

AMISOM REVIEW

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MARCHING ON



Message from the SRCC

As we face the serious global public health threat of the coronavirus disease, AMISOM has been working with several partners in developing appropriate responses to protect the health and well-being of AMISOM staff and the people of Somalia against Covid-19.

We have set up a Task Force with the fundamental objective of guiding our response to this unprecedented pandemic while, importantly, ensuring that we continue to deliver on the mandate to bring peace and security to Somalia.

Against this difficult and fast evolving pandemic, I am pleased to report that AMISOM is on track to accomplish set objectives. We have made great strides in fulfilling our mandate, and in supporting efforts to restore peace and security in Somalia. At the end of February, we reduced troop numbers by 1 000, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2472 (2019). All five AMISOM troop-contributing countries have abided by the requirement and implemented the reduction on a pro-rata basis.

Even as we implement the phased drawdown, military operations against terrorists continue unabated. Indeed, on 16 March, AMISOM troops, supporting the Somali National Army (SNA), carried out a joint military offensive and liberated the bridge town of Jannale in Lower Shabelle, from al-Shabaab. I salute the brave men and women of AMISOM and the SNA who made this military operation successful.

The liberation of Jannale is part of the objectives of the Somalia Transition Plan, whose implementation commenced in July 2019 and will conclude in December 2020. Our goal in this phase is to enhance coordination and ensure the operational readiness of the Somali Security Forces, which are central to the AMISOM exit strategy.

Also, we welcome the recent announcement by the international financial institutions – the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, to the effect that Somalia has made progress in qualifying for debt relief. We believe that this will enable the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to implement reforms that will positively impact the country's Comprehensive Approach to Security.

I wish everyone continued good health and safety as together we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira

Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia (SRCC)

We have set up a Task Force with the fundamental objective of guiding our response to this unprecedented pandemic while, importantly, ensuring that we continue to deliver on the mandate to bring peace and security to Somalia.

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Female Somali Police officers take part in celebrations to mark the International Women's Day held in Mogadishu, Somalia on 8 March 2020.

Photo | AMISOM

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Bulletin Board



[14-15]
February

The AMISOM senior leadership team underwent a two-day leadership induction training on peace support operations. The training, held at the mission headquarters in Mogadishu, was conducted by a team of officials from the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, and the Secretariat for the Training for Peace Programme. The interactive training aimed to enable the senior leadership team to capitalise on gains made and the delivery of the AMISOM mandate.



[6]
March

As Ghana marked 63 years of independence, AMISOM hailed the country's contribution to global and continental peace efforts including Somalia. Ghanaian peacekeepers serving under AMISOM held a ceremony to celebrate the country's independence anniversary. In Somalia, Ghana supports African Union-led efforts to restore peace and stability. Ghana has deployed police and military personnel under AMISOM, while several Ghanaians work in the UN Mission.



[14]
March

AMISOM concluded a week-long induction training for 25 newly deployed Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and Sierra Leone. The induction training is designed to familiarise the officers on Human Rights, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) awareness, gender awareness, concepts of operations, AMISOM Police mandate, United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) Security Architecture, community policing and Somali culture, among other topics.

Bulletin Board

[14]
February



Thirty-four AMISOM staff officers attended a week-long induction to familiarise with the peacekeeping mission. The induction aimed to orientate the officers on the mission's mandate, objectives, and other issues essential to their one-year tour of duty. Topics covered included the mandate of AMISOM, code of conduct, standard operating procedures, child protection, military operations framework, rules of engagement, Somali culture, the law of armed conflict, gender, conflict-related sexual violence, human rights, and explosive hazard awareness.

[17]
February



AMISOM honoured 28 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) for their dedicated service to the mission during their year-long deployment in Somalia. The officers from Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia received medals and certificates at a send-off ceremony. AMISOM Police Commissioner, AIGP Augustine Magnus Kailie, urged the officers to utilise the knowledge gained while in AMISOM, for personal growth and improvement of communities in their respective countries.

[3]
February



AMISOM military and police officers, army chiefs from AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), and Somali security forces met to discuss future operations and implementation of the draw down. The military bosses met in Mogadishu, Somalia as a follow up to the high-level Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) meeting earlier in Kampala, Uganda.

Bulletin Board

[2]
February



AMISOM sector commanders met to discuss the planned reduction of AMISOM military personnel in line with recommendations by the UN Security Council. The meeting, held in Mogadishu, sought to enable the commanders across the various sectors in Somalia, to agree on operational matters, develop strategies for operations and agree reduce personnel without jeopardising the security gains so far.

[9]
January



AMISOM awarded medals to 160 police officers from Nigeria who had completed a year-long tour of duty in Somalia. Deployed to Mogadishu and Beletweyne in HirShabelle State, the officers provided escort and protection services; training and assisting the Somali Police Force (SPF) in public order management and securing key government installations and high-level events.

Bulletin Board

[11]
January



AMISOM and Denmark, donated an assortment of office furniture to five police stations in Southwest State of Somalia as part of AMISOM support to aid operational efficiency of the police to better serve the public. The assortment of chairs, filing cabinets and tables will benefit Afgoye, Marka, Baidoa, Hudur and Bardaale police stations all in the Southwest State of Somalia. The donations came in handy for the remote police stations where the federal government plans to deploy more police officers.

[2-3]
February



Officials from the Federal Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism and AMISOM met to align joint messaging with the Federal Government of Somalia's (FGS) core narrative and showcase the progress in the country. The two-day meeting was attended by officials from the FGS, the federal Member States, and AMISOM. The meeting aimed to counter misleading information spread by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.

SOMALI NEWS

Liberating Jannale

On 16 March, AMISOM troops, in a joint military offensive with Somali National Army (SNA), successfully liberated the bridge town of Jannale from the Al-Shabaab terrorists.

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“The liberation of Jannale is a major win against terrorism in Somalia. This will destabilise the operations of Al-Shabaab who continue to destroy lives and properties. Increasingly, Somali Security Forces are taking the lead in efforts to degrade Al-Shabaab,” said Mulongo.

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Jannale, located about 90 km southwest of Mogadishu, had hitherto been the hub for the terrorist group's operations and activities that included targeted killings of innocent civilians and destroying property.

Speaking after the operations, the Sector One and Uganda Contingent Commander, Brig Richard Otto, commended both SNA and AMISOM troops on liberating the town.

The AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhune, described the operation as successful. Several terrorists were shot dead and others wounded in the operation.

Lt. Gen. Tigabu said, “AMISOM jointly with Somali Security Forces have minimised the threat posed by Al-Shabaab in the larger territory of Somalia hence their fighting capability has been reduced into small scale attacks on isolated targets.”

The Deputy Head of Mission for AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, congratulated SNA and AMISOM for their commitment to restoring peace, security and stability in Somalia.

“The liberation of Jannale is a major win against terrorism in Somalia. This will destabilise the operations of Al-Shabaab who continue to destroy lives and properties. Increasingly, Somali Security Forces are taking the lead in efforts to degrade Al-Shabaab,” said Mulongo.

The liberation of Jannale was in line with the revised AMISOM Concept of Operations (CONOPS 2018-2021) and the Somali Transition Plan.

Jannale becomes the latest territory to be liberated in Lower Shabelle region. It is part of the string of five strategic bridge towns that have been liberated in the last year. Other liberated towns include Sabiid-Anoole, Bariire, Awdheegley and Ceel Saliini.

READY TO DEFEND THE MOTHERLAND

On 12 March, a total of 198 newly recruited Somali police personnel graduated and are expected to boost ongoing efforts to maintain law and order in HirShabelle State.



HirShabelle State Police recruits march during a pass-out parade in Jowhar, Somalia on 12 March 2020.



Deputy President of Hirshabelle state, Ali Gudlawe Hussein interacts with police recruit a pass-out parade for Hirshabelle state police.

Trained by AMISOM police instructors, the police personnel, including 21 women, passed out at the Jowhar Police Academy.

This was the third batch of HirShabelle police recruits trained by AMISOM at the academy and have been deployed in Hiiran and Middle Shabelle regions. So far, AMISOM has trained a total of 600 police officers, including this batch. At the colourful ceremony, they displayed a simulation exercise including drills, self-defence, and alertness. The HirShabelle State Deputy President, Ali

Abdullahi Hussein, urged the new police personnel to cooperate with the public to defeat the terrorists.

“The police force should be friendly to the public to assist victims and apprehend criminals. They need to take action on terrorists and support efforts to restore peace and stability, which are essential for development,” Deputy President Hussein, told the recruits. The AMISOM Police Coordinating Officer for HirShabelle State, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Yuyi Mwala, was confident of the capacity

of the newly trained Somali police personnel. “We have delivered a good cadre of recruits,” said ACP Mwala. The HirShabelle Minister for Security, Mohamed Abdirahman Kheyre, thanked AMISOM and international partners including the European Union, United Kingdom, Germany, and UNOPS, for their support in building the capacity of the police force in Somalia.

“HirShabelle plans to train 800 officers. We will soon start recruiting two hundred more officers, and the preparations have been finalised,” said Minister Kheyre. One of the police graduates, Amran Ali Hussein, said he was ready to apply the skills and knowledge acquired to secure Somalia.

“I am ready to defend and serve my people and nation using my newly acquired skills,” said Amran. As part of its mandate, the AMISOM Police component trains, mentors, and advises the Somali Police Force (SPF) to help build their capacity and meet international policing standards. This is also contained in the Somalia Transition Plan.

DEPLOYING THE DARWISH

On 13 February, a total of three hundred Darwish trainees of the Somali Police Force have graduated at the General Kahiye Police Training Academy in Mogadishu after completing a month-long specialised training.



