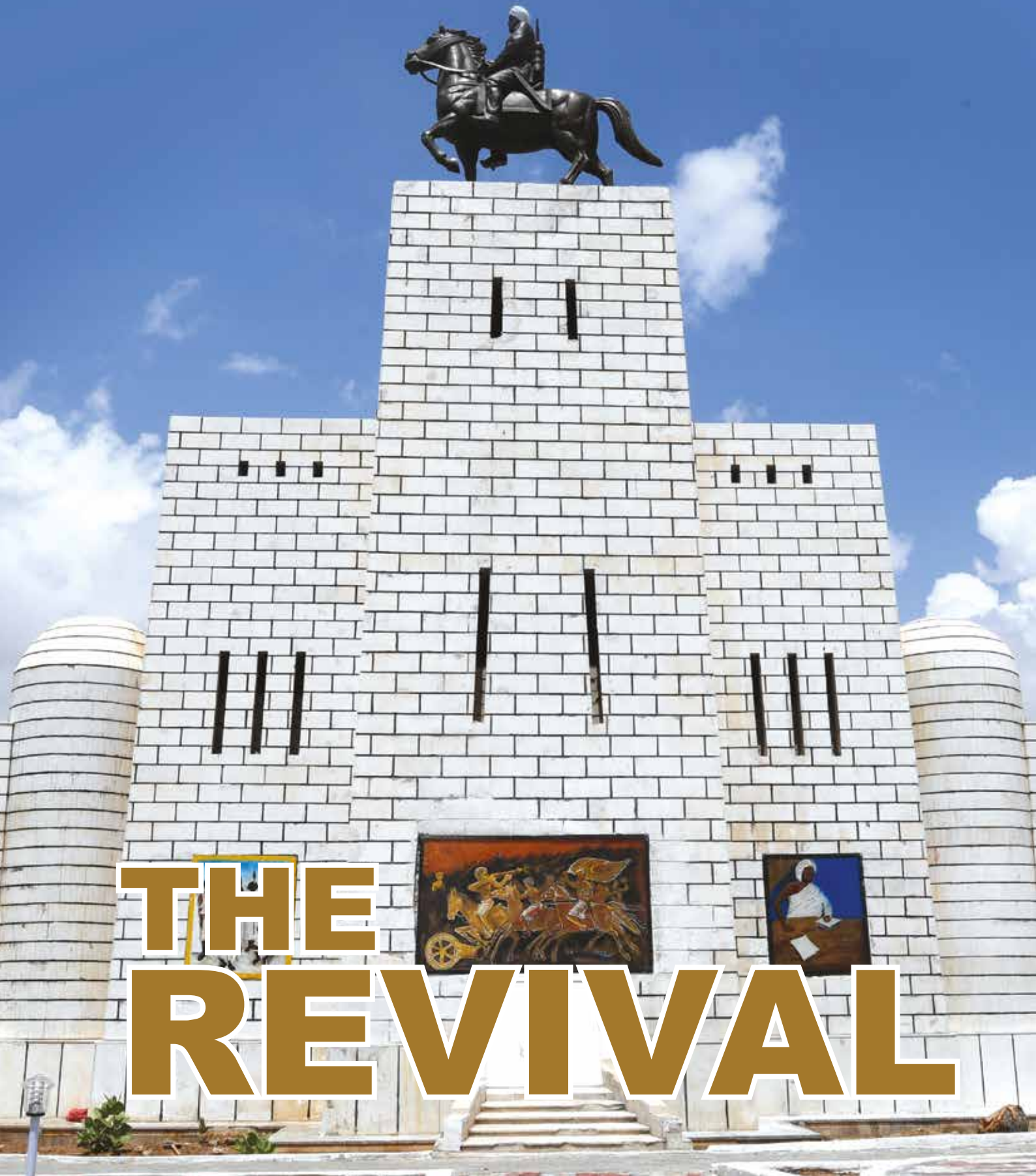


AMISOM

REVIEW

www.amisom-au.org

• Issue: 29 • October-December 2019



THE REVIVAL



Message from the SRCC

The year 2019 has been one in which we have made remarkable progress in achieving the AMISOM mandate and implementing the Somalia Transition Plan.

The decisive capture of the strategic bridge towns of Sabiid Anole, Bariire, El-Saliini and Awdheegle curtailed the ability of the terrorists to freely transport explosives into Mogadishu. The liberation of these areas from the terrorists in Lower Shabelle region has meant that Mogadishu is far safer today than it was when terrorists controlled these towns.

It is pleasing to also note that the Somali security forces continue to defend and hold ground in the above-mentioned towns, which is a show of readiness to take over from AMISOM. They are also gradually taking over some Forward Operating Bases from AMISOM, and ably managing them.

There is progress on several fronts; the police at the federal and member state level are recruiting, training and deploying to effectively take over the enforcement of law and order, and protection of civilians in liberated areas. AMISOM police officers continue to work hard transferring their expertise, knowledge, and skills to their Somali police counterparts, in support of our efforts to rebuild the Somali Police Force. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) mandates AMISOM to deploy one thousand and forty (1 040) police personnel who include individual police officers (IPO) and the Formed Police Unit (FPU). The rationale is that as the AMISOM military component reduces numbers, the police personnel will be able to take over in the liberated areas to maintain the rule of law and public order.

The civilian staff in the sectors continue to add value to the Mission effort in their area of responsibilities. The AMISOM Civilian Sector Teams have been tasked to engage with all stakeholders and support projects geared towards lifesaving and peace building. Field deployment of civilian staff to work with and support the uniformed personnel remains our focus.

Despite the great achievements, there is need to further augment this progress by stepping up force generation levels. This will free AMISOM forces to take the fight to the remaining pockets of terrorists and to mount rapid response whenever necessary.

We also have to enhance stabilisation efforts in all liberated areas, led by government to make less attractive for terrorists, settle grievances, and build up functioning governance systems.

The year 2020 will be historic for Somalia, with the planned parliamentary and presidential elections. In the coming months, we shall discuss ways and strategies to support the Election Security Task Force to enable Somalia to conduct the elections and all the preparatory activities peacefully.

Yet as we make plans to secure the coming elections and implement our priorities and tasks, we recognise the shrinking resources from our development partners. This calls for rationalisation and ensuring accountability of what is at our disposal in our quest to deliver peace and security to Somalia.

Lastly, I salute the men and women on the frontline – both of the Somali security forces, AMISOM and our international allies, who face risks and confront the enemy on a daily basis. May you be strengthened in your efforts, knowing that we collectively work for the future of Somalia and the liberation of Africa.

I wish you all a successful 2020. Aluta continua.

Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira

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

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Publisher: AMISOM Public Information Unit



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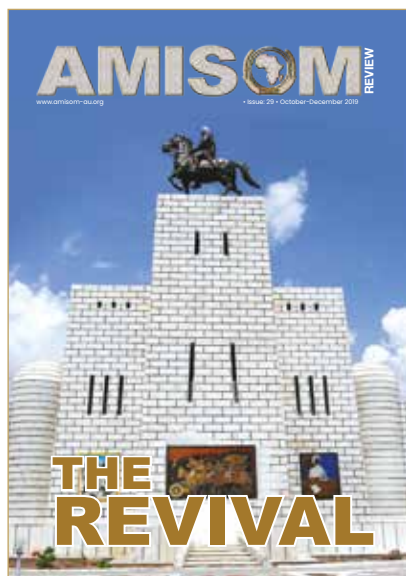
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Newly renovated Sayid Mohamed Abdulle monument in Mogadishu, Somalia

Photo | AMISOM

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1-2 October 2019: The Somalia Partnership Forum took place in Mogadishu and concluded with an agreement by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and partners to cooperate and address challenges daunting Somalia. Some of the noted issues include the generation of jobs, economic growth, fighting terror, response to humanitarian crises and building resilience, laying foundations for inclusive politics, human rights, women's participation and representation of minorities.



