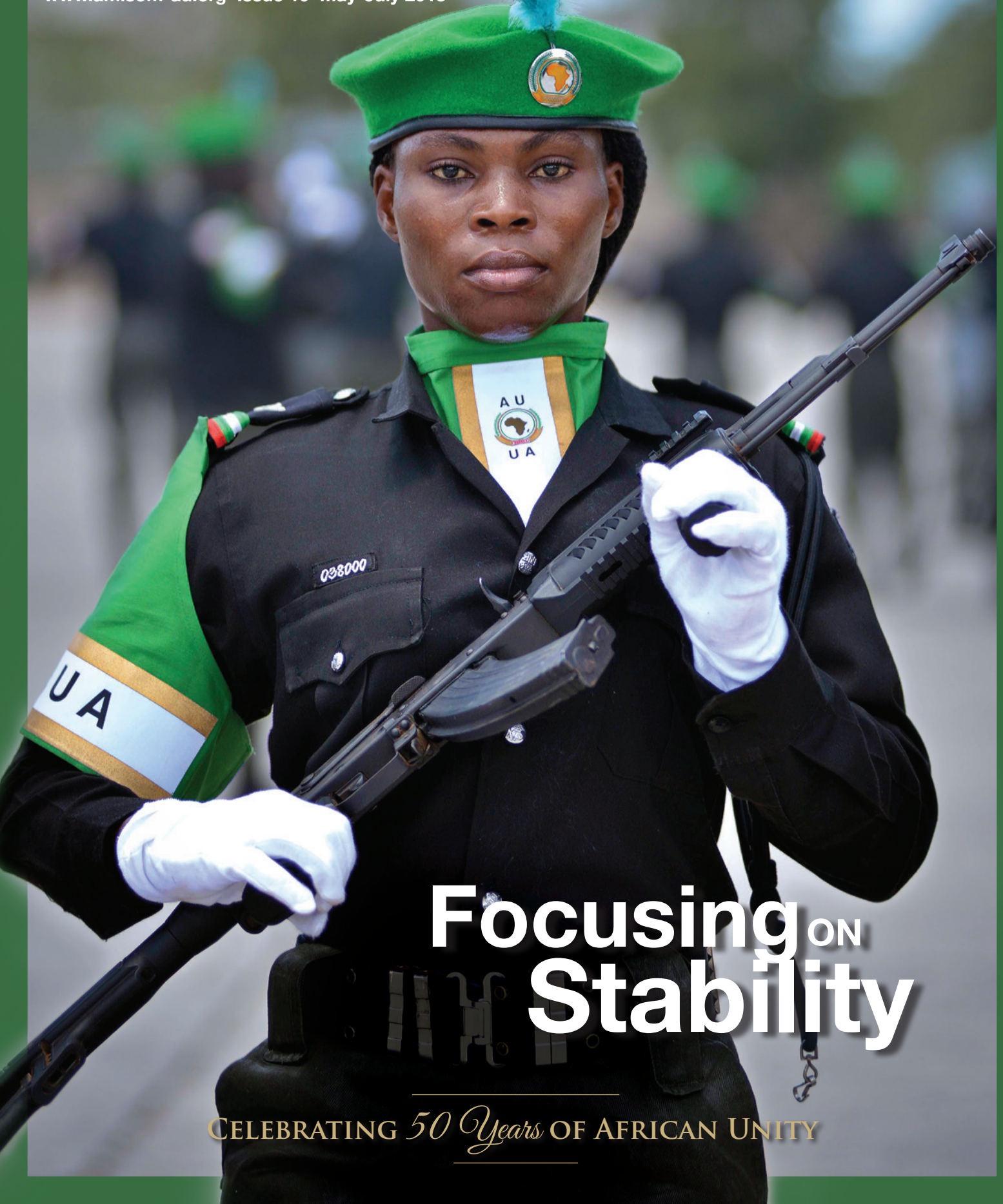


# AMISOM



REVIEW

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## Focusing ON Stability

CELEBRATING *50 Years* OF AFRICAN UNITY



# Message from the SRCC



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Editorial by Special Representative, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif

Half a century ago, African leaders came together in Addis-Ababa to form the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which, along with its successor, the African Union, was the concrete expression of their shared belief in a common future for all the peoples of the continent. Today nowhere is that spirit so strongly expressed as it is in the effort to support the people of Somalia in their struggle to overcome the legacy of 20 years of conflict and to build a stable and prosperous state.

The African Union Mission in Somalia has been deployed in the country for the last six years. In that period, it has helped the country push Al Qaeda-affiliated al Shabaab terrorists from its main cities, enabling it establish a permanent and legitimate government and create the conditions for the political process of reconciliation to flourish.

The people of Somalia deserve much recognition and credit for the great strides their nation has made and for their active and constant support for peace efforts. Their rejection of a divisive extremism as well as their perseverance in the face of daunting challenge, are what have generated an opportunity to cement the achievements of the past and create the conditions for a future of lasting peace and stability.

It is important to note that AMISOM is in essence a multi-dimensional mission with three main components (military, police and civilian). As the military operations liberate more areas and decrease, there will be more activities from the other two components (police and civilian) to complement the work of the military.

Today AMISOM, with the coordinated efforts of all its three components, is focused on helping them to improve the capabilities of the institutions they have established, both in the security and governance sphere.

Security being a key foundation for peace, AMISOM is helping to train and

mentor the Somali National Security Forces – including the army and the police- so that they can gradually take over responsibility for the protection of Somali citizens. Our Formed Police Units, the first ever deployed by the AU, have, for example, been conducting joint patrols within Mogadishu both during the day and at night. Despite sporadic terrorist attacks, it is undeniable that these patrols have contributed to a greater sense of security as evidenced by the fact that businesses today have the confidence to stay open later into the night.