Somali Federal Darwish Police who are part of the Somali Police Force (SPF) march during the pass-out ceremony of a paramilitary training held at the General Kahiye Police academy, Mogadishu, Somalia.

The trainees were first trained in Djibouti for three months before undergoing a refresher programme at the police academy in January 2020. They were the first batch of 1 750 Darwish forces trained to secure population centres in liberated areas and newly liberated areas of Lower Shabelle region. The training covered combating terrorism, intelligence, patrols, stop and search techniques, human rights, community policing, criminal justice,

policing standards, gender, public order management, operations, convoy control and management, EOD and IED awareness.

At the pass out ceremony, the Somali Police Commissioner Maj. Gen. Abdi Hassan Mohamed, urged them to maintain discipline, be exemplary, and share knowledge and best practices among themselves.

"The Somali Police Force is undergoing



Somalia Police Commissioner Maj. Gen. Abdi Hassan Mohamed speaks during a pass-out ceremony for Darwish forces at General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

restructuring and reform – we have personnel at police stations across the federal member states – they include the Darwish forces, Birmad forces, Haramcad forces, and the Rapid Response Team. Our restructuring and reform exercise will enable us take charge of security," Maj. Gen. Abdi said.

Instructors from the AMISOM police component supported by the UN Police (UNPOL), the EU Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP), UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and the EU Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM) provided the training.

The Head of Mission for EUCAP, Chris Reynolds underscored the importance of the Darwish forces as frontline defence in liberated areas.

"The Darwish forces have been trained to bring civil authority to liberated areas. The army can clear and hold for a while, but eventually, you need local police to maintain law and order," said Reynolds.

The EUTM Commander, Brig. Gen. Antonello De Sio, highlighted the role played by EU instructors in the training of the Darwish forces.

"This training was an integrated approach between EU and AMISOM. It's been a pleasure for EUTM to take part in this joint activity," said Brig. Gen. De Sio.

The AMISOM Police Operations Coordinator, Daniel Ali Gwambal, said the Darwish trainees had acquired skills to support stabilisation efforts in the liberated areas.

"Darwish is a major component of the SPF in stabilisation under the Somalia Transition Plan. They will police recovered areas," Gwambal he said.

A Darwish trainee, Maida Shafeec Yussuf, was grateful for the skills acquired and on behalf of her colleagues, pledged their commitment to supporting the ongoing stabilisation efforts in Somalia.

"Our role is to maintain security, secure lives, and property against the enemy," Maida noted. She encouraged more women to join the police service.

TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In January, AMISOM held a two-day human rights training workshop for staff from line ministries of Southwest State in Baidoa.

The training, in collaboration with UNSOM Human Rights Office in Baidoa aimed to enable personnel in line ministries to promote and improve the protection of human rights. The training benefitted 27 Southwest State officials including 15 female participants from the ministries of Women and Human Rights Development, Justice and Internal Security. The AMISOM Human Rights Officer Ulrike Kahbila Mbuton, said the workshop was aimed at improving the skills of key staff of the ministries to enhance their capacity to protect the rights of the most vulnerable including women and children.

"It is our hope that the people who have participated in this training would also be able to exercise their duties within the ministry, sensitise people within their communities and respond appropriately wherever they encounter human rights violations," Mbuton said. The Director General of the Ministry of



Participants attend a two-day training on human rights for line ministries of the Southwest of Somalia in Baidoa

Women and Human Rights Development of Southwest State, Yusuf Abdikadir Mohamed, said the federal government was putting more emphasis on empowering and protecting the rights of vulnerable members of the community.

"The ministry of Women and Human Rights Development is working to ensure that every victim can access justice.

This can only be achieved through well trained and experienced staff.

With support from the human rights sections of AMISOM and UNSOM, we have managed to conduct several workshops and I hope these trainings will continue until staff of the ministry have the capacity," Mohamed said.

The AMISOM Protection Officer, Gloria Jaase, said the protection of children's rights in areas of conflict is very important.

"During this training, we emphasised on the need to protect the rights of children. This is very important, especially here in Somalia where we are dealing with children in armed conflict," said Jaase.

As part of the Somalia Transition Plan, AMISOM and partners are building the capacity of key Somali institutions so that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and federal Member States can assume responsibility of managing the country when AMISOM leaves.



Participants in a group photo with facilitators and senior officials at the end of a two-day training on human rights for line ministries of the Southwest of Somalia in Baidoa.



Lt. Col. Amin Mohamed Osman, the commander of police in Bay region awards a certificate to a Somali police officer at the end of a course on human rights for south West police officers in Baidoa, Somalia.

TRAINING SOUTH WEST POLICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Again, on 9 March, AMISOM concluded a 12-day training for 50 South West State police officers including ten female officers to equip them with knowledge to promote the observance of human rights.



South West police officers in a group photo with senior AMISOM police officers at the end of a course on human rights in Baidoa, Somalia on 09 March 2020. The training was organized and supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



South West police officers attend a course on human rights in Baidoa, Somalia on 09 March 2020. The training was organized and supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Superintendent of Police Thaimu Balie Sesay, the AMISOM Police Head of Training and Development for Southwest State said the training aimed to improve the capacity of the

police to safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable including women and children. "They will be able to observe the dignity and rights of individuals while executing their policing duties such as arrest,

detention, and everything relating to rights of an individual," said SP Sesay. The Commander of the Somali Police in Bay Region, Lt. Col. Amin Mohamed Osman, thanked AMISOM for giving SPF skills to help them execute their duties professionally.

Nurta Mohamed Hassan, one of the trainees stated that they had gained valuable skills and expertise that will help make difference in their relations with the community.

"We have learnt many lessons that will make (a) difference on our relations with the community when we go back to the field. I am grateful to AMISOM and happy to have attended this training," said Nurta.



The Deputy Head of the AU Mission in Somalia, Simon Mulongo, and the Mayor of Mogadishu and Governor of Banadir Region, Omar Mohamud Mohamed, cut the tape during the handover of the OPD section of the AMISOM base-camp to the Federal Government of Somalia in Mogadishu on March 16, 2020.

HANDING OVER OPD

On 16 March, AMISOM handed over the security responsibilities of a community near the Halane basecamp back to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS).

The handover is part of the Somalia Transition Plan, which is a gradual transfer of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces.

The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, handed over the community's security tools to the Governor of Banadir region, who is also the Mayor of Mogadishu, Omar Mohamud Mohamed, in the presence of the Somali Police Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Abdi Hassan Mohamed.

Commonly known as OPD (Out-Patient Department), the community is on the periphery of Halane basecamp. It is where AMISOM first established a health facility ten years ago to offer medical support to the Somali people.

Even after AMISOM established a Level Two hospital inside Halane, the OPD community retained its identity, and co-existed with AMISOM, growing from slightly over 20 residents to about 496 residents, and 52 shops.

"We are not abandoning this community," Mulongo said. "We are only handing over responsibility to the Somali federal government through the governor of Banadir. And as such, this community will continue to enjoy the amenities they were enjoying before. The generator is here, provided specifically for them, and will continue to be serviced by AMISOM supported by the United Nations Support office in Somalia (UNSOS). We will also continue to provide water to them."

Even after AMISOM established a Level Two hospital inside Halane, the OPD community retained its identity, and co-existed with AMISOM, growing from slightly over 20 residents to about 496 residents, and 52 shops.



The Deputy Head of AU Mission in Somalia, Simon Mulongo (Right), the Mayor of Mogadishu and Governor of Banadir Region, Omar Mohamud Mohamed (Left) and top Somali Police Force officials at the handover of the OPD section of the AMISOM base-camp to the Federal Government of Somalia in Mogadishu.

Also handed over to the Somali authorities were a security administration office block, guard towers, two 50 KVA power generators, metal detectors, and keys to the community's main gate, which was sealed off. The closure of the gate means access to the OPD community by AMISOM personnel and international staff is cut off.

Mulongo said that those who operated

shops within OPD would relocate to the designated Marine market.

The Mayor for Mogadishu, Mohamud Mohamed, said that in its early days, OPD provided invaluable medical support to the Somali people when they needed it the most, especially at a time when the country's medical system was in disarray due to terrorism.

"But this is not the first facility that

AMSIOM has handed over to the federal government, and we hope that such handover exercises will continue, so that Somalia can fully take care of its security responsibilities," he said.

In the past, AMISOM has handed over to the federal government the Somali National University, Mogadishu National Stadium, Jaalle Siyaad Military Academy and Warsheikh Forward Operating Base.



Workers seal off a main gate to the OPD section of the AMISOM base-camp using concrete barriers during the handover of the OPD to the Federal Government of Somalia in Mogadishu on 16 March, 2020.

ELECTORAL Matters

On 22 January, Somali politicians, election officials, civil societies and representatives of minority groups met in Mogadishu to discuss the representation and participation of women, youth and minority communities in the upcoming national elections.



Members of the Somali parliament, representatives of civil society organizations and members of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) gathered in Mogadishu to discuss Somalia's upcoming elections in Mogadishu on 22 January 2020. The forum was organized by civil society organizations with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia.

The town hall meeting, the fourth to be held in Mogadishu, was organised by Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), Somali Institute of Public Administration and Management (SIPAM) and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), with the support of AMISOM. Speaking at the opening of a panel discussion, the Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, called for a mass sensitisation to raise awareness among the populace, about the importance of participating in the electoral process. "The people need to know about the law related to elections, about the institutional arrangements for conducting elections. How will the minorities be elected, for example? We have to educate and inform people about how the election process will be

conducted. This means we must have an intense civic education," Mulongo said.

Participants engaged in vigorous discussions and candidly engaged with Members of Parliament and officials of the NIEC, on crucial issues particularly the draft electoral law.