29 September to 3 October 2019: A five-day conference to guide AMISOM activities and operations up to 2021 concluded with agreement to guide the mission's activities. Senior officials of AMISOM and UNSOS resolved to develop and approve a support implementation matrix to ensure efficient delivery of logistics for AMISOM operations.



11-13 November 2019: The African Union's 9th Annual AMISOM Joint Troop and Police Contributing Countries' (T/PCC) Financial Management workshop took place in Nairobi, seeking to strengthen financial prudence and accountability in the face of shrinking resources. In attendance were representatives of the T/PCCs, senior officials from AMISOM military, police and civilian components, and the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.



10 December 2019: The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo met Arnaud Danjean, a Member of the European Parliament and discussed the security situation in Somalia. Danjean, who chairs the sub-committee on security and defence in the EU Parliament, applauded AMISOM troops for the sacrifices made to restore peace and stability to Somalia.



25 November 2019: On the first day of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, participants at a public awareness forum in Mogadishu called for an end to violence against women in conflict, gender-based sexual violence and conflict-related sexual violence. Organised by AMISOM, the forum brought together youth groups, women's organisations, local councils, IDPs and federal government officials to explore avenues for reporting abuses, survivor assistance at the community and police levels, and referral arrangements in cases of violations.



19 December 2019: AMISOM donated an assortment of scholastic items to Dr. Qamar Primary School. The donation was part of AMISOM's efforts to promote children's rights, particularly the right to education. Maj. Gen. Fidza Dluclu, the AMISOM Head of Mission Support, handed over the items which included books, pens, pencils, crayons, pencil erasers, and sharpeners.

Bulletin Board



24 October 2019: Female AMISOM and SNA personnel attended a joint training aimed to raise awareness of women's participation in peace and security. The AMISOM Protection, Human Rights and Gender (PHRG) unit organised the one-day training to sensitise female troops on the importance of gender mainstreaming in peace support operations.



23 December 2019: AMISOM awarded medals to 19 staff officers for their contribution to the restoration of peace and security in Somalia. The AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn presided over the award of medals, which took place at AMISOM Force Headquarters in Mogadishu. Medal recipients included officers from Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Italy, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

PLANNING FOR POLLS

This year, 2020, will be a turning point in Somalia's history, as the country goes to polls to elect members of the federal Parliament and the President.



AMISOM Police Commissioner, Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Augustine Magnus Kailie addresses participants during a public awareness forum on Somalia's 2020/21 Upcoming Elections in Mogadishu.

In the last quarter of 2019, AMISOM organised separate election-related public engagements. AMISOM officials used the events to outline measures that are in the pipeline to secure the upcoming elections.

On 21 November, a technical preparatory meeting to share information with Somali civil society actors took place in Mogadishu, to develop an elections work plan. Civil society is crucial in identifying the needs of the population which guides interventions. Also, civil society will play a key role in civic education and public awareness campaigns ahead of the upcoming elections.

During another forum on 24 November, the AMISOM Police Commissioner, AIGP Augustine Magnus Kailie assured Somali civil society actors, political parties' representatives and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) that AMISOM, in partnership with key Somali stakeholders, was ready to secure the upcoming elections. The public awareness forum brought together key stakeholders as well as members of the public to brainstorm about how best Somalia could hold universal elections, as one way of giving ownership of the electoral process to the public in order to

increase their confidence in the process. During the meeting, Hussein Abdi Adan, a commissioner with NIEC recognised AMISOM's role in providing security and said AMISOM's presence was an important factor in managing the national elections.

AMISOM is part of the established Electoral Security Taskforce that also includes the Somalia Police Force, Somali National Army and federal Member State security agencies. The task force will ensure security for candidates, polling centres and voting material amongst other roles.



Osman Mohyadin Shatah, Chairman of the Somali Non-State Actors addresses participants during a public awareness forum on Somalia's 2020/21 Upcoming Elections in Mogadishu.



AMISOM and representatives of civil society organizations attend a one-day civil society engagement in Mogadishu, Somalia.

DISCUSSING POLLS SECURITY

With elections drawing close, the Somali Police Commissioner, Gen. Abdi Hassan Mohamed and Ambassador Francisco Madeira discussed ways and strategies to secure the upcoming elections.

At a meeting held in Mogadishu on 19 November 2019, and attended by senior AMISOM and SPF personnel, Gen. Abdi gave an update on the newly formed Election Security Task Force and how AMISOM could support the task force by providing security for both the parliamentary and presidential elections.

In detailing the preparations, Gen. Abdi told the meeting that while a lot still needs to be done, the federal government and partners, have made progress to enhance the security of

Mogadishu and other areas across the country.

The SPF chief, who was accompanied by his deputy, Brigadier General Zakia Hussein Ahmed and other senior officers, said that there was a need to identify election centres, the number of people who will take part in the elections and to train extra police to secure the elections.

Ambassador Madeira emphasised the need for AMISOM and the SPF to collaborate to secure the elections and enhance security to avert any disruption of public peace.

"What we need is to see how these small incidents (of attacks by militants)

which are still taking place can also be put under control," Ambassador Madeira said.

"We need to look at a number of issues ranging from the resources that are available, how we can secure the elections, especially drawing from our past experience and then the critical issue of identifying areas where the elections are going to take place".

AMISOM also offered to provide strategic communication support to the Election Security Task Force. This is to assure and deepen public confidence on security preparations before, during and after the elections.

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Ambassador Francisco Madeira (2nd from right), the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and other senior AMISOM officials meet with the Somali police commissioner, Gen. Abdi Hassan Mohamed and other senior officers (not in the photo) at AMISOM Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu.



Ambassador Francisco Madeira (3rd from left) the Special Representative of the Chairperson of African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and other senior AMISOM Officials in a meeting with Mayor and Governor of Banadir region, Omar Mohamed Mohamud (Omar Filish) and other senior officials at Banadir.

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From the start, Mogadishu residents, Somali forces and AMISOM forces worked together with the objective to free the city of Mogadishu from the enemy. It is that unity which resulted in the liberation of Mogadishu.

MOGADISHU MAYOR, AMISOM TO PROMOTE PEACE

Mayor Mohamed also paid tribute to AMISOM peace support operations that have greatly assisted in degrade the terrorists in Somalia.

In his first public meeting with AMISOM since coming into office in August 2019, the Mayor of Mogadishu, Mohamud Mohamed, and the Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, pledged to work jointly to ensure a secure and peaceful Mogadishu.

In November 2019, Ambassador Madeira visited the mayor at his Banadir Regional Administration offices. Discussions focused on security during the upcoming elections, and avenues for public and military engagement for a secure Somalia.

Mayor Mohamed also paid tribute to AMISOM peace support operations that have greatly assisted in degrading the terrorists in Somalia.

