month. I congratulate him for this distinction and encourage him to continue with the same demonstrated professionalism that has earned him this honour.

Socially, Mr. MPO is particularly very humble and attached to the team. He participates in social and welfare activities. He is respectable and highly respected by other national and international colleagues as well as partners especially PNC Officials who appreciate him a lot.

Professionally, Mr. Mpo participates actively in activities at Senior Management Team level and the MONUSCO Office. He collaborates and coordinates easily with other sections and strictly respects deadlines. I am always the first to get security information thanks to UNPOL. His openness let me to place my confidence in him and this enabled me to surmount major challenges. He shows the willingness to learn from others and calmly accepts criticism.

He is a leader whose vision is shared by his team. I have not had knowledge of any trouble within his Team. He always consults me on sensitive issues relating to our mandate to ensure coherence in the execution of missions.

As Head of Office, I am fortunate to have Mr. Mpo Lucien as UNPOL Kisangani Sector Commander, Adviser and direct collaborator.

Mamadou DIENG, United Nations Joint Human Rights Office

I can say with confidence that the Kisangani Chief of Sector is very open in terms of collaboration with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office. Through him, UNPOL has participated in several joint missions notably within the framework of sensitization on sexual violence in our Area of Responsibility. He also supports us in the follow-up of Human Rights violations involving PNC Officers. This makes him a committed actor in the fight against impunity for authors of Human Rights violations.

Blanchard KEPIASILA, Civil Affairs Officer: The Chief of Sector, Mpo Lucien NDA is a colleague who is always available, attached to team work and ensures efficient supervision of his staff. I had an excellent impression of him during our two last training and refresher courses for investigators at Buta from 15 to 20 June 2015 and at Banalia from 22 to 27 June of same month. He

closely followed the activities of his colleagues who participated in this mission with us. He always encouraged us, sought to know if all was fine and was concerned about the success of colleagues.

He respects other colleagues and maintains team spirit. He never hesitates to meet and exchange with me on our domain of collaboration with the Justice Department (...) and on the capacity building of investigators within the scope of our responsibility. In my capacity as Quick Impact Projects Focal Point, he meets me often to ensure proper execution of projects initiated by his section in accordance with the directives in force. He has earned the respect of our partners, the PNC Provincial Commander publicly acknowledged his worth during the official handing over ceremony of the Quick Impact Project to renovate the detention cells of GMI Ouest. I respect him for his professionalism and respect of diversity and gender. He always associates a woman during judicial inspections as well as training of investigators and this has been a great contribution.

UNPOL Nadine M. NGO NJOCK-NGUE, Deputy Chief of Sector in charge of Training: My first contact with Lucien was by phone when my compatriot and I were deployed to Kisangani. I was impressed by the warm welcome he gave us. Socially, he is a very nice person, open minded and open handed. "PAPA NANGAY" as I fondly call him, contributes to the wellbeing and unity of all. He has shown proof of professionalism. He never leaves before his colleagues, nor before exhausting his daily schedule. He is diligent and has concern for a job well done. I admire his leadership qualities, his good perception of the Mission and his remarkable stance which enabled him to hold the post of interim Head of Office/Kisangani successfully for 72 hours. His easy communication skills have contributed to the good management of the Sector. Even though everyone has his/her weaknesses, to be a good Sector Commander, you must show proof of respect for diversity and UNPOL NDA MPO is an example.