Osman Muhidin Moalim, SONSA Chairman, called for further discussions on the draft electoral law, which is before a committee of the Upper House.

"We can brainstorm, discuss and agree on how best the election can be held so that we have a mutually agreed position," Mr. Osman said emphasising the need for the youth to come up with ideas that will guarantee their participation, that of women, and minorities. Ms. Zahra Mohamed Ahmed, the legal advisor for the Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) who spoke on behalf of Somali women urged political parties to register and also reiterated the need for both increased sensitisation and more women's representation. "The youth need to work with our lawmakers to find the best and easiest way to gain their rights. The reality is that the voice (power) is with the civil society and the Somali public," Ms. Zahra explained.

Ms. Sadia Adan Ali, who spoke on behalf of the youth said the youth in Somalia face a number of challenges including insecurity, unemployment and lack of opportunities however she urged them to take advantage of existing opportunities to increase their participation in politics. "The law has given us the youth an opportunity to elect and to be elected, upon attaining the minimum age of 18 years. We need to unite and take part in the ongoing political process," Ms. Sadia said. Said Hashi Warsame, a Commissioner in the NIEC, while responding to questions, noted that the role of the NIEC is purely supervisory. "As a Commission, we are governed by the laws passed by the Parliament. If there is an issue which is not provided for by the law or is not supported by the law like the issue of women representation, youth or any other special group, there is nothing that we can do as a commission," said Mr. Said. He encouraged Somali women to lobby to have their interests included in the draft bill before it was passed into law. Somalia is expected to go to the polls and the public are eager to know when and how the elections will be held. AMISOM, in close collaboration with the Somalia security forces, will play a crucial role of securing the election.



Members of the Somali parliament, representatives of civil society organizations and members of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) gathered in Mogadishu to discuss Somalia's upcoming elections in Mogadishu.

TRAINED TO TELL THEIR STORY

On 14 March, AMISOM concluded a week-long training in strategic communication and public management training for fourteen directors and senior officials of the Somali Federal Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

The training held in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, aimed to equip the senior management team from the ministry with skills that the country needs, especially in telling the story of Somalia's political, social, economic and security improvements to a global audience.

"The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism is key in giving visibility to the successes and improvements happening in Somalia", said Abdurahman Yusuf Al Adala, the Director General in the ministry.

"We are grateful for the cooperation and support of AMISOM over the years and this training of our staff is important in giving them a global perspective to be able to fully tell our story to the world."

Among other topics, the officers were taken through best practices in developing effective strategic communication plans against competing priorities; developing key messages for priority programmes and campaigns; conducting research and audience insight



Radio Africa Group Head of Content, Paul Ilado (in white shirt), in conversation with directors and senior officials from Somalia's Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in the newsroom of The Star newspaper 11 March 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya.

on communications implementation tactics; developing and keeping a communications master grid; and undertaking qualitative and quantitative research to inform communication strategies.

"What we are endeavouring to do is to

create awareness and knowledge to have these leaders become more strategic and be thought leaders towards the public affairs conversation and towards policy development in Somalia. I am sure that moving forward they will make a big change because they are instrumental in taking the government agenda to



Directors and senior officials of Somalia's Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism on a visit to Kiss FM, owned by Radio Africa Group on 11 March 2020. The officials were in Nairobi, Kenya, for a Public Management and Strategic Communications training.

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"We are grateful for the cooperation and support of AMISOM over the years and this training of our staff is important in giving them a global perspective to be able to fully tell our story to the world."

the public in Somalia,” said public management expert Anne Gichuhi. During her lecture, Gichuhi took the participants through the key aspects of public affairs management, public policy analysis, community relations, brand management and various simulations centred around building community relations.

As part of this training, the officers visited Radio Africa Group, which started operations 13 years ago and now publishes The Star newspaper, and owners of Kiss and Bamba TVs, and nine radio stations that include Kiss FM, Classic 105, Radio Jambo, 105.5 XFM and Gukena FM. The media company also runs a popular digital platform, called Mpasho. Here the team was met by the

executive team, including Managing Director, William Pike, Group Head of Content, Paul Ilalo, and Francis Mureithi, the News Editor, who spoke to them about the importance of establishing ties in order to ease the exchange of expertise, information and management tips.

“It’s in our interest to further this relationship and to grow it so that we are able to serve the interests of the people of Somalia and Kenya as best as we can.

On our part, we are willing to cooperate and to work with Somalia to tell the good stories. There is a lot more that happens in Somalia that doesn’t get told. We have platforms that can tell those stories and

we are hoping that at the end of this we will be able to establish necessary links to be able to tell these stories”, said Paul Ilado, the Group Head of Content at Africa Group, after taking the team through the newspaper, radio, digital, advertising, marketing and distribution departments of Radio Africa Group.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed expressed gratitude to AMISOM for organising the training, which he said had given them new perspectives.

“We had a good workshop, we exchanged ideas and when we go back to Somalia we will have the energy to execute our mandate as Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism staff.”



Radio Africa Group Managing Director William Pike (center), Head of Content Paul Ilado (In white shirt) in a meeting with directors and senior officials from Somalia’s Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism at Radio Africa Group, publishers of The Star newspaper 11 March 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya.

“It’s in our interest to further this relationship and to grow it so that we are able to serve the interests of the people of Somalia and Kenya as best as we can. On our part, we are willing to cooperate and to work with Somalia to tell the good stories.

TRAINING IN COMMUNITY POLICING



A Somali Police officer speaks during a capacity building training on community policing for Somali Police officers at General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu, Somalia on 22 February 2020.

In February, AMISOM completed a week-long training workshop to enhance the skills of the Somali Police in crime prevention through community policing.

The training, conducted at the Gen. Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu with support from the government of Italy, was attended by 25 Somali police officers. “The community policing concept bridges the gap between the police and the community. It will enhance engagement between the police and community to combat crime in the community,” said Mohamoud Yusif, the acting AMISOM Police Training Coordinator. The Deputy Director of Planning and Training in the Somali Police Force, Gen.

Mohamed Mohamud Mohamed, asked the trainees to apply the knowledge acquired to protect people's lives and property. “We have an enormous responsibility entrusted in us to protect and maintain the dignity of this nation. We are responsible for protecting the people, the nation, religion, and its resources. We should strive to maintain this trust,” said Gen. Mohamed. Topics covered during the weeklong training included community policing strategies, conflict resolution, legal frameworks of policing in Somalia,

professional standards and code of ethics, de-radicalisation and countering violent extremism, community engagement, protection of vulnerable groups, and gender issues in community policing. Sagal Abdinur Ahmed, a police officer with the SPF, said the training had equipped them with valuable knowledge on the importance of community policing. “As police officers, we must gain public trust through being disciplined and abiding by the code of conduct. This is important if we are to combat terrorism and protect the community,” he said.



Somali Police Force (SPF) officers attend on a capacity building training on community policing for Somali Police officers at General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

FOCUS ON OUR TROOPS

SECTOR ONE

Captured weapons



The Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia Ambassador Francisco Madeira (wearing a tie), hands over captured weapons to Head of SNA Armoury Gen. Hassan Sheikh Abdisamad, in Mogadishu on 27 February 2020.

On 27 February, AMISOM handed over to the Somali Federal Government weapons of war captured during operations against Al-Shabaab terrorists.

The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, symbolically handed over the weapons that included Rocket Propelled Grenade launchers, general-purpose machine guns and assault rifles.

Ambassador Madeira said the handover by AMISOM complied with United Nations procedures relating to the handling of small arms and light weapons. The UN Security Council mandates AMISOM to coordinate with the Somali

authorities and international partners to ensure safe and effective management and storage of captured weapons. Ambassador Madeira said, "This shows that we not only have the will, but we are making all efforts to comply with these resolutions."

On display were various weapons, part of a larger cache of captured small arms and light weapons, that will be handed over to Somali authorities.

"This is just a symbolic handover. We

have got stores the Somali authorities will access, see and ship the weapons for safe storage," Ambassador Madeira explained. The AMISOM Force Commander Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhune said AMISOM and Somali security forces were in the process of streamlining the procedure of handing over captured weapons.

"Recently, we had arms and ammunition recovered especially in Lower Shabelle, and the process for their hand over is ongoing," added Lt. Gen. Tigabu.



The Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the National Security Advisor to the President of Somalia, Abdi Said Muse Ali, and senior officers from AMISOM and Somali National Army (SNA), inspect captured weapons handed over to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), in Mogadishu on 27 February 2020.

The National Security Advisor to the President of Somalia, Abdisaid Muse Ali hailed the cooperation between AMISOM and Somali security forces, which has enabled success in operations against Al-Shabaab terrorists. "Al-Shabaab has evolved and now uses Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs),

instilling fear and extortion," noted Abdisaid. The contingent commander of AMISOM's Uganda forces, Brig Richard Otto, noted that the capture of weapons from Al-Shabaab is a tangible achievement from joint operations to degrade Al-Shabaab. "Al-Shabaab remains a threat to the

defenceless population, especially those who are in areas not controlled by AMISOM and the government security forces," noted Brig. Otto.

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Ambassador Madeira said, "This shows that we not only have the will, but we are making all efforts to comply with these resolutions."



Weapons captured by AMISOM on display during the handover event attended by senior officials from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and AMISOM in Mogadishu on 27 February 2020.



TAREHE SITA

On 6 February, Ugandan troops under AMISOM carried out a community sanitation exercise and free medical camp to commemorate the Armed Force's Day.

The day, also known as 'Tarehe Sita,' is marked annually to remember the day when the National Resistance Army led by Yoweri Museveni, launched an armed struggle to end misrule in Uganda.