"AMISOM forces and their leadership have stayed nights at the frontlines and under difficult conditions in this city. They have spent time with our forces. From the start, Mogadishu residents, Somali forces and AMISOM forces worked together with the objective to free the city of Mogadishu from the enemy. It is that unity which resulted in the liberation of Mogadishu," the mayor said.





Aisha Khalif (left), Minister of Women and Human Rights for Hirshabelle State, Simon Mulongo (center), the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia and Faiza Sharif Nuur Mohamed (right), Minister of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights Development of the South West State attend the opening of a three-day conference on Women, Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia.

WOMEN TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR INCLUSION IN PEACE BUILDING

On 7 October, representatives of Somali women agreed to kickstart a process to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) to strengthen their participation in peacebuilding and socio-economic progress in the stabilisation and rebuilding efforts for Somalia.



Khadija Mohamed Diriye, Somalia's Federal Minister of Youth and Sports addresses participants during the opening of a three-day conference on Women, Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The participants that attended the three-day event included women in politics, civil society and security sectors from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the federal Member States.

The conference organised by AMISOM focused on the action plan for women's political participation, women in mediation and women in the security sector. It also aimed to deepen implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which affirms women's participation in peace and security efforts.

The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo said, "As we continue to support and work with the government and the people of Somalia on reconstituting the state, rehabilitating and rebuilding Somalia, we want to focus on the issue

of women in the entire equation of how to rebuild Somalia."

Somalia's Minister of Youth and Sports, Ms. Khadija Mohamed Diriye, spoke about the challenges of women and youth in Somalia and the need to implement the Security Council Resolution 1325.

"We have been working on this resolution for a while. It has not been fully implemented; however, we are keen to ensure full implementation now," the minister explained.

The Minister of Women and Human Rights in HirShabelle State, Ms. Aisha Khalif, spoke about the challenges that women face in her state.

"We record significant numbers of rape cases. We also lack health facilities and other social amenities. These challenges leave our girls and women vulnerable," Ms. Aisha stated.

SOMALI POLICE OFFICERS GET MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

AMISOM held a management and leadership skills training for 30 Somali Police Force (SPF) officers in Mogadishu to enable them to perform their duties effectively.



Chief Superintendent of Police, Esther Mary Kaintor, Acting Training and Development Coordinator of AMISOM police, presents a certificate to a Somali Police officer during a Junior and Middle Management course organised by the police component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), held at General Kaahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu.

The week-long training held at the Gen. Kaahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu, concluded on 14 December and was attended by junior and senior SPF officers.

The training covered topics in management, leadership, decision making, problem-solving, communication, time management, team building, change management,

duties and responsibilities of commanders. AMISOM is implementing the Somalia Transition Plan as the mission gradually hands over security responsibilities to the Somalia security forces ahead of the 2021 deadline. The training conducted by AMISOM with support from the Government of India aimed to capacitate the SPF and enable them to take over when AMISOM exits. Speaking at the closing ceremony, acting AMISOM Police Training and Development Coordinator, Chief Superintendent of Police, Esther Mary Kaintor, thanked the SPF for the good working relations with AMISOM.

“You have been equipped with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to enable you to perform your duties effectively and efficiently. When you return to your various units, the SPF leadership depends on you to impact the community positively,” Kaintor said.

The commandant of General Kaahiye Police Academy, Col. Abdikarim Moalim, hailed the AMISOM Senior Leadership for the partnership with SPF. “I encourage you to use the knowledge acquired and perform your duties,” Col. Abdikarim said.

A participant, 2Lt Mohamed Garad Sebriye, said the training had enabled him to improve performance at work.



An AMISOM police officer presents a certificate to a Somali police officer during a Junior and Middle Management course organised by the police component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), held at General Kaahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu.

SNA OFFICERS TRAIN IN HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILD PROTECTION

Twenty-six security personnel from the SNA and the federal Ministry of Defence completed a five-day training in Mogadishu, on human rights and child protection.

The training held from 13-17 October and organised by AMISOM and the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative (RDCSI), aimed to enhance Somali security forces' compliance with the international human rights law (IHRL).

The recruitment and use of child soldiers as combatants in armed conflict by terrorist groups remains a key concern in Somalia.



Soldiers of the Somali National Army (SNA) and officials from the Somali Federal Ministry of Defence attend a five-day training on Human Rights and Child Protection in Mogadishu.

Under the Somalia Transition Plan, AMISOM is supporting the Somali security forces to build capacity to prevent the recruitment and use of children as fighters.

Participants in the training included Child Protection focal persons from SNA units across the country and officials from the Child Protection Unit in the federal Ministry of Defence.



Soldiers of the Somali National Army (SNA), and officials from the Somali Federal Ministry of Defence (AMISOM), in a group photo at the opening of a five-day training on Human Rights and Child Protection in Mogadishu.

Speaking at the end of the training, the federal Minister of Defence, Hassan Ali Mohamed, reiterated the federal government's commitment to ensuring the protection of children.

"Our message is loud and clear. Violations of human rights should end, especially recruitment and use of child soldiers,"

Our message is loud and clear. Violations of human rights should end, especially recruitment and use of child soldiers," he declared. "This is in line with the relevant United Nations Resolution relating to issues of child soldiers, as well as respect for human rights.

he declared. "This is in line with the relevant United Nations Resolution relating to issues of child soldiers, as well as respect for human rights."

According to the Minister, ending such violations is part of SNA's goal to preserve human rights in times of war and peace. "Children should not be recruited as soldiers, and this is our message," the Minister emphasised.

He urged the focal persons to take personal initiative to gain more knowledge in human rights and child protection, and apply the knowledge acquired to carry out their duties. The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, reiterated that the training was crucial to AMISOM's exit strategy.



...li Federal Ministry of Defence and the African Union Mission in Somalia
...an Rights and Child Protection in Mogadishu

"It is by no mistake that they selected you as Child Protection focal persons, critical to mainstreaming Child Protection across Somalia. Completion of this training marks an important milestone in the professionalisation of the SNA," Ambassador Madeira said.

"SNA should execute its obligations in compliance with the relevant international obligations under the human rights and international humanitarian law," he added.

According to the RDCSI Regional Training Manager for Africa, Musa Gbow, the trainees gained adequate knowledge to enable them to perform their duties. The participants received certificates at the end of the training.

Commenting on the outcome of the training, AMISOM Human Rights Officer, Ulrike Khabila Mbuton, said participants



Jihan Abdullah Hassan, the Director-General of Somalia's Federal Ministry of Defence speaks during the opening of a five-day training on Human Rights and Child Protection in Mogadishu.

resolved to ensure reporting of violations against children and coordinate with the Child Protection Unit in the federal Ministry of Defence to address these violations.

Lt. Col Mukhtar Hassan Tifow, from Banadir region, said they had gained valuable knowledge to ensure the protection of children. "We will not let these efforts and resources go to waste," noted Lt. Col. Mukhtar.

2Lt. Sumaya Jowhar Badal, also said the training had capacitated her to deter child recruitment. "We are grateful to our instructors for taking the time to enhance our knowledge," she added.



Lt. Col Mukhtar Hassan Tifow, from Banadir region, said they had gained valuable knowledge to ensure the protection of children. "We will not let these efforts and resources go to waste," noted Lt. Col. Mukhtar.