In April, I had the privilege of visiting the port city of Kismayo, which was liberated in October last year with the support of AMISOM. It is gratifying to see just how much things have improved

Federal Government of Somalia provide much needed services to the people. The component has been helping to rehabilitate government buildings in Mogadishu and equip police stations. It is also training the fledgling civil service. Recently 120 protocol officers, secretaries and administrators from various ministries of the Federal Government underwent a two-week management and administrative skills course in Bujumbura, Burundi. Many more are to follow.

The components also work with local officials and civil society to enhance linkages to the central government and strengthen connections between citizens and the state. It is helping the government implement quick impact projects such as rebuilding schools, roads, small bridges, and

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*It is a pointer to what we as Africans can accomplish when we work together and proves that we are best placed to provide solutions to the problems on our continent*

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since then with people returning to rebuild and humanitarian agencies, once banned by the al Shabaab, reopening their offices and resuming their operations.

It is often mentioned by peace and security experts that fighting war is easier than building peace. This is the challenge facing Somalia today.

Sustaining peace will require a government with the capacity to govern justly, deliver basic services and secure the consent of the Somali people. The African continent, perhaps more than any other, has in recent times witnessed many countries emerge from prolonged internal conflict and establish stable regimes that are responsive to the needs of their people. This accumulated experience is now being placed at the service of Somalia via AMISOM's civilian police and components which are today helping to build up the capacity of the

medical facilities, as well as provide clean, potable water and temporary shelter for the internally displaced. These efforts will not only deliver key improvements in the daily lives of the Somali people but will also go a long way towards creating a conducive environment for the conduct of nationwide polls as well as a referendum on the country's constitution.

As the African Union marks its Jubilee, it should be proud of what it has accomplished in Somalia, one of the founding members of the Organisation of African Unity. The effort to assist fellow Africans in Somalia is bearing fruit and provides much reason to celebrate. It is a pointer to what we as Africans can accomplish when we work together and prove that we are best placed to provide solutions to the problems on our continent.

This is the best tribute we can pay to the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity.



# News Roundup

## Somalia Conference 2013

The Somalia Conference 2013 took place at Lancaster House in London on 7 May and was co-hosted by the United Kingdom and Somalia. The Special Representative to the African Union Commission for Somalia (SRCC), Ambassador Mahamet Saleh Annadif, was among the 54 leaders and international organizations that attended the gathering.

At the Conference, the Federal Government presented its vision for the implementation of federalism, the adoption of a permanent constitution and its plans for holding of elections. The international community agreed on practical measures to support the Somali Government's plans in three key areas: Security, Justice and Public Financial Management.

The first Somalia Conference took place on 23rd February last year.



## AMISOM Engages UK Diaspora

During the Conference, AMISOM held a consultative meeting from 9th to 11th May with representatives of the Somali Diaspora in the United Kingdom. AMISOM representatives organised the event to hear their views on the Six Pillars set out by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for the country, and discuss ways to garner more involvement by Diaspora in the Peace Process.

Ambassador Annadif asked members of the UK's Somali community to find ways of contributing further to the country's reconstruction during his opening address.



## AMISOM Mandate EXTENDED

The Somali Federal Government, AMISOM and the international community welcomed the extension of the AMISOM mandate by the UN Security Council. Under Resolution 2093, AMISOM is now authorized to continue to maintain a presence across Somalia's four sectors in which it is currently deployed.

The new mandate lasts until 28 February 2014. It further states that AMISOM will continue to work closely with Somali government forces to reduce the threat posed by the Al Shabaab terror group, and create conditions for effective and legitimate governance across the country.



## UN Security Council Lifts Arms Embargo

In March this year, the UN Security Council partially lifted the arms embargo against Somalia for one year as the country continues to experience relative peace after decades of war. The ban was imposed in 1992, a year after the fall of former president Mohamed Siad Barre.

The provision of weapons and other military equipment to the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) will improve both their training and operational capacity.



## AMISOM Expands TO NEW Territories

The Somali National Army (SNA) with the support of African Union Troops successfully completed the last leg of their 241 kilometer advance from Mogadishu to Baidoa in early April.

With the opening of the two cities, AMISOM's Sector 1 (Banadir, Middle Shabele & Lower Shabele) and Sector 3 (Baidoa) will now operate within a single block.



## AMISOM Political Unit DONATES Equipment

The AMISOM Political Unit has donated equipment to the Somali government as part of efforts to help the authorities re-establish functioning state institutions and deliver services to the Somali people.



## Sierra Leone Troops DEPLOY TO Somalia

Members of an advance team of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces deployed in Southern Somalia in early April where they will operate alongside the Kenyan contingent. The AU Peace and Security Council authorized the integration of a Sierra Leonean contingent last year.

The troops deployment makes Sierra Leone the fifth country to contribute to AMISOM - after Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda.



## Civilian Component Makes Its Foray into the Sectors

In February AMISOM's civilian component toured the cities of Beletweyne, Baidoa and Kismayo where the Mission's Political, Civil Affairs and Gender units held a series of assessments and engagements with political leaders, civil society and women

groups as well as AMISOM personnel on the ground.

AMISOM is expected to deploy 50 additional civilian personnel to all sectors, where they will continue working with the Federal Government of Somalia to build transparent and accountable public institutions.



## Somalia Appoints NEW Security SECTOR HEADS

The Federal Government of Somalia has made some notable changes to the country's security sector. Gen. Dahir Adan Elmi was appointed commander-in-chief of the Somali National Army and General Abdirisak Khalif Hussein named as his deputy. The two replace Gen. Abdulqadir Shiekh Ali Diini and his deputy, Gen. Abdikarin Yusuf Dhega Badan.

Also sworn in were Gen. Bashir Mohamed Jama as head of the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) and Gen. Abdihakim Dahir Said as the Somali Police Chief.