The Ugandan AMISOM contingent celebrated the 39th 'Tarehe Sita' anniversary on the theme, "Consolidating the UPDF strategic partnership with the people to guard gains of liberation." Members of various communities living near the AMISOM basecamp in Mogadishu turned up in their numbers for free medical check-ups and treatment.

The contingent also cleaned the local Marine market. The contingent commander, Brigadier Richard Otto, explained that the clean-up exercise and medical camp was to strengthen relations with the civilian population around the Base Camp. "We came to Somalia in 2007 as part of AMISOM. We would have failed if we did not have the support of the community. We don't only fight Al-Shabaab but also

support the population. This is just but one of the many engagements we do under civil-military coordination," said Brig Otto.

Capt. Dr. Gideon Nuwagira, the Commanding Officer of the AMISOM Level Two hospital, said the medical camp provided out-patient treatment, eye care, laboratory, dental, and counselling services.

"In all our operations, we work with civilians and we appreciate their support. As we celebrate 'Tarehe Sita', it is important to connect to the communities," Capt. Dr. Nuwagira said. The residents who turned up for treatment thanked AMISOM for the support.

Ayaan Mohamud Warsame, a resident, said, "I received medicine to treat heartburns which has been affecting me for a while. I am grateful for the support." Another resident, Jaluo Ibra, noted, "People are coming in numbers to undergo check-up and get prescriptions and that is commendable."

Later, the AMISOM senior leadership

attended a commemoration event at the Uganda Embassy in Somalia. In his remarks, Ambassador Prof. Sam Turyamuhika urged AMISOM troops to cooperate with communities and maintain discipline.

"The hallmark of the NRA (UPDF) was discipline without fear or favour, especially in the pursuit of excellence and success. I urge you never to lose sight of this," said Ambassador Turyamuhika.



The AMISOM Uganda contingent commander, Brig. Richard Otto, speaks at an event to mark Tarehe Sita in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Uganda's Ambassador to Somalia, Prof. Sam Turyamuhika, speaks at an event to mark Tarehe Sita in Mogadishu, Somalia.



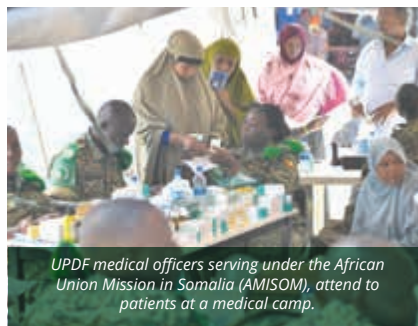
UPDF soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), take part in a clean-up exercise to mark Tarehe Sita in Mogadishu, Somalia.



A UPDF officer serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), distributes footballs to children.



Children play with balls distributed by UPDF soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



UPDF medical officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), attend to patients at a medical camp.

SECTOR TWO

Sector 2 command HANDOVER



The outgoing commander of the AMISOM Kenyan contingent, Brig. Dickson Rutto (left) and the incoming contingent commander, Brig. Paul Njema (right) exchange documents during a ceremony to mark the command handover and takeover at the AMISOM Sector II Headquarters in Dhobley, Somalia on 10 February 2020.

On 10 February, Brigadier General Dickson Rutto, officially handed over office to the incoming Sector Two Commander, Brigadier General Paul Njema.

A ceremony to mark the command handover and takeover took place today at the AMISOM Sector II Headquarters in Dhobley, under the responsibility of the Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF).

Brig. Rutto was commander of the eighth AMISOM KDF contingent during the one-year tour of duty in Somalia. Brig. Njema will oversee the operations of the ninth AMISOM KDF contingent for the next year. During the ceremony, Brig. Rutto and Brig. Njema expressed confidence in the

pursuit of peace and stability in Somalia. Brig. Rutto thanked his officers, men, and women for the teamwork, which ensured success in operations, and timely decision making.

Brig. Rutto noted that his contingent had initiated several Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects. He urged the contingent to complete the projects for the benefit of the troops and the local community.

"We have improved roads, constructed water points, and provided medical support to our Somali brothers and sisters. We know this can only be

improved," he noted.

He also noted that AMISOM KDF troops had successfully degraded the terrorists in the area and called for further degradation of the enemy's activities to secure Somalia and Kenya.

Brig. Njema saluted his predecessor for the accomplishments and pledged to build on the achievements of the outgoing contingent.

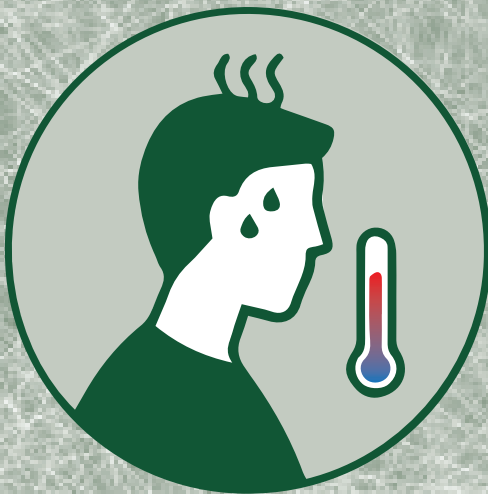
"We shall not stop until the AMISOM mandate of achieving peace is achieved," said Brig. Njema.



The outgoing commander of the AMISOM Kenyan contingent, Brig. Dickson Rutto (left) hands over the African Union flag to the incoming commander, Brig. Paul Njema during a ceremony to mark the command handover and takeover at the AMISOM Sector II Headquarters in Dhobley, Somalia.

THREE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



Source: World Health Organisation

HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF?

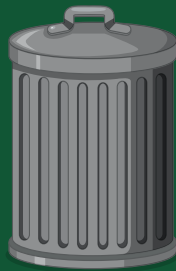
Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze

or

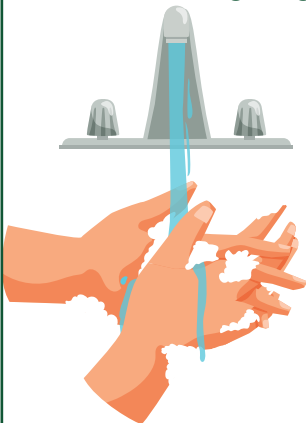
Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve not your hands



Put your used tissue in the waste basket

Wash your Hands

after coughing or sneezing



Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds

or

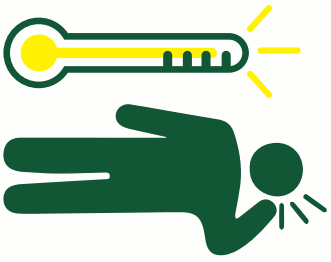
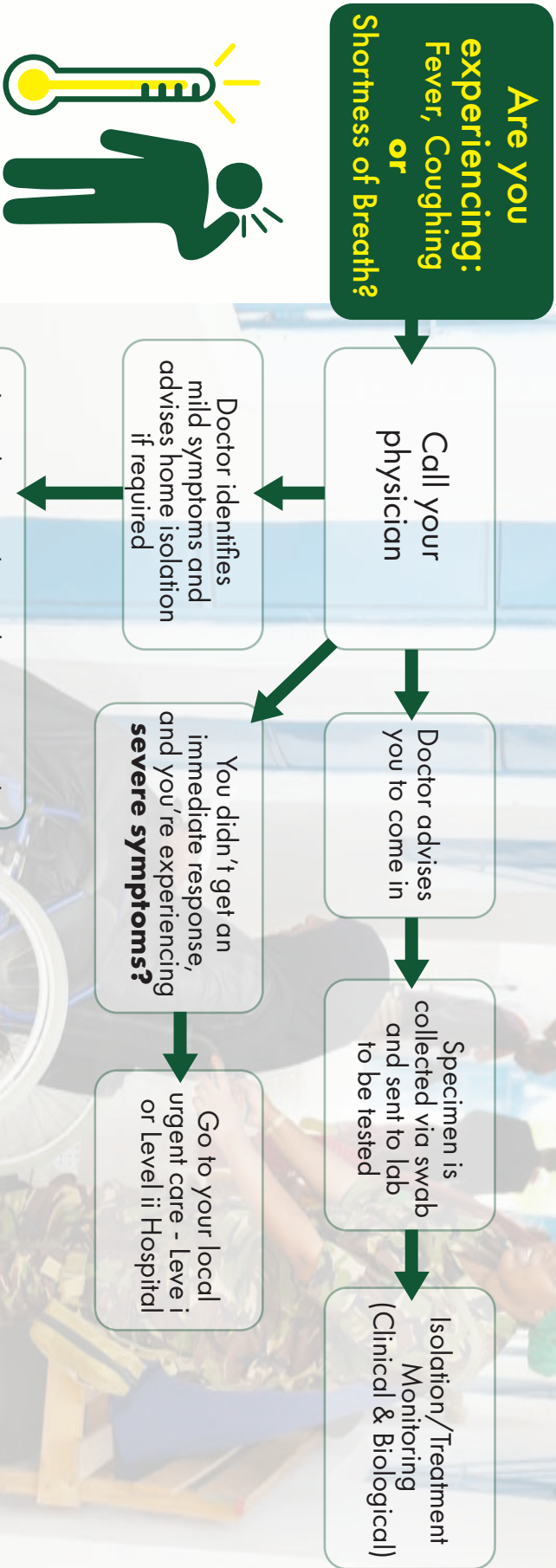
Clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner



You may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others

Stop the spread of germs that make you and other sick!

DO I NEED TO GET TESTED FOR COVID-19?



MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS



Temperature

Body temperature screening may be carried out at the AMISOM gates and entrances.



Hand sanitizers will be dispensed at all AMISOM buildings. Washing basins have also been provided. Please use them.