AMISOM TRAINS SOMALI OFFICIALS IN REHABILITATION OF EX-COMBATANTS

AMISOM conducted training for Somali government officials involved in the management and rehabilitation of ex-combatants.



The Chief of the Somali Military Tribunal, Col. Hassan Ali Nur Shuute, Mohamed Ali Hussein, the Director of the Defector Rehabilitation Program at the Ministry of Internal Security and Fadil Karrar, the AMISOM Civil Affairs Officer during a two-day defector rehabilitation program training for the Federal Government of Somalia relevant agencies in SYL Hotel in Mogadishu.

About 80 officials drawn from Somali state agencies that handle rehabilitation of former combatants, attended the two-day training programme in Mogadishu organised by the AMISOM Civil Affairs Unit.

The participants sought to share best practices and challenges of the Defector Rehabilitation Programme and how to forge ahead.

Speaking at the training on 8 December, the Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, emphasised

AMISOM's commitment to supporting the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to rehabilitate former combatants.

"It should be in the national interest to end violence. Whoever wants to join violence should abandon the idea, return and work to make Somalia rise and shine again as a giant of the region," Mulongo told participants. According to the AMISOM Civil Affairs Officer, Fadil Karrar, the training was to enhance the capacity of the Defector Rehabilitation Programme for government officials, ministries,

agencies, and security forces.

"The Defector Rehabilitation Programme has a national strategy and action plan for government officials, and the line ministries, to improve engagement and collaboration," Fadil noted.

The Director of the Defector Rehabilitation Programme in Somalia's Ministry of Internal Security, Mohamed Ali Hussein, said the programme complements the President's stand to offer amnesty to those that renounce violence.

"The national rehabilitation



Participants attend a two-day defector rehabilitation program training for the Federal Government of Somalia relevant agencies in SYL Hotel in Mogadishu.

programme gives a second chance to ex-combatants from extremist groups like Al-Shabaab, enabling them to be remorseful and seek forgiveness," said the director, Mohamed.

He emphasised that AMISOM is a crucial partner in providing training, equipment and resourcing for the

rehabilitation of former combatants – an integral part of the National Programme for the treatment and handling of disengaged combatants in Somalia.

The chief of Somalia's military tribunal, Col. Hassan Ali Nur Shuute, said that any ex-combatant that does

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"I urge all Police station commanders not to harbour ex-combatants in their respective districts without notifying the appropriate authorities for them to undergo rehabilitation," said Col. Shuute.

not undergo rehabilitation is still an enemy.

"I urge all police station commanders not to harbour ex-combatants in their respective districts without notifying the appropriate authorities for them to undergo rehabilitation," said Col. Shuute.



The Chief of the Somali Military Tribunal, Col. Hassan Ali Nur Shuute, Mohamed Ali Hussein, the Director of the Defector Rehabilitation Program at the Ministry of Internal Security and Fadil Karrar, the AMISOM Civil Affairs Officer during a two-day defector rehabilitation program training for the Federal Government of Somalia relevant agencies in SYL Hotel in Mogadishu.



Participants attend a one-day awareness training on gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence in Kismayo, Somalia.

AMISOM TRAINS JUBBALAND CIVIL SOCIETY ON GBV

AMISOM trained members of civil society organisations in Jubaland State and equipped them with skills and knowledge to address gender-based violence in the community.

The one-day training held on 4 December in Kismayo was part of activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign held every year to end violence against women and girls. The campaign starts on 25 November and ends with the marking of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Participants in the training included civil society activists as well as representatives of internally displaced persons, elderly, youth, and women groups.

Gloria Jaase, the AMISOM Protection Officer who facilitated the training, noted the need to capacitate Somali civil society groups to address gender-based violence.

"During the sixteen days of activism, we recommit to ensuring the protection of women, girls, and children against GBV and conflict-related sexual violence in different countries, including Somalia," said Jaase.

She noted that while gender-based violence affects mostly women and girls,

men and boys are also victims of abuse. "The campaign against gender-based violence should continue beyond the sixteen days of activism. We also need to recognise that men and boys are survivors of gender-based and sexual violence," she added.

Barey Garweyne, a participant, said the training had created awareness on the importance of protecting the vulnerable in society.

"If we protect vulnerable women, children, and youth, society becomes healthy. I am grateful to the organisers of this awareness training," Barey said. Amran Abdi Hussein, another participant, expressed optimism that the training would contribute to efforts to end violence against women and girls.

"I look forward to the day when violence against women will end," said Amran. Abdirashid Hassan Mohamud, a member of the Jubaland Non-State Actors Association, noted that over the years, there has been increased awareness to end gender-based violence.

"This annual commemoration of the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence reminds us of our responsibility to protect the vulnerable," said Abdirashid.



Gloria Jaase, the AMISOM Protection Officer, addresses participants during a one-day awareness training on gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence in Kismayo, Somalia.

SECTOR ONE

Salute to service

A battle group from the Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF), named 'UGABAG XXVI,' received African Union medals and certificates in recognition of their contribution to the security and peace process in Somalia. In December 2019, the battle group that had deployed in Somalia, completed a year-long tour of duty under AMISOM. The AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma, hailed the departing troops for securing the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia and the capital, Mogadishu. "You liberated Sabiid-Anole, El-Saliini, Bariire, and Awdheegle, and Baledogle in coordination with the Somali Security Forces. As Africans, we are proud of you for sacrificing your lives for peace in Somalia and Eastern Africa," Lt. Gen. Tigabu revealed.

The Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn, addresses soldiers from the Ugandan AMISOM contingent during a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu.



The Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Simon Mulongo, presents a certificate to a Ugandan military officer in recognition of his service under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



The troops secured main supply routes (MSR) to allow the safe movement of people and goods. They also protected population centres and conducted joint operations with the Somali National Army (SNA) to liberate areas from terrorists. The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, hailed the troops for the cordial relations with the Somali National Army and the civilian population.

"We congratulate the Sector Commander and the entire echelon of the sector for performing to the pride of the African Union and African people," Mulongo said.

Brig. Michael Kabango, the outgoing Uganda contingent commander, hailed his officers, men and women, for supporting the fulfilment of AMISOM's mandate.

"It has not been easy, but you have diligently performed. Somalia was never going to be easy, but you were up to the task," Brig. Kabango noted. Soldiers under the battlegroup were deployed in the areas of Barawe, Bulomarer, Golweyn and Beladamin, among others.



The Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn, pins a medal on a Ugandan military officer in recognition of his service under AMISOM. This was during a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu.

Uganda saluted for AMISOM role

On 9 October as Uganda marked 57 years of independence, AMISOM recognised the country's contribution to ensuring peace and security on the continent.

The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo, officiated at Uganda's Independence Day celebrations in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Held under the theme 'Consolidation of national unity, security, freedom, and prosperity', guests included expats working with Somalia and senior AMISOM officials.

Ugandan troops deployed in Somalia under AMISOM in 2007, and have since been serving alongside counterparts from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya. AMISOM troops are supporting the Somali security forces to defeat terrorists groups and restore peace in Somalia.

Mulongo said that by deploying its forces to Somalia, Uganda has proved to be a reliable partner in supporting the African Union's aspirations of continental peace and security.

"AMISOM is our flagship mission, and Ugandan troops have made a difference towards the success of the policy of peace enforcement in Africa," he said. Uganda's Ambassador to Somalia, Prof.