## SOMALIA Army TRAINING

In April, 96 officers from the Somali National Army graduated from a Platoon Commander and NCO (non-commissioned officers) training course run by AMISOM at the newly refurbished Jazeera Training Camp in Mogadishu.

The 10-week course was run by 75 instructors from Uganda and Burundi and began in January this year. The trainees received instruction on risk management, tactics, field craft, counterinsurgency, professional ways of handling arms, public health and international humanitarian law.

So far, nearly 4000 Somali troops have been trained by AMISOM.

# Focus on AMISOM Civilian Component



The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) arrived in Somalia in January, 2007 with a mandate to stabilise the immediate security situation and to create a conducive environment for a political solution that had evaded the country for two decades.

In addition to the security mandate, the African Union Mission in Somalia was also mandated with several tasks outside the military field. These fall under the Civilian Component which sets AMISOM apart from previous African Union peacekeeping missions. The Civilian Component has the primary role of assisting the Federal Government of Somalia in re-establishing functioning state institutions and delivering services to the Somali people through its political, humanitarian, civic and gender units. Initially based in Nairobi, the Civilian Component relocated to Mogadishu in May 2011 and falls under the overall command of the Special Representative of the African Union Commission to Somalia, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif.





# Humanitarian Affairs UNIT

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia has been a perennial problem that affects the Horn of Africa. But for Somalia natural catastrophes – including flooding, drought and health epidemics have contributed to an increasingly exacerbating humanitarian situation.

This was further compounded by the rule of al Shabaab, the extremist group denied access to many humanitarian organisations citing them as enemies thus adversely affecting the delivery of humanitarian aid.

AMISOM's Humanitarian Affairs Unit provides a facilitatory and liaison role to ensure that key stakeholders are able to deliver much-needed humanitarian services to the people of Somalia.

The Unit works closely with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA as well as NGOs to establish coordination mechanisms and the sharing of information to achieve timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Committed to alleviating the suffering of the Somali civilians, The AMISOM's Humanitarian Affairs Unit has supported Mogadishu's Banadir Hospital with two generators, utilizing Danish funds. The two generators provides electricity to Banadir's various departments including the laboratory, X-Ray, theatre, maternity and intensive

care units which receive over 3,000 patients a month.

Recently, the Humanitarian Unit completed the rehabilitation and modification of four water wells in Wadajir, Hamarweyne, Hamarjajab and Dharkenly districts of Mogadishu. The project, made possible with Swedish funds, also supported the supply and installation of brackish water treatment plants, generators, construction of water tanks and fountains as well as the laying of pipes and fencing.

Once the project is handed over to local beneficiaries, it will benefit a total of 216,000 families with a constant supply of better quality water. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of life of people and benefit not just individuals but also the public health sector as improved water and hygiene systems reduce water borne diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea.

"As the Somali conflict goes from a transition to stability, AMISOM and humanitarian actors will support the Federal Government of Somalia to focus on repatriation and the settlement of Somali IDP's and refugees," says AMISOM Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Abdul Diabagate.

"The object will be to establish conditions as well as provide the means which will allow IDP's and Refugees to return. Special effort will be made by AMISOM, partners and



local authorities to ensure the full participation of IDPs in the planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration," added Abdul Diabagate.

AMISOM's civilian support has not gone unnoticed across Somalia. Since the opening of several AMISOM field hospitals and medical centres, AMISOM has had an open door policy to the Somali population. Although the facilities were designed to provide medical attention to the AMISOM troops, they have also helped local Somalis in need of emergency medical care.



# Civil Affairs UNIT

In helping Somalia revitalize its institutions AMISOM Civil Affairs Unit has engaged the Federal Government of Somalia-FGS at the social, administrative and local political levels. The unit supports the population and government in strengthening conditions and structures conducive to sustainable peace. Formed in 2008, the Unit has a primary mandate of monitoring and facilitation at the local level; conducting confidence-building, conflict management and supporting reconciliation.

The conflict situation in Somalia is fluid and constantly evolving. More recently the unit has been engaged in supporting the restoration and extension of state authority, through stabilisation and outreach programmes

As a part of confidence building and enabling FGS institutions, the Unit has constructed a primary school to support school enrolment of youth and children. The school is been built using the funds from the Danish government at a cost of US \$ 147,611.50. The school is built in Wadajir District of Medina in Mogadishu. It consists of eight classrooms, head teachers /principal's/ administrator's office, deputy Principal's office, staff room, library, sentry post/store, seven ablution

blocks, school fence and gate.

The school is a landmark in the civil affairs unit activities. It will enrol approximately 720 pupils of aged between 6 and 18 years. It is to employ 32 teachers and six workers. It will go a long way in positively impacting on the lives of the people of Medina who for years have had no schools.

The conflict in Somalia has affected the ability of the central government to reach out to the local areas. AMISOM Civil Affairs has reached out to the population in all the sectors. In Kismayu, the Unit engaged Mr Ahmed Madobe, on matters of local administration.

The Somalia youth and women are a missing lot in the local political dispensation. To enable the youth, the Unit is having youth empowerment programmes aimed at reorienting the thinking of the youth in order to alleviate possibility of engaging in conflict.

Civil affairs works closely with the local authorities in the recovered areas like Afgoye, Johwar and Marka. The Unit recently met with elders and leaders from the recovered areas of Afgoye

with aim of charting the way forward especially in the restoration of local administration. The unit met elders of Biimal, the Digir clan and Somalia Arabs from Marka both before and after recovery of the location.

The fragile situation in Somalia calls for stabilisation programs. Civil affairs have designed stabilisation programs that are aimed at specific groups such as the youth and women. The unit activities are also geared towards specific geographically areas in partnership with other organisations acting as executing agencies.

In future, the Unit aims to work closely with local government in its activities towards targeting venerable members of the society. The Unit will continue to liaise with local administrations in Baidoa, Beledwyene and Mogadishu, to consolidate AMISOM mandate.