Visit the AMISOM Clinic only when it is absolutely necessary to reduce overcrowding and unnecessary exposure.



Number of participants at meetings should be reduced with adequate spacing between participants. The option of video conferencing should be considered always.



If you have symptoms of fever, cough, difficulty in breathing or other respiratory symptoms, whether you have travelled or not, call the Medical Dr. in your Sector (do not go there).

AMISOM donates food items to 100 families in Dhobley



Residents of Dhobley, Lower Jubba region of Somalia, receive food items donated by Kenyan soldiers serving under African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on January 02 2020.

In January, AMISOM Kenyan troops distributed foodstuffs to address the nutritional needs of vulnerable communities living in Dhobley town, southern Somalia.

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The distribution carried out by the contingent as a civil-military cooperation initiative, benefited at least 100 families and aimed to foster good relations with residents of Dhobley.

The distribution carried out by the contingent as a civil-military cooperation initiative, benefited at least 100 families and aimed to foster good relations with residents of Dhobley.

Dhobley, located in Jubbaland State of Somalia, lies within an area of responsibility under the Kenya Defence Forces serving under AMISOM.

Col. Hassan Chala, the Deputy Sector Two Commander, who handed over the relief items on Thursday, explained that donation was a gesture in support of internally displaced people and refugee returnees. Also, the assistance comes after recent heavy rains that caused flash floods in the region.

He explained that AMISOM has, in the past, conducted free medical camps for the community, and pledged to continue the support.

"We have been able to donate foodstuffs to about one hundred people. The support comes after recent heavy rains that caused flooding and displaced people who are now hungry and need food," he noted.

The Dhobley town Deputy Administrator in charge of community service, Mukhtar Ahmed Sahal, hailed the AMISOM Kenyan contingent for the assistance to the community.

"AMISOM's support to the vulnerable population in 2019 was enormous. They are our brothers with whom we live in Dhobley and we thank them for their timely support," said Mukhtar. Maryan Muhumed Ibrahim, who received rice and cooking oil, said the AMISOM donation was timely, and the community requires further assistance.

"We treasure the support they give us; which is always timely. We are happy for the support and hope they will continue because the need of the population is big," she added.

Force Commander visits the frontline in Dhobley

In January, the AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma visited troops on the frontline in Dhobley town near the Somali-Kenyan border to check on their welfare and operation plans.

The AMISOM Sector Two comprises of Kenyan Defence Force who jointly operate with the Somali National Army (SNA) troops based in Jubaland State.

Lt. Gen. Yilma was briefed by the commanders on achievements recorded in line with the revised Concept of Operations (CONOPS), which guides the operations of the mission, and the Somalia Transition Plan, which outlines how AMISOM will gradually hand over security responsibility to the Somali Security Forces.

The Force Commander thanked the troops and their commanders for holding the fort and praised them for their bravery and service to Somalia.

"I came to check on you and see for myself the good work that you are doing for AMISOM and Somalia. The enemy is losing ground, but we need to maintain the pressure in order to completely stabilise this country and hand it over to the Somalis. After we finish our job, history will remember us for our noble



AMISOM Force Commander, Lieutenant General Tigabu Yilma is received by AMISOM Sector 2 Commander Brig. Gen. Dickson Ruto and other officers during a visit to AMISOM sector 2 troops in Dhobley


effort of bringing peace in Somalia," Force Commander Yilma said. Dhobley town is located approximately 729 km southwest of Mogadishu. It lies along an important route from Kismayo to the Kenyan border town of Liboi close to the Dadaab refugee camp inside Kenya and home to tens of thousands of Somali refugees.



The Force Commander thanked the troops and their commanders for holding the fort and praised them for their bravery and service to Somalia.



AMISOM Force Commander, Lieutenant General Tigabu Yilma receives a guard of honour mounted by Kenyan soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) during a visit to AMISOM sector 2 headquarters in Dhobley on January 22, 2020.



The training is taking place at the AMISOM Level Two Hospital in Dhobley, which lies in the Kenyan contingent's area of responsibility.

Sponsored by Bancroft Global Development, the training seeks to improve healthcare in Somalia by equipping midwives with vital skills to care for mothers and new-born babies.

The Commandant of AMISOM Level Two Hospital, Lt Col David Ndung'u said the midwives would undergo theoretical training at the AMISOM facility. Later, the trainees will apply the acquired skills at Dhobley General Hospital.

"Kenya Defence Forces medical personnel will be the tutors in this course as was in 2019, and I urge the students to give it their best," added Lt. Col. Ndung'u. The AMISOM Kenyan contingent commander, Brigadier Paul Njema, said the training is in line with the Somalia Transition Plan under which AMISOM seeks to capacitate Somalis.

Brig. Njema also awarded certificates to a group of five other healthcare workers who completed training in midwifery.

"You are now equipped with better skills and knowledge to take care of expectant women in

Somalia and therefore give a guarantee for the next generation," said Brig. Njema.

The Acting AMISOM Force Medical Officer, Lt Col Ishmael Mohammed Abdi, the AMISOM Kenyan contingent and officials of Bancroft Global Development, donated 600 delivery kits and an assortment of drugs to Dhobley General Hospital.

Supporting Maternal Health

On 9 March, the AMISOM Kenyan contingent began training six midwives to operate ultrasound scan machines to improve maternal health service delivery in communities living in Dhobley.

SECTOR THREE

AMISOM Ethiopian Troops undergo Human Rights Training

On 24 January, thirty-five military officers from the AMISOM Ethiopian contingent completed a three-day human rights training in Baidoa.

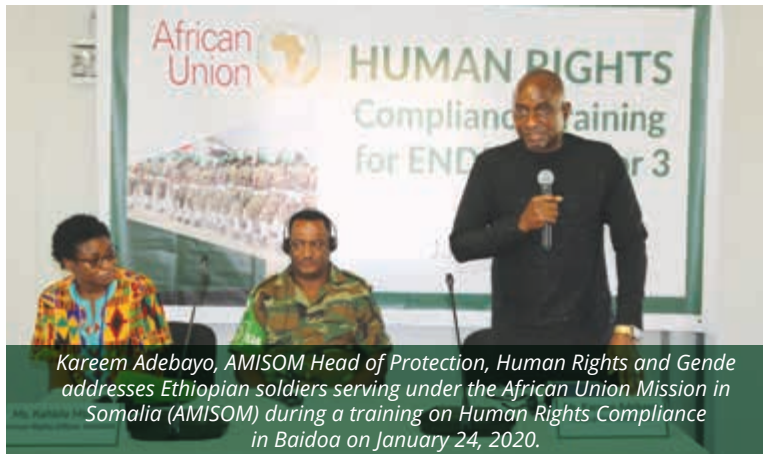
The training was to boost their understanding and appreciation of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law which is vital for their duty tour in Somalia.

The training jointly organised by AMISOM and the UN, brought together various AMISOM officers across sector three which includes Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions in the Southwest State of Somalia. The AMISOM officers were trained on AMISOM legal framework, gender, women and child protection, CIMIC, international humanitarian Law, gender aspects in peacekeeping on women protection, conduct and discipline, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and the human rights due diligence policy. The Head of Protection, Human Rights and Gender Unit for AMISOM, Kareem Adebayo, said the training would help the officers and troops on how to conduct their operations professionally.

“The expectation is that, these officers will go away from this training and discharge their functions in a way that is compliant with international humanitarian law and international human rights law,” said Kareem. Lt. Col. Fasil Dagne, who spoke on behalf of the trainees said he gained important

respectfully, in the name of peace and stability.” Lt. Col. Dagne said. Speaking at the end of the training, Ulrike Khabila Mbuton, AMISOM’s Human Rights Officer, reiterated AMISOM’s commitment to ensure compliance to international Humanitarian Law and human rights.

“The participants have been specifically taken through sessions on the board of inquiry processes of the mission so that there is more effective response and accountability especially where there are incidences of violations or where there are allegations of civilian casualties so that there is proper tracking and response to these issues,”



Kareem Adebayo, AMISOM Head of Protection, Human Rights and Gender addresses Ethiopian soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) during a training on Human Rights Compliance in Baidoa on January 24, 2020.

skills to enable him and his colleagues work better. “I found the training very helpful as a better way to do my job. Added to the knowledge we already had we can now execute our duties better. Humanitarian law and the proper reporting systems will for instance ensure that we protect and serve the Somali community

Khabila reaffirmed.

AMISOM forces undergo mandatory human rights training before deployment and such extra trainings in the field of operation emphasise the need to better protect civilians and for the forces to respect and abide by international human rights and humanitarian law standards.



Ethiopian soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in a group photo with facilitators at the end of a training on Human Rights Compliance in Baidoa

Force Commander visits Sector 3

In January and February, the AMISOM Force Commander Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yima visited Baidoa to assess the welfare of the troops and the progress of joint operations by the Somali National Army and AMISOM troops.



AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma, accompanied by staff officers from the force headquarters, greets Ethiopian soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), upon his arrival in Baidoa, Somalia, on 8 February 2020.

During the visits, Lt. Gen. Tigabu received a briefing from the Sector 3 commander, Brigadier General Alemu Ayene, on the security situation, progress in implementing the Concept of Operations (CONOPs) and the Somalia Transition Plan and reducing the threat posed by the terrorist groups.

He held meetings with AMISOM commanders of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) and visited Bardhere Forward Operating Base in Gedo region, where he interacted with the officers.

Lt. Col. Imbiakha said, "During the tour, the Force Commander was taking stock of the achievements so far, in operationalising the Concept of Operations 2018-2021."

The Force Commander commended the Somali National Army and the AMISOM Ethiopian contingent for jointly carrying out operations to secure the area, open up the main supply routes, and secure the airport.