Uganda's Ambassador to Somalia, Prof. Sam Turyamuhika speaks during celebrations to mark Uganda's 57th Independence anniversary held in Mogadishu, Somalia .

Maj. Gen. Nathan Mugisha, Uganda's Deputy Ambassador to Somalia, speaks during celebrations to mark Uganda's 57th Independence anniversary held in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Sam Turyamuhika, noted that Uganda had emerged from years of conflict and is now contributing to regional peace efforts. He called for deeper integration and unity of Africa if the African Union member states are to overcome the political and economic challenges. "There is no country in the world that can stand on its own," noted Ambassador Turyamuhika, "We are all interdependent, and particularly in Africa, we need regional integration." The AMISOM Deputy Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Nakibus Lakara, noted that Uganda continues to contribute to regional and international efforts to end conflicts.

The AMISOM Police Operations Coordinator, ACP Gwambal, lauded AMISOM military for creating conditions that enabled the AU to deploy police to support the rebuilding of the Somali Police Force.



SECTOR TWO AMISOM, SNA, repair roads

Before the onset of the rains, AMISOM troops from the Kenyan contingent, and SNA troops operating in Lower Juba region carried out rehabilitation works on the main road linking the towns of Dhobley and Tabta in the region.

Consequently, the joint renovation works eased the movement of people, goods and services on the 54km stretch road in the region.

Brig. Gen. Dickson Ruto, the commander of the Kenyan contingent, noted that UN Security Council Resolution 2472, the revised AMISOM Concept of Operations (CONOPs), and the Somalia Transition Plan, task AMISOM to open up main supply routes in liberated territories. "One of the tasks of AMISOM is to open main supply routes. We have a stretch between Dhobley all the way to Kismayo, which is important to the movement of people and goods, particularly in the Federal Member State of Jubaland," Brig. Gen. Ruto explained.

Rehabilitation of the road, Gen. Ruto noted, would bolster security

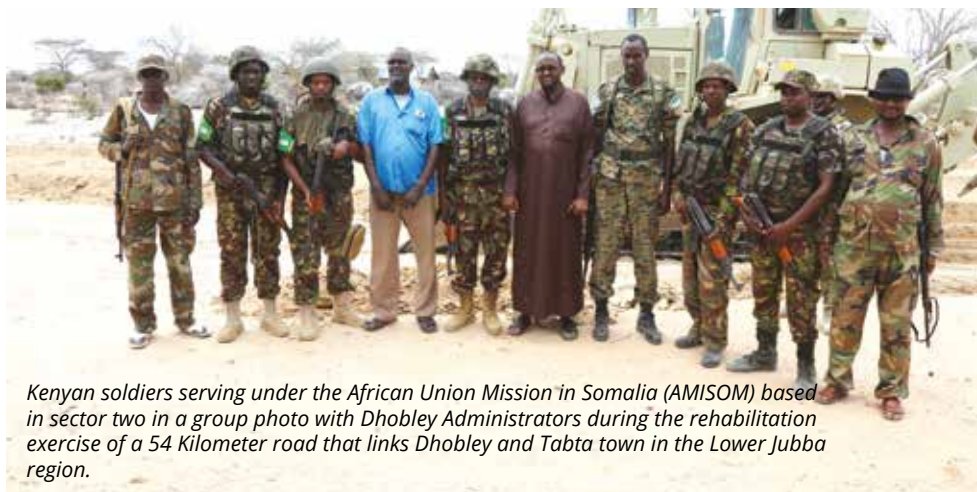


Road rehabilitation is one of AMISOM's key priority programmes under its revised CONOPs, which includes degrading the threat of the terrorists, securing main supply routes and population centres.

in the region. AMISOM troops, Ruto said, would also rehabilitate roads in Dhobley town which had been damaged by rains. Siyad Mohamed Hassan, the Administrator for Dhobley, commended AMISOM for the development activities, an addition to the core mandate of securing Somalia and mentoring government forces. Road rehabilitation is one of AMISOM's

key priority programmes under its revised CONOPs, which includes degrading the threat of the terrorists, securing main supply routes and population centres.

The CONOPs provides a framework to guide the gradual transfer of security responsibilities from AMISOM troops to Somali security forces and eventual exit of AMISOM from Somalia.



Kenyan soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) based in sector two in a group photo with Dhobley Administrators during the rehabilitation exercise of a 54 Kilometer road that links Dhobley and Tabta town in the Lower Jubba region.





Supporting women groups

As Somalia recovers from decades of civil war, there is a need to create opportunities that enable women to participate meaningfully in economic development through income generation activities.

In the second week of October, female troops of the AMISOM Kenyan contingent donated equipment to support livelihood improvements of women in Dhobley town, Lower Jubba region.

The items included gardening, hairdressing, and tailoring equipment ranging from wheelbarrows, rakes, spades, gloves, hair driers, and sewing machines.

The AMISOM Kenyan contingent Commander, Brig. Gen. Dickson Ruto, said the donations were part of efforts (to) partner and build good relations with women's groups under the 'female engagement initiative'. He said six women's group would benefit from the donation.

The Administrator for Dhobley, Siyad Mohamed, thanked the AMISOM Kenyan contingent for going beyond their mandate of fighting terrorists groups, to support local development initiatives.

Lt. Mwanaisha Mahu, the AMISOM Gender Officer, who manages the 'female engagement project', noted the donation was in response to identified needs presented by the women 'sgroups.

"We first met with the women's groups to understand their needs and how we could support them," Lt. Mahu said.



A section of local women organizations in Dhobley district, Lower Jubba region received an assortment of items donated by female Kenyan troops serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) based in Sector Two Headquarters.



Providing free medical care

Kenyan military medical officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) conduct a free medical check-ups and treatment at Dhobley General Hospital during AMISOM Medical Camp in Sector two



On 1 October, AMISOM troops from the Kenyan contingent conducted a free medical camp at Dhobley General Hospital to support communities through health service delivery.

Residents, who turned up in their large numbers, received free checkups, treatment and advice from AMISOM medics who supported medical personnel at the hospital.

Lt. Col. Dr. Wahome of AMISOM said they attended to over 300 patients with cases ranging from malaria, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, skin diseases, burns and abscesses. "As part of the Somali Transition Plan and our Concept of Operations, we have a responsibility to support and develop the capacity of our Somali counterparts. Even though we are in uniform, we are health professionals and partnering with our counterparts at Dhobley General Hospital has been a tremendous success", Dr. Wahome said.

The Dhobley Administrator, Siyad Mohamed Hassan, thanked AMISOM for the continued support to the

people in and around Dhobley. "This is the fourth collaboration we've had with doctors from AMISOM and we hope for more of such in the future," Hassan said.

The Jubaland Health Coordinator, Nur Bihi Osman, was at the hospital to witness the hundreds who came to receive medical assistance. Lt. Col. Johali Muwaziche Miljalla, the commandant of AMISOM Level 2 Hospital in Dhobley said the medical camps were increasingly receiving a high patient turn out.

"Our last medical camp in May attended to about 200 people. This time however we have seen about 300 patients. We are finalising our community programmes which includes healthcare professionals moving from community to community to offer outreach services.

They will identify and review cases including cleft lip and cleft palate, fistula, among others. The patients will then be referred to Dhobley General Hospital and after evaluation we will prepare them for surgery," Lt Col. Miljalla said.