# Political Affairs UNIT

Last year Somalia underwent a major transformation with the end of the transition period with the election of the President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who was sworn in following a peaceful and transparent election process conducted in the capital, Mogadishu. The success of the process was largely attributed to the security gains made by AMISOM in support of Somalia that enabled the Somali peace process.

AMISOM's Civilian Component has since supported the Federal Government of Somalia in all areas of political guidance, training, mentoring and advising its Civil Service sector. The Component's Political Unit advises the Somali government in dialogue and reconciliation efforts with other stakeholders in Somalia. The political unit also monitors, interprets and reports on political developments throughout Somalia, providing advice on the country's ongoing political process. The unit is responsible for the implementation of political decisions on Somalia taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council and is working on re-establishing the nation's public service.

As the new Government of Somalia begins to take shape and the AMISOM military component works beyond Mogadishu and towards other sectors of

Somalia, the second phase of Somalia's political stability begins. This stage involves the deploying of the Civilian and Police Components in new territories secured by the AMISOM

The Civilian Component will play a crucial role in ensuring functioning institutions at both the national and regional district level. The Political Unit will support the Federal Government of Somalia in establishing functioning public service institutions and in training civil servants.

The Unit has so far delivered theoretical training followed by on the job mentoring of Somali Civil Servants. Recently, the AMISOM Political Unit facilitated a two week management and administrative skills course for Somalia Civil Servants in Bujumbura, Burundi bringing together 120 protocol officers, secretaries and administrators from various ministries of the Somali Government.

AMISOM Head of Political Affairs Unit, Ambassador Basile Gateretse said the training was in support of the Federal Government's policy of reconstruction of state institutions.

"Somalia is currently undergoing positive economic and political transformation which needs not only financial and material support but also capacity building of its human

resources. This training therefore was part of a programme to support capacity building for Civil Servants" added the Ambassador.

The Political unit is striving to work with local officials and civil society to enhance linkages to the central government and strengthen connections between citizens and the state. The unit is also working closely with the government to implement quick impact projects that pave the way for humanitarian organisations, especially in hard to reach regions.

The efforts of AMISOM's Political Unit will not only deliver key improvements in the daily lives of the Somali people but will also go a long way towards creating a conducive environment for the next part of the political reconstruction of Somalia which is the holding of nationwide elections as well as a referendum on the country's constitution.





# Gender UNIT



Since its arrival, the AMISOM Gender unit has engaged heavily with the local community, arranging events and providing training sessions in the hope of empowering the local community, especially those marginalised by their society.

Reflecting the African Union's strong commitment on the advancement of gender equality and supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia, the unit strategically mainstreams Gender equalities in all area of operations. Supporting the Federal Government of Somalia, the AMISOM Gender department's aim is to achieve sustainable peace by ensuring the government's post-conflict reconstruction process promotes gender equality and women and girls' rights.

Recently, the unit organized a one-day event that focused on empowering Somali women and engaging

with local elders and politicians in Mogadishu. The event brought together local elders, academicians, female activists and religious leaders who took part in discussions concerning the role of women in politics, the lack of education in the community as well as the benefits of women empowerment and its support towards the progression of Somalia.

Training AMISOM troops, government personal and local civilizes plays a core role in the Gender Unit. Last year, alongside the Political Unit, the Gender Unit organized a successful Needs Assessment Workshop for Somali female MP's in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop provided the female parliamentarians in the Somali Government a networking opportunity with their counterparts from Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda. It also gave the opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learnt.



# Focus on AMISOM Police Component



# FPU Joint Patrols



In 2011, The African Union Mission in Somalia's Police Component deployed two Formed Police Units (FPUs) to Mogadishu, the first of their kind sent out by the African Union.

The 280 officers that make up the two units are from Uganda and Nigeria. The FPUs are deployed to assist the Somali Police Force in securing urban centres already under the Federal Government's control.

A stark difference from the AMISOM Military force, the FPU's are involved maintaining law and order within the city. They've played a crucial role in supporting the Somali Police Force's day and night patrols, and the stop-and-search operations that have tightened security in much of the capital.

Their presence has allowed local businesses to now stay open at night. It's common these days to see residents sipping coffee, eating at restaurants or strolling amongst stands selling sweets and ice cream late into the evening.

According to the Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner Benson Oyo-

Nyeko, Mogadishu has witnessed improved security since the FPUs began supporting the Somali Police Force. He commends the officers for working around the clock to solidify the gains made on the military front.

Commissioner Oyo-Nyeko has also called for further support of the Somali Police Force so that they are adequately equipped and resourced to deal with Mogadishu's security challenges.

"More funds needs to be provided for the SPF so that they can tackle the security of Mogadishu. As much as the SPF have the willpower, it is difficult to work without the basic tools, they will need lots of support from the government and the international community," he says.

But despite the numerous challenges, the recent partial lifting of the a long-standing arms embargo will give the Somali National Security Forces a much-needed boost with the provision of weapons and other military equipment.

This will improve both the training and operational capacity of the SNSF as it moves steadily towards taking over full responsibility for securing the country.





Click to watch video



*It's common these days to see residents sipping coffee, eating at restaurants or strolling amongst stands selling sweets and ice cream late into the evening*

# A Day in the Life of an IPO



Inspector Samuel Bentil is a Ghanaian police officer serving as an Individual Police Officer (IPO) with AMISOM. Bentil has been in law-enforcement for 23 years. Somalia is not his first peacekeeping mission.

“In 2001, I served in Kosovo as a desk officer and worked my way up to become a patrol officer and later deployed at the Lebanon- Kosovo border as an investigation officer,” he says.

While serving in Kosovo, Insp. Bentil was given the additional role of escorting Serbian officials crossing into Albanian territory.