Lt. Gen. Tigabu also applauded the cordial relations between AMISOM and the Bardhere town administration, enhanced by civil-military cooperation activities to support residents.



Ethiopian troops serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on alert to receive AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma, in Baidoa, Somalia.

SECTOR FOUR



AMISOM soldiers in Beletweyne, Somalia, on parade during a sendoff ceremony for outgoing AMISOM Sector Four Commander, Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Moussa

AMISOM honours former Sector Four Commander

On 16 February, AMISOM gave a befitting send off to Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Moussa, after a successful completion of his one-year tour of duty as the Sector Four Commander.

Col. Moussa led Ethiopian and Djiboutian troops to the liberation of villages in Hiiran from Al-Shabaab terrorists.

Speaking before his departure to Djibouti at Ugas Khalif airport in Beletweyne, Col. Moussa said he was grateful for the tremendous support he received from AMISOM, the president of HirShabelle State, the governor of Hiiran and other partners in the region.

"It was an honour to lead the forces. I am grateful to all our partners who cooperated with me to make this mission a success," said Col. Moussa.



Outgoing AMISOM Sector Four Commander, Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Moussa, faces a guard of honour mounted by AMISOM soldiers in Beletweyne, Somalia, on 16 February 2020.



Outgoing AMISOM Sector Four Commander, Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Moussa, faces a guard of honour mounted by AMISOM soldiers in Beletweyne, Somalia.

ENHANCING civil-military relations

In January, AMISOM troops stationed in Beletweyne conducted a workshop to improve working relations with humanitarian actors, Somali security forces and the civilian population.

The four-day training took place in Beletweyne, HirShabelle State, with the support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Participants included AMISOM civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) officers from the Ethiopian and Djiboutian contingents, AMISOM Police, Somali National Army, Somali Police Force, and representatives of local communities. They were taken through humanitarian and civil-military coordination guidelines and how the military and humanitarian agencies could collaborate to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protect women and children. The AMISOM Humanitarian Liaison Officer, Jackson Robert Basoronga, said it was important to co-ordinate civil-military

efforts to ensure a more comprehensive approach towards sustaining peace and stability in Somalia. First Lieutenant, Jama'a Dodishe, a participant from the Somali National Army, said the training was good as he had gained valuable skills on how uniformed personnel, can support communities and protect civilians. Another participant from the Somali Police Force, Mowlid Salad Omar, said he had gained insight on the role of the police in enhancing collaboration with the civilian population.



A military officer of the Somali National Army (left) receives a certificate at the end of a four-day integrated civil-military coordination workshop held in Beletweyne, Somalia.



Military officers of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in a group discussion during a four-day integrated civil-military coordination workshop held in Beletweyne, Somalia from 26 to 30, January 2020.

AMISOM COMPLETES POLICE STATION AT BELETWEYNE AIRPORT



The Hirshabelle State Minister of Security, Mohamed Abdirahman Kheyre (in suit) and the AMISOM Police Commissioner Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Augustine Magnus Kailie (green beret) officially commission the newly constructed police station at Ugas Khalif Airport Beletweyne, Somalia, that was handed over by AMISOM to the Somali police on 19 February 2020.

In February, AMISOM handed over a newly built police station at the Ugas Khalif Airport in Beletweyne to the HirShabelle State police.

The fully furnished police station, constructed by AMISOM with funding from the Government of Japan, was officially handed over to the Deputy Police Commissioner of HirShabelle State, Hassan-Kafi Mohamed Ibrahim, at a ceremony attended by the AMISOM Police Commissioner, AIGP Augustine Magnus Kailie. Police Commissioner Kailie, said the construction of the police station was in fulfilment of the AMISOM mandate to

bolster security at Ugas Khalif Airport and surrounding communities. "This is in fulfilment of our mandate to build the institutional capacity of the Somali Police Force," said AIGP Kailie.

The Acting Police Commander of Hiiran region, Ali-Duh Mahad Alle, who spoke on behalf of HirShabelle officials, expressed gratitude for the police station and said the facility would go a long way to enhancing security in the region.

"We are happy that the police station at Ugas Khalif Airport in Beletweyne has opened. We were looking forward to having such a station to safeguard those who use the airport and those living around this area," Mahad said.

Present at the handover ceremony were senior AMISOM and Somali government officials, including the HirShabelle State Minister for Security, Mohamed Abdirahman Kheyre.



The Hirshabelle State Minister of Security, Mohamed Abdirahman Kheyre (in suit) and the AMISOM Police Commissioner Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Augustine Magnus Kailie (green beret) officially commission the newly constructed police station at Ugas Khalif Airport Beletweyne, Somalia.

SECTOR FIVE

OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO HIRSHABELLE POLICE



AMISOM police officers donate office equipment to HirShabelle police force in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle region on January 4, 2020.

At the beginning of the year, AMISOM handed over an assortment of office equipment to enhance the operational efficiency of the HirShabelle State Police Force.

The furniture handed over in Jowhar, will be distributed to the various police stations in Hiiran and Middle Shabelle regions. AMISOM police coordinating officer for HirShabelle State, ACP Yuyi Mwala, handed over the equipment and expressed hope that the furniture would help to address needs in the various police stations in the state.

“HirShabelle Police Force is a partner in achieving our mandate. We cannot achieve our mandate as AMISOM if we don’t work with the Somali Police,” Mwala added.

“What we have handed over will be distributed to various police stations such as Adale police station, Ba’ad police station and Warsheikh. We have informed the police commissioner on how the furniture is supposed to be used and it is our considered view that it is going to be used appropriately,” Mwala said. Mwala stressed the importance of collaboration between AMISOM and Somali Police Force and hailed the excellent working relationship between the HirShabelle State Police and AMISOM.

“HirShabelle Police Force is a partner in achieving our mandate. We cannot achieve our mandate as AMISOM if we don’t work with the Somali Police,” Mwala added.

The HirShabelle State Police Commissioner, Hassan Di’sow Hassan, thanked AMISOM for the support rendered and further said that some of the equipment would be delivered to Bula Burde and Beletweyne police stations in Hiiran region. “I appreciate AMISOM for the furniture we have received and express our readiness to work jointly and strengthen our already excellent working relationship,” said the HirShabelle State Police Commissioner, Hassan.

Burundi journalists on AMISOM embed

Early in February, AMISOM hosted a group of twelve Burundian journalists from eight media houses to report on the country's contribution to peace efforts in Somalia under AMISOM.



Visiting Burundi journalists at a press conference at the AMISOM Force Headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia on 7 February 2020.

During the embed, the journalists met and interviewed the Head of AMISOM Ambassador Francisco Madeira who briefed them on the status of implementing the Somalia Transition Plan under which AMISOM will transfer security responsibilities to the Somali security forces.

He also enumerated the milestones and achievements of AMISOM as well as challenges. Ambassador Madeira also paid tribute to Burundi for the sacrifice and contribution to the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia. "I appreciate Burundi for deploying troops and resources to stabilise Somalia, in the true spirit of pan-Africanism," stated Ambassador Madeira. The journalists also visited the AMISOM

Burundi contingent based in Jowhar, HirShabelle State to see them at work. While in Jowhar, the journalists interviewed the Deputy Governor of HirShabelle State, Mohamed Abdi Sheikh, and the Mayor of Jowhar town, Salah Mudey Ali. They toured Jowhar to assess the security and cordial working relations between AMISOM and state authorities.

The journalists also engaged with the Burundian AMISOM troops led by Contingent Commander, Brig. Gen. Richard Banyakimbona, and visited the AMISOM Level I hospital in Jowhar and an internally displaced people's camp. The journalists also interviewed the AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhune on security,

progress in implementing the transition plan, and the role of Burundi in stabilising Somalia.

At the end of the embed, Haidallah Hakizimana, a reporter with the national broadcaster, RTNB, said the visit had given him an appreciation of the contributions of the Burundi army to Somalia.

Through the African Peace Facility provided by the European Union, AMISOM regularly organises field visits for journalists from Troop and Police Contributing Countries. Burundi is one of the AMISOM Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs), alongside Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.



The journalists also interviewed the AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhune on security, progress in implementing the transition plan, and the role of Burundi in stabilising Somalia.



AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma, in a group photo with visiting Burundi journalists after a press conference at the Force Headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia on 7 February 2020.

SECTOR SIX

Jubaland Police Officers complete traffic Management Training

On 16 March, twenty-five Jubaland police officers completed training to hone their skills in traffic management, road traffic rules and regulations, road accident investigations and public order management.



Jubaland State traffic police officer receives a certificate at the end of a course on traffic management held in Kismaayo, Somalia

The 12-day training at Kismayo Central Police Station, organised by AMISOM was designed to improve safety and order on Jubaland’s public roads by equipping the officers with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively perform their duties.

“The training focused on management of road traffic accidents, road traffic investigations, and how to work with different partners and stakeholders in road traffic management. We also looked at the conduct of traffic police officers, because one must be professional in order to manage traffic,” said Victor Nahabwe, the AMISOM Police Training and Development Coordinator.

The commander of the Jubaland Traffic Police Lt. Col. Bashir Hiis Khalif, said the training was important in refreshing the knowledge of the officers under his command.

“The traffic officers are already familiar with road traffic rules as they have been applying them for some time. However, they needed training to refresh and review their traffic management skills and how best to enhance relationships with the motoring public and other road users,” he said. Capt. Ibrahim Mohamed Ali, a traffic officer said the training was important for improved performance of their jobs.

“This training has boosted our morale and refreshed our skills and knowledge. This will help improve performance, make us more effective in our work,” he said.