Ending conflict-related sexual violence

In the month of October, AMISOM conducted an awareness training for its military personnel in Dhobley, to protect civilians against conflict-related sexual violence and mainstream gender into their operations.

The three-day training was organised by the AMISOM Force Headquarters Gender Office, in collaboration with the AMISOM Protection, Human Rights and Gender (PHRG) cluster.

The AMISOM Gender Officer, Maj. Patricia Musendo, AMISOM Protection Officer, Ms. Gloria Jaase-Nkundanyirazo, and AMISOM Head of Security Sector Reforms, Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, facilitated the training.

The training aimed to orient AMISOM personnel on issues related to gender concepts, sexual abuse, and exploitation, prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, gender mainstreaming, sexual exploitation and abuse, and security



Maj. Patricia Musendo AMISOM Gender Officer conducts a workshop on Gender and Conflict Related violence awareness for Kenyan soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Dhobley, Lower Jubba region.

sector reforms. "The officers and men were eager to learn about issues related to gender, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and conflict-related sexual violence and security sector reforms," noted Maj. Musendo.

Ms. Nkundanyirazo, in her presentation, highlighted the role of AMISOM in protecting women, children, and internally displaced persons. She also sensitised the military personnel about AMISOM's role in preventing conflict-related sexual violence and AMISOM's zero-tolerance policy to sexual exploitation and abuse.



Hamouda Kanu, AMISOM Civilian Sector Coordinator conducts a workshop on Gender and Conflict Related violence awareness for Kenyan soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Dhobley, Lower Jubba region.

According to Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, the Head of the Security Sector Reforms, the training was a prerequisite for AMISOM personnel.

Lt. Mwanaisha Mahu, the AMISOM Gender Officer, expressed hope that the participants would apply the acquired knowledge to support the mission in fulfilling its mandate. "I hope the lessons will have a positive impact on our soldiers and officers and enable them to perform their day-to-day duties," said Lt. Mwanaisha.



Kenyan soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in a group photo with facilitators at a workshop on Gender and Conflict Related violence awareness in Dhobley, Lower Jubba region.

"The officers and men were eager to learn about issues related to gender, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and conflict-related sexual violence and security sector reforms," noted Maj. Musendo.



African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Force Commander, Lieutenant Gen. Tigabu Yilma, is received by senior commanders of the Ethiopian contingent serving under the AMISOM, upon arrival at Baidoa in the South West State of Somalia.

SECTOR THREE Progress in the field

At the beginning of October, the AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yima Wondimhunegn visited Baidoa, the Sector Three headquarters, where he was briefed on the overall security and progress in implementing the Concept of Operations (CONOPs) and the Somalia Transition Plan.

Lt. Gen. Yima held closed-door meetings with the commanders from the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF). He also interacted with the soldiers in the sector to encourage them.

He additionally discussed the security situation in the ENDF's area of responsibility, and progress to implement civil-military (CIMIC) projects in support of the local population.

Col. David Obonyo, AMISOMC Chief Military Intelligence Officer said the Force Commander's visit aimed to evaluate the overall security of the region where Ethiopian troops operate. "This is a routine visit that the Force Commander conducts to troops in all sectors. In addition to that, he assessed the ongoing rotation, the movement of troops and the general security situation in the sector," said Col. Obonyo.



Ethiopian troops serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) mount a guard of honour during the arrival of AMISOM Force Commander, Lieutenant Gen. Tigabu Yilma in Baidoa, Somalia.



Djiboutian soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), stand in a queue as they wait to embark a plane after completing their tour of duty in Belet Weyne, Somalia



Col. Abdullahi Muse Omar (left), the incoming Commander of the Djiboutian contingent serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), greets Col. Abdirahman Riyaale Hareed (right), the outgoing Commander of the Djiboutian unit, during a command handover and takeover ceremony at the Djiboutian AMISOM contingent headquarters in Belet Weyne, Somalia.

SECTOR FOUR

Djibouti deploys battalion

The AMISOM Djiboutian contingent deployed a new battalion, the 7th Battalion, replacing the 5th Battalion, whose tour of duty has come to an end.

The AMISOM Djibouti contingent commander, Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Mousa bade farewell to the troops at Beletweyne Airport and thanked them for their dedication to duty and advancing AMISOM's mandate during their time in Somalia.

"They have consolidated the peace, fulfilled their duty with competence, responsibility, and efficiency. I

congratulate the outgoing battalion commander, Col. Abdirahman Hared Riyale for the excellent work during his tour of duty in Somalia," said Col. Mousa.

Col. Abdullahi Muse Omar took over command from the, Col. Abdirahman Hared Riyale.

During their time under AMISOM, the deployed troops will secure areas in Beletweyne and Bulburde.

The AMISOM Djibouti contingent commander, Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Mousa bid farewell to the troops at Beletweyne Airport and thanked them for their dedication to duty.

To the aid of Beletweyne

The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira visited flood-affected Beletweyne and conveyed a message of solidarity and goodwill from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat.



The Special Representative of the Chairperson of African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira arrives at Beledweyne airport

During the visit on 23 November 2019, Ambassador Madeira announced that the African Union Commission would provide relief support in the form of medical supplies and non-food items.

Beletweyne, in the HirShabelle State of Somalia, was devastated by heavy rains and flooding which destroyed houses, crops, roads and displaced thousands of families.

"The Chairperson of the African Union Commission has instructed me to tell the population of Beletweyne that the African Union is with Hiraaan, Beletweyne and the whole population at this moment. I had the opportunity

to go through the city, and I saw the devastation that the floods have caused," Ambassador Madeira said. The Head of AMISOM also commended AMISOM Sector Four personnel for their tireless efforts in distributing relief items as well in conducting search and rescue operations during the humanitarian crisis.



The Head of AMISOM also commended AMISOM Sector 4 personnel for their tireless efforts in distributing relief items as well in conducting search and rescue operations during the humanitarian crisis.

Ambassador Madeira also met the deputy president of HirShabelle State, Ali Hussein Guudlaawe, the Governor of Hiraaan region, Ali Mohamed Arale and high-ranking SNAM officers, and discussed the humanitarian and security needs of the state.

"I promised vice president Ali Hussein that AMISOM police and the



The Special Representative of the Chairperson of African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Madeira and the deputy president of Hirshabelle hold a press conference at the headquarters of Hiran Administration.

military will continue to work with the HirShabelle security forces to protect the population and do the best we can to open the main supply routes towards Fidow and Jowhar to Mogadishu.”

He said opening the main supply routes was important in linking HirShabelle towns as well as to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services.

HirShabelle’s deputy president Ali

Hussein expressed gratitude to AMISOM for its support.

“We have discussed the dire needs of the people in Beletweyne, Bula-burde, Jalalaqsi, Mahaday, Jowhar and Bal’ad towns that were affected by the floods. We appreciate AMISOM’s solidarity and support. We are ready to lead every effort to help the people. After this emergency, we would like to come up with durable solutions to mitigate the devastation caused by recurring floods in Beletweyne and Hiraan region”, the deputy president said.

He also said they had discussed plans for re-opening the main supply routes linking HirShabelle towns, with the view of launching an offensive to liberate these areas and open vital supply routes.

Earlier, Ambassador Madeira was briefed by AMISOM commanders in the region, on the overall security situation, with a focus on actions to take to re-open the main roads in the region currently blocked by the terrorists.