“I did this for 13 months and then went back to Ghana to my former position, I had not seen my country or my family in the time that I was serving in Kosovo so home sounded great at that time. It was tough, but at the end of the day and the mission, as the Police, we did accomplish a lot, and it was satisfying to be part of the team that made a difference in Kosovo,” he adds.

Insp. Bentil transferred his expertise to Somalia on 21st September 2012 as part of the 142 IPOs serving with AMISOM. The first IPOs arrived during intense fighting, at a time when the Somali Government and

AMISOM only controlled 30 percent of the capital.

The IPOs are posted in 14 team sites and cover 17 police stations in Mogadishu where they work with station managers to help them meet internationally-recognized standards of policing.

IPOs also serve as mentors, trainers and advisors to the Somali Police Force (SPF) on a variety of issues like human resource management, personal financial management and administration.

Insp. Bentil was initially stationed

at the Aden Abulle Airport where he supported and coached SPF officers on techniques for maintaining law and order at the airport.

“My duty at the airport included assessing the number of Somali Diaspora returnees from the different countries, the number of flights landing at the airport per day, on humanitarian flights and even military choppers,” he says.

Six weeks after arriving at the airport, Insp. Bentil was made the Deputy Team Leader of the Information Validation/ Intelligence Formation Unit. The unit is charged with gathering intelligence on insurgents and criminal gangs in order to help the SPF thwart impending attacks.

“We work with not only SPF, but also civilians who act as informants and they help us in getting information on suspected Al Shabaab activities and gather intelligence on attacks on AMISOM or civilians after which we do the report and send it to the right officials who take action,” Insp. Bentil explains. “Sometime we have been able to stop impending attacks targeted at civilians, government officials, embassies or even AMISOM troops, but at times, we have been given wrong information by the our informants.”

Insp. Bentil says the main challenge however, remains the relatively few numbers of IPOs in Somalia. But that might be resolved soon, which will give the opportunity for deployment outside Mogadishu.

“AMISOM police is planning to deploy in Sector 2 and 3 within the next quarter of the year to reactivate the police work in these areas that have been neglected. When we arrive there, we shall reorganize and see how we can change the policing in that area. By the second half of this year, we should be able to cover all of the Sectors in Somalia with AMISOM police,” Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner Benson Oyo-Nyeko confirms.

The deployment of IPOs like Insp. Bentil marks a significant milestone in the long journey to restore the rule of law in Somalia.

In April 2013, 197 Somali Police Officers graduated in specialized Public Order Management training after completing a three months course in Djibouti, facilitated by the AMISOM Police Component. 182 men and 15 women Police Officers successfully graduated from the training course and are now deployed in various Somali police stations across Mogadishu.

Training the Somali Police Force (SPF) is one of the main mandates of the AU Police Component. Other tasks include advising, mentoring and monitoring the Somali Police Force with the aim of transforming the force into a credible and effective organization.

The AMISOM Training and Development department recently completed a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment (TNA) report that analyzed and reflected on the needs of the Somali Police Force. It is this analysis which was used to develop a training curriculum designed to train Somali Police Officers at all levels.

The department is currently involved in developing short and medium term plans and programmes for training new recruits and retraining old Somali Police Officers through refresher courses. As well as training, the department is involved in building partnerships with local and international organizations interested in rebuilding the capacity of the Somali Police Force.

“The AMISOM Police Training and Development Unit is responsible for developing a training curriculum that successfully trains both new recruits and old SPF members in all levels of Police work. Carrying out crash courses for existing members of SPF has been very beneficial, these Police officers have been out of work and training for a long time” said Police Training and Development Unit Coordinator, Dr Benjamin Kwasi Agordzo.

In 2013 alone, the AMISOM Police Component along with international partners have trained over 1000 Somali Police Officers, making this a successful year in the capacity building of the Somali Police Force.

“This year has been one of the best times for the AMISOM Training and Development Unit since we arrived in 2012. We are achieving great results and are happy with the developments. We hope transformation of the SPF continues to great heights,” added Dr Benjamin Kwasi Agordzo.

Just in the last a few months, 60 Somali Police Officers took part in Basic Criminal Investigation training while another 871 officers took part in Public Order Management training in Mogadishu’s General Kahiye training center. Currently, The AMISOM Police training unit is set to deliver more training courses in Community

Based Policing, Gender and Sexual Based Violence, Child Rights and Protection in Conflict and Post Conflict Environments as well as the highly anticipated Training of Trainers course that is set to develop the Somali Police to eventually deliver their own training.

Although the training unit has seen positive developments in the delivery of rule and law within Mogadishu, many challenges still face the Somali Police Force. The lack of Police uniform and basic facilities in Police stations still affects the work of many Somali Police Officers. AMISOM Police is still waiting for pending funds and the approvals of training projects, something that hinders the productivity of the training unit and the developments of the Somali Police Force.

With new trainees now back in Mogadishu and widely deployed across the capital, the Somali Police Force focus highly on maintaining security and building law and order throughout Mogadishu. Night and day police patrols as well as vigorous stop and search procedures in many parts of the fragile city have changed the lives of local citizens, letting people walk freely at night without fear of crime.



# Developing Local Capacity to Improve SECURITY



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watch video



# A 1000 WORDS

## AMISOM's Stabilisation Efforts



LEFT to RIGHT:  
AMISOM Formed Police Unit (FPU) from Nigeria  
at attention during a Medal Parade.

CENTER, LEFT to RIGHT:  
Recruits in Mogadishu's new Fire Department  
being training by AMISOM.



ABOVE, LEFT to RIGHT:  
AMISOM Police distribute food  
donations to blind IDPs / Patients  
admitted in Merka Hospital.





ABOVE, LEFT to RIGHT:  
Father holds child suffering from acute watery diarrhea in Beletweyne Hospital / Uganda FPU officer patrolling in Mogadishu's K4 area.