Jubaland State traffic police officers attend a course on traffic management held in Kismaayo, Somalia on March 16, 2020. The course was supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



Participants pose for a group photo during Sexual and Gender-based Violence training in Kismayo on 11 March 2020.

Fighting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

During the month of March, AMISOM conducted a public sensitisation in Kismayo, as part of ongoing efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence. The training aimed to empower members of the community to support mechanisms to prosecute sex offenders.

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“The participants received broad knowledge on gender-based violence. They are expected train others and conduct campaigns in their respective areas to safeguard rights of individuals,” Yare said.

The three-day workshop was organised jointly with the Jubaland State Ministry for Women, Family Affairs, and Human Rights, attracted 39 representatives from civil society, ministries, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and a committee that oversees the safety of children in Jubaland.

The AMISOM Protection Officer, Gloria Jaase, said the participants gained skills to address cases of SGBV, which affect vulnerable members in the community.

“The training happens when women globally are reflecting on their position in society and the promotion of equality. Women need to understand that one of the ways to achieve equality is by addressing sexual and gender-based violence,” said Jaase. The AMISOM Head of Security Sector Reforms, Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, noted that as AMISOM hands over security responsibilities in Somalia, the public needs to understand issues of human rights.

“We need to train as many people as possible on all issues and one of them is gender-based and sexual exploitation against women,” Kanu added.

The Director of Children and Family Affairs in the Jubaland Ministry of Women, Family Affairs, and Human Rights, Abdikadir Abdi Yare, hoped the participants would train others. “The participants received broad knowledge on gender-based violence. They are expected train others and conduct campaigns in their respective areas to safeguard rights of individuals,” Yare said. Jaase reiterated the importance of providing information about the location of SGBV centres that support victims of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. A participant, Dhubo Mohamed Abdi, hailed AMISOM for organising the training and said it would also help in combating violence against girls and boost girl education. “I hope we will share what we have learned, with people in our communities,” noted Dhubo



Gloria Jaase, AMISOM protection officer (bending) and Abdikadir Abdi Yare, the director of children and family affairs department of Jubbalnd Ministry of women, family affairs and human rights engage with another official from the of women, family affairs and human rights during a three-day Sexual and Gender-based violence training on 10-12 March.



Grade 3 students at Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School during a class session in Wadajir district, Mogadishu, Somalia.



Students at Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School receive break time snacks in Wadajir district, Mogadishu, Somalia.

School revives dreams, reignites hope for Mogadishu neighbourhood

Mogadishu – When a stray bullet hit his uncle, the desperate search for a hospital in Somalia that could quickly operate on him to save his life had the entire family anxious.

That was to birth Ali Abas' dream to study medicine and become a doctor.

Ali is currently a Class Seven pupil at the Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School in Mogadishu. An education facility that has been in

existence for the past seven years and is providing young Somalis the freedom to dream big.

"I want to make a difference by providing the much-needed medical support to my people," says Abas, with his classmates listening attentively as he tells the story

of his uncle and the stray bullet.

As he talks about his dreams, some of his classmates within earshot playfully chip in what they also want to be in future. Looking smart in a bright yellow and blue uniform, they want to be engineers, religious leaders, pilots, business

moguls, and so on.

After being in existence for seven years, the Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School is impacting positively on children within the community. The children are looking to a life better than what they have known, war.

The school was built by the African Union in Somalia, AMISOM in 2013. The ten-classroom facility has a total of 460 pupils - 174 of them are girls.

Behind a perimeter wall in Tarbush Badbaado, Wadajir district, the school overlooks the Indian Ocean, and is close to displaced persons camps off the busy Mogadishu-Jazeera Road in Halane area. AMISOM built it mainly as an emergency response to assist the marginalised and displaced communities in its neighbourhood. For many years the area was notorious for drug abuse among out-of-school youths. Militias roamed the Tarbush Badbaado neighbourhood, while suspected criminals used the ruined buildings as hideouts.

The nearest school to the community was 22 kilometres away, south of Mogadishu. Some parents spoke about their children's daily commute for education.

"There was a day my son and his siblings were stoned by unruly boys on their commute home. They came home bleeding," said Sahra Mohamed, a mother of six.



A grade one student reads a lesson on the blackboard at Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School during a class in Wadajir district, Mogadishu, Somalia.

But the situation has changed as many of the youth now go to Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School, where their young minds and attitudes are being shaped.

Sahra Mohamed is relieved to have a school closer to home. Even better, the school is run as a universal public school, so no one pays tuition fees. "Many of the children in the area were wasting away before this school was built. It is great to see all that youthful energy being channelled and shaped into productivity," says Sahra.

She regularly visits the school to follow up on her children's education progress. Eighteen-year-old Ummulkhayr Mohamed is another pupil of the school and she is confident that she is well on her way to be a paediatrician.

"Our country has few public hospitals and medical specialists because few people study medicine. I want to become a paediatrician," she said.

The school's Deputy Administrator, Mohamed Tamam, attributes its growing popularity within the community to the commitment of the teachers, and the free education.

"We have 19 good teachers who try their best to offer our children the best education, and that has helped us grow. Some of our pioneer

students are now in Senior Two," says Tamam.

Fatuma Ali and Khalif Mohamed, who teach primary and secondary school classes respectively, speak highly of the students; enthusiasm towards academics. "Our quality of education has enhanced public awareness of our school. The free education offered has encourage more parents to bring their children to school," says teacher Khalif.

"Our students, especially the girls, are disciplined and keen to learn. As a woman, I also encourage the girls to study hard," says teacher Fatuma.

However, the school's teachers, students and parents believe that learning would be more enhanced if they could get a spacious field for children to play during break time, as the only space available for learning through play is a small cracked-up concrete yard, a danger to children. A school bus and clinic for medical emergencies would also be welcome relief to teachers and pupils.

Thanks to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) today, all public schools have qualified teachers who are paid promptly, thus boosting quality education delivery. The AMISOM Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Dr. Opiyo Ododa, says AMISOM is committed to a peaceful and stable Somalia.

"As AMISOM, the youth are very important to us. We want to positively engage them so they can have a better future and build a prosperous Somalia," says Dr. Opiyo.



Grade one students at Mohamud Hilowle Primary and Secondary School during a break time in Wadajir district, Mogadishu, Somalia

AMISOM NEWS

AMISOM, Somalia, international partners discuss drawdown, future operations

On 3 February, AMISOM military and police officers, army chiefs from AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), and Somali security forces met to discuss future operations and implementation of the draw down.

The military bosses met in Mogadishu, Somalia as a follow up to the high-level Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC) meeting earlier in Kampala, Uganda. The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, said, "Following the

MOCC, a decision was taken that we get together a technical committee to sit and look into a number of issues including the draw down and how that would impact our operations." The National Security Advisor to the President of Somalia, Abdisaid Muse Ali, called for discussions before handing

over locations by AMISOM to the Somali security forces. He explained that this would safeguard the gains made over the years to liberated territories that were under the control of terrorist group Al-Shabaab. "We do not want the sacrifices made to be fruitless," Abdisaid cautioned.



Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, addresses senior officers of the Somali National Army, Somali Police Force, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), representatives from AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and international partners during the Operations Coordination Committee (OCC) technical meeting to discuss joint AMISOM, SNA future operations. The meeting took place in Mogadishu on 3 February 2020.



Senior officers of the Somali National Army, Somali Police Force, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), representatives from AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and international partners attend the Operations Coordination Committee (OCC) technical meeting to discuss joint AMISOM, SNA future operations.

Recognising women

On 8 March, women across Somalia joined the rest of the world to mark the International Women's Day, during which they highlighted the role of women in the advancement of peace and stability in Africa.



A traditional female dancer entertains spectators during the International Women's Day held in Mogadishu, Somalia on 8 March 2020.

to ensure peace, security and stability in Somalia and this includes ending violence against women, promoting women participation in politics and governance, and integrating women in justice and peace processes. Amb. Madeira also saluted the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states for efforts to protect the political and economic rights of women.

Major Nasteha Hassan Mohamed, from the Somali Police Force, noted that progressive societies

promote the women empowerment agenda.

"I salute fellow women in uniform for contributing to the struggle for peace and security. I acknowledge your role as guardians of peace," said Nasteha. In Beletweyne town, residents reflected on the role of women in development, promoting governance, ending violence against women, advocating for political representation.

Farhaan Omar Arte, the chairperson of the Hiraan Women's Organisation noted that women in Somalia are the backbone that has held together with the family units during the prolonged conflict. "Somali women have endured and looked after the families during the civil war," noted Farhaan.

In Kismayo, Fatuma Moalim Ali, a member of the Jubaland State Assembly, called on fellow women to contest for elective positions to advance the interests of women.

"I urge women around the world to play

To mark the day in Mogadishu, female troops of AMISOM and Somali Police Force held a procession, performed cultural dances, and planted trees.

The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, noted the critical role played by women in peacekeeping with specific emphasis on AMISOM. "Today, the number of uniformed women peacekeepers is exactly 1 017, which is the largest globally of women serving in a peacekeeping mission," remarked Madeira.

Amb. Madeira noted that AMISOM's work is guided by the AU commitment



Female Somali Police officers take part celebrations to mark the International Women's Day held in Mogadishu, Somalia.



AMISOM female officers mark the International Women's Day with fellow female officers from SNA and other Somali women.

a role in peace, politics and every facet of life. I also call upon Somali women to lead the stabilisation of the country," said Fatuma.

In Baidoa, the First Lady of South West State Zamzam Mohat Abdirahman, attended the celebrations that took place at the presidential palace.

According to the chairperson of the Baidoa Women's Organisation, Hawo Sokor Ali, the day was an opportunity to reflect on challenges that women face.