He said opening the main supply routes was important in linking HirShabelle towns as well as to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services.

SECTOR FIVE

War machines

On 5 November, the Government of Burundi delivered combat vehicles, to reinforce ongoing counter-terror operations conducted by its troops serving under AMISOM.

The high rate of wear and tear of equipment due to the harsh operating environment requires AMISOM troop-contributing countries to replace equipment periodically to ensure the efficiency of operations. Burundian troops alongside other forces from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, are deployed in Somalia under a UN Security Council mandate to support the Somali security forces to defeat terrorist groups.

The Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, inspected the new equipment along with the Deputy AMISOM Force Commander in-charge of Logistics and Support, Maj. Gen. George Owinow, and the Commander of the AMISOM Burundian troops, Brig. Gen. Richard Banyankimbona. Ambassador Madeira noted that the military hardware would boost AMISOM's capacity to combat terrorism while ensuring safety of the soldiers. "Our soldiers are valiant and brave,

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"Our soldiers are valiant and brave however they need protection while fighting. So, these armoured personnel carriers will protect them as they fight the enemy," said Ambassador Madeira.

however, they need protection while fighting. So, these armoured personnel carriers will protect them as they fight the enemy," said Ambassador Madeira. "They are force enablers and force multipliers, no doubt and I thank the Burundi President for providing this essential equipment," he added.

The AMISOM Burundi contingent commander, Brig Gen Banyankimbona said the carriers would enhance his troops' movement, protection of civilians, UN and AMISOM personnel. The Burundian troops under AMISOM secure Middle Shabelle region.



New Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) belonging to the Burundian contingent serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Mogadishu.



Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, inspects new Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) belonging to the AMISOM Burundian contingent, in Mogadishu, Somalia.



A soldier from the Somali National Army (right), receives a certificate at the end of a three-day integrated training on civil-military coordination organised by the AMISOM Humanitarian Liaison Unit in Jowhar, Somalia.

SNA, AMISOM train in civil-military cooperation

AMISOM conducted a joint training for AMISOM Burundian and SNA troops focusing on guidelines that govern relations between humanitarian actors, civilians, and security forces.

The training, conducted at the end of October in Jowhar, was organised in collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Participants who included CIMIC officers were taken through Somalia country-specific humanitarian and civil-military coordination guidelines. The guidelines specify how the military and humanitarian actors should relate in conflict areas to enable the delivery of humanitarian

assistance to communities in need. Other topics included gender aspects in peacekeeping operations, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and conflict-related sexual violence, protection of women and children, human rights, and international humanitarian law.

Participants also shared best practices and identified common challenges so they could plan on how best to cooperate to fulfil their mandate to defeat terrorist groups in Somalia.

The AMISOM Humanitarian Liaison Officer, Jackson Basoronga said, "The training objective was to improve the knowledge and raise awareness among the forces on the principles and guidelines of civil-military coordination."

While closing the training, Basoronga encouraged the soldiers to apply the knowledge acquired in their respective areas of deployment and share the experience with their colleagues.



Military officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMIOM) and Somali National Army (SNA), in a group photograph on the sidelines of a three-day integrated training on civil-military coordination organised by the AMISOM Humanitarian Liaison Unit in Jowhar, Somalia.



Military officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) pose a group photograph on the sideline of a workshop course on the conflict-related sexual violence in Kismayo, Somalia.

SECTOR SIX

Measures to protect civilians

Over 400 AMISOM soldiers and officers from the Ethiopian and Kenyan contingents trained in the protection of civilians, prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, abuse and sexual exploitation.

Organised by AMISOM, the training covered topics such as gender mainstreaming, security sector reforms, international human rights law and humanitarian law, among others.

Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, the Head of AMISOM Security Sector Reforms said the training intended to sensitise the soldiers about their role in preventing conflict-related sexual violence in their areas of operation.

“The purpose is to raise awareness on the issues related to security sector reform such as international humanitarian law, issues of human rights, issues of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. This training is important because AMISOM forces are mandated to mentor Somali forces while they are doing operations, so with this knowledge they will also assist their partners, the Somalis, while doing operations” Kanu said.

Mubiana Kalaluka, AMISOM Gender

Officer said the training increased awareness for soldiers about conflict-related sexual violence, gender-based violence and other cases concerning gender.

Kalaluka added that it was important for AMISOM to deploy more female soldiers and officers as they would play a critical role in supporting women in the community.

Lt. Col. Meshak Koshiyian, the Commanding Officer of the Kenyan

contingent in Kismayo said the training had built the knowledge of the troops who had gained a deeper understanding of issues.

“The training on the issues of security sector reform has really given us impetus in how we conduct our operations so we can better support our counterparts, the Somali security forces, we work together. We covered several aspects including international humanitarian law, gender and child protection,” Lt. Col. Koshiyian said.



Military officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) attend a workshop course on conflict-related sexual violence in Kismayo, Somalia .

SNA troops undergo human rights training

AMISOM conducted an awareness training for SNA personnel in Kismayo, Jubaland State, to educate soldiers on human rights and mainstreaming gender into their operations.

The training, held in November, was attended by over 60 SNA soldiers and officers operating in the state. They were taken through important lessons such as security sector reforms, gender mainstreaming, and prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse. Colonel Mohamed Bedel Hassan, commander of the 11th Division of the

43rd battalion in Jubaland, who spoke after the training, said the soldiers had learned valuable skills that would enable them to execute their duties diligently. "The training went well, and we hope such trainings to continue in future," Col. Mohamed added. Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, the Head of AMISOM Security Sector Reforms stated that the workshop aimed at increasing the awareness and

understanding of the soldiers about human rights issues. "It was to sensitise them on issues of security sector reform, issues of conduct and discipline, issues of gender mainstreaming, issues of international humanitarian law and issues of environment protection and child protection," Hamouda said. Brigadier Juma Mwinyikai, AMISOM Sector Six Commander, reminded the soldiers to relate with the civilian



Somali National Army soldiers with facilitators pose for a group photo at the end of a workshop on Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Kismayo.

population during their operations and protect the vulnerable people, especially women and children. "You should be aware of civil-military cooperation, how to relate in uniform with our brothers and sisters who are not in uniform; how men and women in uniform relate with the population and the civilians in

villages and towns, also the issue of security sector reforms. We tackled international humanitarian law, human rights, gender, child protection and conflict related sexual violence," Brig. Mwinyikai said. Mohamed Hussein Hassan, a Somali SNA soldier, said the training had given him important lessons on human

rights and the protection of vulnerable people. "I thank the organisers of this important training which includes how not to violate human rights and how we need to protect the environment, protect vulnerable people and all those we swore to protect," Hassan said.



Somali National Army soldiers attend a workshop on Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Kismayo on 26 November 2019. The workshop was organized and supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



Hamouda Mohammed Kanu, the Head of AMISOM Security Sector Reforms makes a presentation during a workshop on Conflict-related Sexual Violence for Somali National Army soldiers in Kismayo.

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"It was to sensitise them on issues of security sector reform, issues of conduct and discipline, issues of gender mainstreaming, issues of international humanitarian law and issues of environment protection and child protection," Hamouda said.

DIVIDENDS OF PEACE: MOGADISHU IS CHANGING

MOGADISHU – Mogadishu is coming to life, again.