# A 1000 WORDS

Engaging the Diaspora





### AMISOM Engages UK Diaspora

During the Conference, AMISOM held a consultative meeting from 9th to 11th May with representatives of the Somali Diaspora in the United Kingdom. AMISOM representatives organised the event to hear their views on the Six Pillars set out by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for the country, and discuss ways to garner more involvement by Diaspora in the Peace Process

Ambassador Annadif asked members of the UK's Somali community to find ways of contributing further to the country's reconstruction during his opening address.



# Making Their Voices Heard



Maryam Qasim



Maluka Abdulkadir



Somali women have shown great resilience over the last two decades and are now poised to play an even more critical role in the country's recovery and development.

Women like Maluka Abdulkadir, aren't merely talking about taking part in directing national affairs, she's leading by example. Her position as Senior Advisor for National Stabilization in the Somali Federal Government is not only an inspiration to other women, it's a tremendous platform for promoting women's rights.

"It's important that Somali women are allowed a sense of ownership, giving them a national vision," she said

during a recent interview about the role of women in the country's ongoing peacebuilding process.

Maluka Abdulkadir is the first to admit that traditions in Somalia's male-dominated society are not easily altered, however she believes that attitudes and perceptions are already changing.

Somali women now make up 18% of the nation's Parliament. Although the intended 30% representation was not achieved, it's a marked increase from the original 5% recorded under the previous Transitional Federal Government and has given women's advocates like Maluka Abdulkadir even greater impetus.

"Women want their children to have

the lives that they haven't had for the past 20 years. Somali mothers want to wake up in the morning knowing that their children will go to school and have a future."

The Gender Unit of the African Union Mission in Somalia has already shown a commitment to the issue of women's rights and gender-based violence. The Unit has been conducting training of AMISOM uniformed personnel in Baidoa and Beletweyne, as part of AMISOM's ongoing efforts to reinforce the troops' understanding of good gender practices; specifically the rights of women and girls. AMISOM's Special Representative Mahamat Saleh



*Women want their children to have the lives that they haven't had for the past 20 years. Somali mothers want to wake up in the morning knowing that their children will go to school and have a future*



Click to watch video

Annadif recently praised the work of the Gender Unit and reaffirmed the Mission's commitment to protect the rights of all Somalis, especially the most vulnerable.

"A secure environment free of hunger, violence and intimidation is a necessary precondition for the full enjoyment of human rights. AMISOM is helping the Somali government and security forces create such an environment within Somalia," he said.

And Maluka Abdulkadir's isn't the only example that shows that the voices of Somalia's women and girls are not increasingly being heard. Recently, the Federal Government earned international plaudits by nominating Fawzia Yusuf Haji Adan as the first female Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Maryam Qasim as Minister of Public Services.

As Somalia enters a new era, the women that cared for families, and formed the bedrock of society during the trauma of war, can not be left behind. AMISOM stands ready to further support the realization of a truly equitable state for men and women within Somalia - where all members of society being called upon to join hands in seeking a peaceful and prosperous future.



# AMISOM Troops in Beletweyne

Located some 300 kilometers from the capital Mogadishu, Beletweyne is Somalia's fifth largest city. The first thing to notice upon landing, is the newly refurbished airstrip, which is located in the midst of vast drylands as far as the eyes could see. The airstrip now receives both domestic and UN flights at least twice a week, bringing with it a renewed flow of trade, domestic visitors and humanitarian aid.

Beletweyne was under the control of extremist group al Shabaab until December 31, 2011, when members of the Ethiopian Defense Force working with the then Transitional Federal Government (TFG), and pro-government militia groups ousted the al Shabaab. In September 2012, soldiers from Djibouti serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), arrived and took over security operations. Today Beletweyne

is secured by a combined force of the the Somali National Security Forces, AMISOM's Djiboutian contingent and the Ethiopian Defence Forces (ENDF).

Beletweyne, located in the fertile Hiraan region, is a critical trading hub for the entire country. Animals from the Beletweyne Livestock Market are shipped to Mogadishu, Bosaso, Berbera for domestic consumption and export to the Gulf States. AMISOM's presence in the area, and support to the Somali National Army, have made it possible now for entrepreneurs to resume their business activities after years of brutality and unlawful taxation by al Shabaab scared them off.

The AMISOM troops have completed training over 500 former pro-government militia fighters - that have now been integrated into the Somali National Army - in IED (Improvised Explosive Device) detection and

demining, first aid and quick response, tactical driving as well as communications. They are now training a second batch of 500 former militia members as their contribution towards rebuilding Somalia's National Army.

AMISOM's goal is that eventually the Somali National Security Forces will be sufficiently trained and equipped to protect the population on their own.

The Djiboutian contingent are fondly referred to as 'hiil walaal' which means 'brother, supporter or helpmeet' by Beletweyne's residents, for their role in repulsing sporadic attacks by al Shabaab, resolving clan disputes, providing humanitarian assistance and promoting commercial activity.

"The stop-and-search procedures conducted by AMISOM troops in public locations throughout Beletweyne have improved the confidence of the local community, opening the hearts



*One year after the arrival of the Djiboutian troops, Beletweyne town centre is bustling with activity as its citizens continue to gain more and more confidence every day that their dreams and prayers for hope and prosperity in their city and country becomes a reality*

and mind of youth militia to the possibility of change and reform” said Colonel Osman Dubad, AMISOM’s Djiboutian Contingent Commander.

One reason the local population is so fond of the AU troops is because last September, most of the people at the Eljalley IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Camp lost their homes when heavy rains led to severe floods in and around Beletweyne. AMISOM helped evacuate affected families to dry land and have since been providing security and clean water to approximately 400 people camped at Eljalley. The troops also regularly donate food and other supplies to the IDPs from their own stores.