"Women are victims of war. In conflict, women lose their children, husbands, brothers, and have to take care of orphans. Women should advise men to support peacebuilding. Without peace, there is no life," said Hawo.



AMISOM female peacekeepers march during celebrations to mark the International Women's Day held in Mogadishu, Somalia.

In Dhobley town, the day was marked with dance performances, free medical check-up, donation of sanitary towels, garments, and distribution of foodstuffs such as sugar, rice, and flour.

In Jowhar, the chairperson of the Middle Shabelle Youth Organisation, Fartun Aden Hefow appealed to women to unite to achieve their objectives.

"Women can take part in building good governance and promote development and peace if we are united," noted Fartun.

This year's International Women's Day was marked under the theme, "Each for Equal." Observed annually, the day celebrates the achievements of women, while promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

AMISOM hospital receives medical equipment

In January, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) handed over medical equipment to a health facility operated by AMISOM in Mogadishu.

The health facility located within the AMISOM Halane Base provides medical services to African Union troops and Somali Security Forces involved in joint operations to fight terrorists, as well as to serve Somali civilians. The UNSOS Chief Medical Officer, Dr Roberts Onebunne handed over laboratory and theatre equipment on Monday, to enable the medical facility to deliver improved services. The Commanding Officer of the hospital, Capt. Gideon Nuwagira received the equipment at a function that was officiated by the AMISOM Deputy Force in charge of Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Nakibus Lakara.

Maj. Gen. Lakara noted that the provision of quality medical services is critical for the welfare and morale of the troops. He also urged medical personnel at the facility to extend medical services to residents of Mogadishu as part of a humanitarian consideration.

"In a war environment, we expect casualties and to keep the morale of the troops high, you must handle those casualties very well," Maj. Gen. Lakara told the hospital staff.

Dr Onebunne noted that besides equipping the facility, UNSOS also provides crucial technical support to ensure the efficiency and longevity of equipment.

"We now have a biomedical technician whom we recruited to ensure the equipment is maintained," Dr. Onebunne explained.



The AMISOM Deputy Force Commander in charge operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Nakibus Lakara, Dr. Roberts Onebunne, UNOS Chief Medical Officer and other medical officers inspect medical equipment at a ceremony to hand over four containers of medical equipment to AMISOM Level II hospital in Mogadishu.

The Commander of the AMISOM Ugandan contingent, Brig Richard Otto, expressed gratitude for the donation and hoped that provision of medical services would be greatly improved.

"We appreciate your support, and I know that the additional containers bearing various medical equipment will take this hospital to a different height," Brig. Otto said.

Capt. Nuwagira noted that the equipment would ease patient care and management, especially in diagnosis, treatment and evaluation of patients.

"Let me take this opportunity to thank the UNSOS medical department for not only delivering the equipment but for the support you have rendered," Capt. Nuwagira stated.



Dr. Roberts Onebunne, UNOS Chief Medical Officer and other senior officials hand over four containers of medical equipment to AMISOM Level II hospital in Mogadishu on January 06, 2020.

UNSOS hands over 400-bed facility to AMISOM

At the end of January, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) handed over a 400-bed facility to AMISOM to be used as a Transit Camp for both military and police personnel prior to their deployment into the sectors across Somalia.



Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) commission a new AMISOM troops transit camp in Mogadishu on 23 January 2020. Where the troops can be accommodated before deploying to their Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) or rotating out to their home countries

“Transit time can be a time when the troops feel a little vulnerable. They have just arrived from their respective countries into Mogadishu, Somalia and have to continue into the sectors where they will be based for the rest of their duty tour.

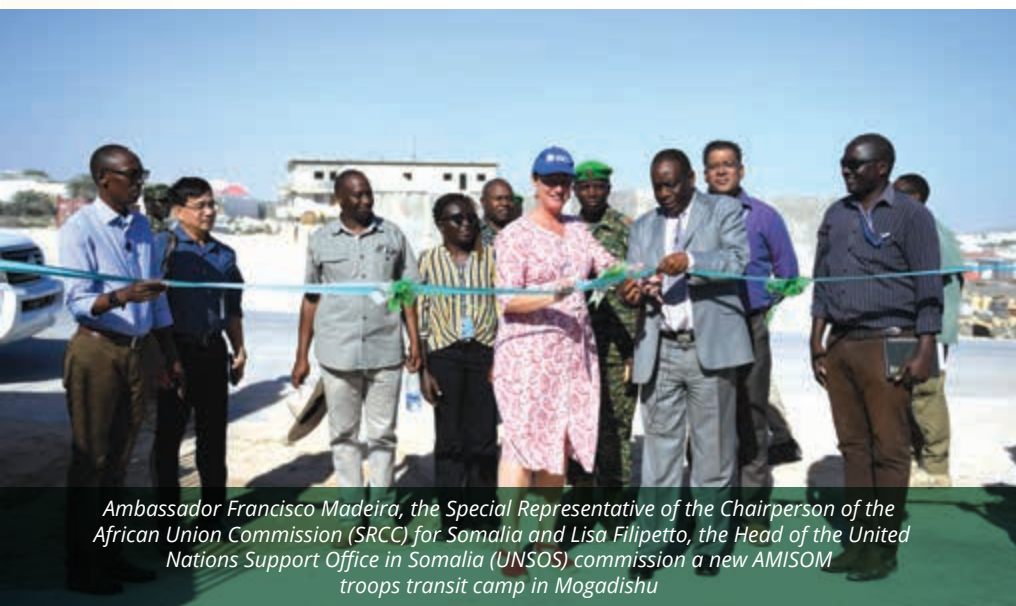
So, I think that coming here to this relatively comfortable setting before they head off will help them. We wish all those

who stay here good health, good mission, and we look forward to welcoming them,” the Head of UNSOS, Lisa Filipetto, said at the handover of the facility in Mogadishu. The transit facility includes accommodation for junior and senior military and police officers, ablution area, an administration office and safe water point. The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, promised that the transit camp would be kept in good

condition. “On behalf of AMISOM, and on behalf of the African Union Commission, I want to thank our strong partnership with the UN, with UNSOS, in making this mission a successful one by creating good conditions for our soldiers,” said Ambassador Madeira. “We are proud that our soldiers are in much better living conditions when they are transiting, and we want to thank you, Madam Filipetto, the UN, UNSOS, and everybody who has played a role in this. This facility will be well maintained and kept in good condition,” he added. Before this facility, AMISOM soldiers and police arriving in Mogadishu would stay in tents and other temporary shelter before transiting to their respective sectors.



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Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Lisa Filipetto, the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) commission a new AMISOM troops transit camp in Mogadishu

AMISOM Police officers awarded for outstanding service

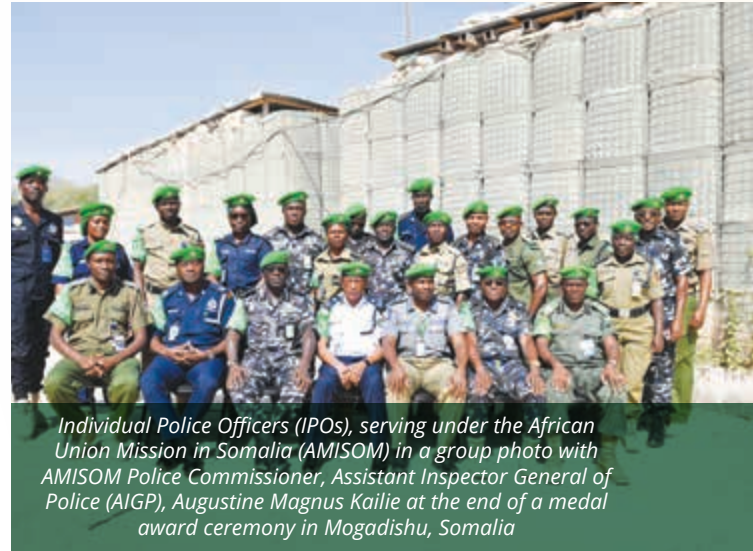
On 8 February, the AMISOM police component honoured 15 police officers for their outstanding performance in advancing the mission's mandate.



AMISOM Police Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Augustine Magnus Kailie (right), pins a medal on a Sierra Leonean police officer serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), during a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 8 February 2020.



AMISOM Police Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Augustine Magnus Kailie (right), pins a medal on a Zambian police officer serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), during a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Individual Police Officers (IPOs), serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in a group photo with AMISOM Police Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Augustine Magnus Kailie at the end of a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu, Somalia

The AMISOM Police Commissioner, AIGP, Augustine Magnus Kailie, decorated the officers with AMISOM pin badges at a ceremony in Mogadishu.

The recognition is a newly introduced initiative by the Police Commissioner, to recognise and motivate Individual Police Officers (IPOs) for their exemplary service in the mission. IPOs support the implementation of the AMISOM Police mandate through training, mentoring, and advising the Somali Police Force (SPF) as well as supporting stabilisation efforts under the Somalia Transition Plan.

The award recipients included police officers from Kenya, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Ghana, and Nigeria, working in various AMISOM police departments.

Police Commissioner Kailie, paid particular tribute to female AMISOM individual police officers who are involved in the vetting of females who want to join the Somali Police Force.

"We hope this will motivate you to do more," AIGP Kailie said. One of the recipients, Sergeant Isha Kanu, from the Sierra Leone Police, said the recognition would encourage her to pursue excellence at work.

"I am encouraged by the recognition, and I promise to perform even better," said Sergeant Kanu, who is attached to the AMISOM Police Reforms, Restructuring and Development Unit.

Another recipient, Corporal Michael Igumba from Uganda, said it was humbling to be recognised among key players in the Somalia peace process.

"I am happy to contribute to global efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia," said Corporal Igumba.



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