Also within the AMISOM Djiboutian contingent, a small female task force conducts a variety of important roles that cater to female troops and civilians. The team consists

of eight women who specialise in social affairs, health care and military and administration training for government troops. The group also conducts routine stop-and-search operations in public areas of Beletweyne including the airport, hospital and local police station and also provides escort and security services to visiting Government and UN personnel throughout the city.

Fatuma Moumin Dallen, Chief of the Women’s Unit talks about the mission and the work the AMISOM female troops do on a day-to-day basis.

“We have a great duty to the Somali people as our brothers and sisters. We speak the same language and share the same culture and faith so they appreciate our presence here [in Beletweyne] and understand the work we are trying to do to achieve lasting peace and stability in Somalia” says Fatuma.

One year after the arrival of the

Djiboutian troops, Beletweyne town centre is bustling with activity as its citizens continue to gain more and more confidence every day that their dreams and prayers for hope and prosperity in their city and country becomes a reality.



# Fighting for Peace Through Art Music & Poetry

Somalis are well known for their extensive oral culture. This literary tradition is passed on from generation to generation through the composition of poems, prolific use of metaphors - and the spinning of tales around themes like wisdom and bravery by grandmothers to wide-eyed children, huddled around fires.

Even today, small groups of Somali men or women are often seen gathered in crowded tea houses engaged in debates around politics, nationalism or business ventures. This rich culture has often transformed ordinary civilians into great poets, influential literary figures and opinion shapers who have had a huge impact on society at large.

Since the early 20th century, Somali poetry and literature have been used as a means to win the hearts and minds

of local people in relaying messages of war and peace. Before the civil war, the buzzing culture and arts scene in Mogadishu played an important role in Somali politics and activism as musicians and poets used the stage to rally popular support against regimes they considered oppressive. Notable literary giants like Nuruddin Farah paid the ultimate price of exile from their homeland for their work.

But Mogadishu is experiencing a renaissance evidenced by the organisation of country's first music festival held in over 20 years. The series of events dubbed "The Somali Sunrise Concert" was organised by Kenyan-based Somali hip-hop group WaayahaCusub. Their aim was to persuade Somali youth, the main actors during internal conflicts, "to turn away from the gun and peacefully resist extremism".

The group is openly critical of anti-Al Shabaab and is made up of exiled artists whose families fled the civil war in the 90s. They had never performed in Somalia before, but not for lack of trying. WaayahaCusub that loosely translates as 'New Dawn' is headed by rapper and songwriter Shiine Ali. The group has withstood numerous challenges like death threats and even assassination attempts. But the improvements in security in Mogadishu made possible by the Somali National Security Forces and African Union troops, allowed them to stage the inaugural concert.

The popular group was joined by socially-conscious artists from seven different countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the United States.

"The reason we came to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu was to create a music





*The insightful pieces that depict the values of peace and express messages of hope, democratic change and unity, are currently displayed in high traffic areas of Mogadishu for all to see*

festival on peace, and stage them in various parts of the city. We are a large group from several countries in pursuit of peace for Somalia through the arts,” Shiine Ali explained.

The Al Qaeda affiliated terror group, Al Shabaab had outlawed all art, sports and other form of entertainment from 2009, bringing the cultural sector and the Somali way of expressing their identity, to a halt.

Earlier this year, artists from Mogadishu’s Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD) created over 20 paintings dedicated to Somalia’s dramatic recent changes in politics, celebrating the arrival of the newly elected Federal Government of Somalia. In the Shabaab era of Mogadishu, artists from the CRD made their masterpieces in secret after the founder of the organisation and patron of the arts, Abdulkadir Yahya

Ali was murdered in his home. The insightful pieces that depict the values of peace and express messages of hope, democratic change and unity, are currently displayed in high traffic areas of Mogadishu for all to see.

“In the beginning, our main goal was getting the artists together in a safe environment where they could do their work. They wanted to engage with the local community using their talent, something that they have not done for a while due to the Al Shabaab control. Now, the artists have a platform to work and meet other artists. More importantly, their work is engaging the local community and persuading them to make choices about their environment, their political and security struggles as well as future prospects,” continued Yahya.

Al Shabaab continues to targeted entertainers and journalists but that hasn’t stopped initiatives like Geediga Nabada or ‘The Peace Caravan’ a 20-strong group of Somali artists, musicians and poets that came together two years ago. They tour Somalia encouraging communities to embrace peace and dialogue.

As security returns to Mogadishu and beyond, the hope is that more musicians and artists will emerge or return home to enrich the country’s cultural and entertainment scene with the support and blessing of their government.



# Linking Mogadishu to Baidoa



In April this year Somali government forces with the support of African Union Troops successfully completed the last leg of a 241-kilometer advance from Mogadishu to Baidoa. The advance was the first of its kind as it linked the two key cities and open up a key supply route.

The troops had advanced from Buur-Hakba, where they had set up base in late February.

The operation was highly significant because it means that AMISOM and government forces can now operate



*Al-Shabaab has not just withdrawn, they are afraid, they could not withstand our fighting power and that shows that the al-Shabaab does not have the power to face our forces*

between Mogadishu and Baidoa in the west, Merka on the south west and Jowhar in the north with relative ease.

The strategic town of Buur-Hakba, located 64 kilometres east of Baidoa, was a meeting point for the insurgents to plan attacks against government forces, AMISOM and the Somali population.

The extremist group also used the town to extort illegal revenues from residents as well as others in the surrounding area.

“First of all Al Shabaab is losing the

support of the population, it has no support of the population at all, they have no supplies, we have dominated all the areas where it has been collecting taxes, where they have been using the seaport and all that, we are now in control of those areas. The civilians are behind us,” said Lieutenant Connell Edson Muhanguzi, an AMISOM Battle Group Commander who was on the scene.

Brigadier General Ibrahim Yarow of the Somali National Army also praised

the skill and courage of both the Somali and AMISOM forces.

“Al-Shabaab has not just withdrawn, they are afraid, they could not withstand our fighting power and that shows that the al-Shabaab does not have the power to face our forces,” he said shortly after entering Buur-Hakba.

The advance reopened the last 60-kilometer stretch of the 241-kilometer road linking the capital to Baidoa.

# AMISOM Hospitals Open Their Doors



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watch video

Somalia's healthcare infrastructure suffered the brunt of the civil war as health centres became makeshift shelters for Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The country's medical workforce was almost wiped out.

This lack of access to clinical or preventative services has had devastating effects. Somalia has some of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, and thousands of infants and children die each year from easily preventable diseases and conditions like pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and measles.

It was against this backdrop that the African Union troops arrived in Somalia in 2007. With the clear

mandate of supporting peace, the African Union Mission in Somalia was immediately faced with the challenge of providing healthcare to thousands of civilians who showed up at their doorsteps.

AMISOM hospitals that were initially set up to take care of injured troops opened their doors to civilians who flock to them in large numbers.

The Mission's Out Patient Departments (OPD) Level 2, for example, is located inside the AMISOM Base Camp in Mogadishu and opens to civilians three times a week. During those three days, hundreds of civilians travel from far and wide and line up for hours for much needed medical attention.

From fresh trauma wounds to malaria and waterborne diseases, the AMISOM hospital treats a wide range of conditions completely free of charge. Since its opening, the hospital has treated thousands of patients in Mogadishu including those who have been evacuated from other parts of Somalia.

A second OPD is operated out of the Mogadishu University which also serves as the headquarters of the Mission's Burundian Contingent. The Level 1 Hospital which is located at the AMISOM main camp offers specialized treatment and conducts surgeries if needed. Though it mainly serves AMISOM and Somali government personnel, it also receives civilian



patients every Monday and Thursday.

In Baidoa, the healthcare infrastructure isn't much different from the capital's. The regional hospital only has one doctor on site and he receives an average of 60 patients a day. Although the hospital is meant to have a main theatre, casualty, laboratory, pharmacy and infants' unit, the doctor can only attend to common ailments such as malaria, typhoid and salmonella. Most serious cases are often referred to the AMISOM doctors at their Baidoa base.

In Sector 2's Kismayo, AMISOM troops have continued to help evacuate serious cases of injury or sickness to Dhobley where AMISOM medics

are available and well-equipped. Though the Kismayo main hospital is running, there is a shortage of doctors. AMISOM troops have - on many occasions - treated and cared for civilians.

In the central city of Beletweyne, the heavy rains that begun in late March were welcomed initially as they eased the dry weather conditions that had persisted for months. But soon after they ravaged the area, hundreds were displaced and exposed them to water-borne diseases. At least six people died in March and 367 others were admitted following an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea. AMISOM troops from the Djiboutian contingent stepped

in immediately and facilitated the relocation of the affected population to higher ground. They also provided medical care to the seriously affected.

The African Union troops working in all sectors of Somalia have not only improved security but their field hospitals and medical personnel continue to offer much-needed medical services to the civilian population.

The Somali government is also expanding its capabilities by injecting fresh blood into the healthcare sector. In late March, a new Health Sector Strategic Plan was launched. It aims for every Somali citizen to have access to basic health care by 2016.

# Sierra Leonean Troops join AMISOM in the fight for peace





Click to watch video

The long-awaited deployment of Sierra Leone troops into Somalia began in April, bringing to five the number of countries that have contributed troops to the AU Mission in Somalia.

An advance team of 200 troops from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, Leone Battalion 1 touched down in Wajir, a town in north-eastern Kenya and begun making their way across the border into southern Somalia to deploy alongside the Kenyan contingent. The rest of the infantry battalion soon followed.

Sierra Leone becomes the first West African nation to deploy armed forces to Somalia. The Sierra Leoneans form AMISOM's fifth national contingent, after the Burundian, Djiboutian, Kenyan and Ugandan contingents.

After a civil war that lasted from 1991 to 2002, Sierra Leone has worked at transforming its army into a professional force that is now capable of contributing to international peacekeeping efforts. The battalion strong team that the RSLAF is sending to Somalia will be the largest-ever deployment of its troops since the war. Sierra Leone sent 100 troops to the UN/AU mission in Darfur.

The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Mahamet Saleh Annadif, welcomed the troops saying their integration into AMISOM signified the commitment felt across the continent to stabilizing Somalia.

"I am confident that their involvement will be invaluable in consolidating security in south central Somalia. The contributions made by these African countries for our Somali brothers and sisters are an indication of the importance of this mission to global and regional security," he said.

The deployment of the RSLAF fulfills a two-year pledge made in December 2010. Bidding the troops farewell from Freetown, the Sierra Leonean President said it was part of the country's "contribution to global peace."

"You are about to embark upon a great journey, a journey of peace, a journey of charitable gallantry, a journey to showcase how a transformed nation and its transformed military can be a force for democracy, peace, and reconciliation," President Ernest Bai

Koroma told the departing troops in apparent acknowledgement of the fact the country had itself played host to a peacekeeping force following its 11-year civil war.

The troops deployed after more than 12 months of preparation supported by the US Africa Contingency Operations and Training Assistance programmes which provided the necessary equipment and conducted rigorous mission-specific training.

In the last two years, AMISOM troops in support of the Federal Government of Somalia have pushed Al Qaeda affiliated Al Shabaab terrorists from much of south-central Somalia, creating the conditions for the process of political reconciliation and economic revival to proceed in earnest. Over the period, Somalia has successfully ended years of transitional governments and inaugurated a new and more representative political order. Economic activity has picked up and its cities have been transformed from war zones into construction sites as thousands return to rebuild their homes and businesses.

*The contributions made by these African countries for our Somali brothers and sisters are an indication of the importance of this mission to global and regional security*



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