These days, Mogadishu's beautiful beaches are a hive of activity. Nestled in northern Mogadishu, the popular hangout spot, Liido Beach, is surrounded by beautiful beach hotels and restaurants, which are a favourite weekend getaway for many local residents who go there to relax and enjoy their days away from the hustle and bustle of Mogadishu City. Over the years—thanks to the increasing peace and stability that Mogadishu is enjoying—the city, and in particular its sprawling beaches, have seen an increase in the number

of ordinary people visiting them for business and for pleasure. The peace dividend is paying off in many ways, with Somalis from the diaspora also returning and investing heavily in the hotel and hospitality industry.

The kaleidoscope of colour and laughter that are the sights and sounds of Liido Beach are a far cry from the period before 2009, when Mogadishu was under the control of the militant group Al-Shabaab, whose reign of terror forbade any form of leisure activities and banned swimming.

After the AMISOM forces routed Al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu in 2009, the

city has been coming to life, regaining its former glory as a business hub and leisure destination.

According to the World Bank report of August 2019, Somalia's "real GDP is projected to grow by 3.0–3.5 percent, an outlook predicated on extension of the security gains and policy reforms the authorities have achieved to date," the report indicated in part. Mobile money transfers have revolutionised business in Somalia and transactions are easy and fast.

Today, the pristine waters of the ocean are beckoning.

Liido Beach is a stretch of gorgeous

sandy beach approximately two kilometres long in the north of the Somalia capital, Mogadishu, overlooking the Indian Ocean. The name Liido derives from the Italian word for 'beach'. In the 1970's and early 80's the beach was full of foreign tourists, and many locals. Today, as Somalia rebuilds after years of armed conflict, security in and around Mogadishu is very tight. For everyone's insurance, there are several checkpoints manned by heavily armed police and paramilitary officers before one gets to Liido.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

On Fridays, which are weekends in Somalia, it is now a common feature to see hundreds of residents; young and old, mothers and fathers, boys and girls, flock to Liido Beach to dine, swim, play beach soccer or, simply, take a boat ride across the waters. Local businesspeople enjoy brisk business hiring out boats and luminous bright floaters for the less confident swimmers. Several hotels and restaurants offer freshly squeezed fruit juices, food and fresh fish, a variety of seafood and the choicest of Somalia's cuisine.

On the day of their graduation from Salaam University, close friends Sowda Abdirahman and Ruqia Afrah, chose Liido Beach as the best spot to celebrate their graduation. Clad in their black and green graduation gowns, the two young ladies were a standout among the swimmers and, confidently, told us that they were ready to help in the reconstruction of Mogadishu. They had both graduated with a degree in banking and finance.

We caught up with Sowda, Ruqia and their families at the top balcony of Dolphin Hotel, which overlooks the ocean, giving



People walk past the newly renovated Ahmed Gurey monument at KM4 roundabout in Mogadishu, Somalia.



A modern mosque build in Mogadishu, Somalia.

one a bird's eye view of the activity on the beach, and of the serene waters.

"We came here to find a cool place to relax as we celebrate our graduation because this is one of the most beautiful places in the city. I came to enjoy the moment with family



A view of Lido beach from the sea in Mogadishu, Somalia



Friends enjoy a boat ride at the Lido beach in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Residents of Mogadishu, Somalia spend their weekends at the Lido beach.

and friends," 21-year-old Sowda said, standing at the edge of the balcony gazing out at the beautiful view of Lido beach. As she looks across the ocean, 22-year-old Ruqia, talks about the future she dreams of for herself and her country.

"First, I want to first work for a big corporation. Then I want to start a unique business that is not common so that other girls could emulate me. That is why I studied banking and finance," she said.

Peace dividend

With improving peace and security as well as expanding business opportunities across the country, Mogadishu is witnessing a construction boom and is now home to several thriving businesses. International investors are coming in, and the locals are renowned for their industrious nature and entrepreneurship.

Somalia is witnessing an impressive growth of its aviation sector, and Mogadishu's Aden Abulle International Airport now attracts some of the world's best-known international airlines. Turkish Airlines, Kenya Airways, Ethiopia Airlines, and Qatar Airlines operate regular flights into Mogadishu and, recently, Uganda Airlines joined the growing list of international and regional airlines that now fly into Somalia. Inside the international airport, a Turkish company has constructed a 5-star hotel, the first of its kind, the Decale Hotel with exquisite rooms, including luxurious presidential suites.

Across town, the first gated community called Dar-u-Salaam is now complete, with its impressive villas, a children's park, school, hospital and shops. The face of Mogadishu is changing and changing fast.

In late November, the second Mogadishu Tech Summit, an annual gathering of tech savvy, digital entrepreneurs and innovators has just successfully been held, attracting over 5 000 visitors, the majority of whom were youth. A women-owned cosmetic company called Sadra Beauty Company, started and run by three university graduates, won this year's coveted Khalid Innovation Trophy that came with a US \$5 000.00 cash prize.

Salaam Bank pledged US \$5 million for the next three years to be made available to innovators and entrepreneurs, with access to the funds provided through iRise, Somalia's first-ever technology innovation hub which promotes collaboration between innovators and investors, while also offering resources needed by budding entrepreneurs and startups, such as business training, mentorship, project evaluation and support during the incubation stages of their projects. Last year, Premier Bank injected US \$1 million into the tech summit, with close to a quarter of that amount already disbursed to emerging innovators and entrepreneurs. "If we want to grow and develop our economy it is very important that we invest in technology and encourage entrepreneurs," Shuayb Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer of Salaam Bank said.

The Mogadishu of the past no longer remains; it has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of any capital city in Africa. The signs of progress abound, as Mogadishu continues to reclaim her position as an economic contributor to the Horn of Africa.

AMISOM, PARTNERS HOLD PEACE GALA

AMISOM and key stakeholders held a sports gala in Mogadishu, to strengthen collaboration and utilise sports to promote peace and security.

During the gala on 18 December, AMISOM military and police officers competed against their counterparts from the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the UK Mission Support Team (UKMST).

Various participating teams competed in football, basketball, volleyball, and in the tug-of-war. The AMISOM Deputy Force Commanders Maj. Gen. Nakibus Lakara and Maj. Gen. George Owinow attended the event.

Others present were the AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations,

Daniel Ali Gwambal, and the UNMAS Project Manager for AMISOM Support Seamus McMenamin.

While presiding over the gala, Maj Gen. Lakara noted the benefits of sports and hailed UNMAS for organising the event.

"Sports has benefits which include promoting synergy between AMISOM, and stakeholders. Those who participated are all players in the peace efforts in Somalia," said Maj Gen Lakara.

UNMAS is a service within the UN Department of Peace Operations,

which implements programmes and activities to reduce the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices. In Somalia, UNMAS provides AMISOM with operational capability to counter the threat posed by Improved Explosive Devices (IEDs).

"To bring together AMISOM and partners such as UNMAS and UKMST, with whom we work closely, in such an environment is a wonderful initiative," Maj. Gen. Lakara said. On his part, Gen. Owinow challenged the participating teams to utilise the moment to unwind but exhibit the spirit of sportsmanship.



Winners of the basketball tournament lift their trophy at the end of the AMISOM-UNMAS Sports day held in Mogadishu, Somalia



AMISOM and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) personnel participate in a tug of war during the AMISOM-UNMAS Sports day held in Mogadishu, Somalia.

MoFA STAFF RECEIVE MEDIA TRAINING

AMISOM held a three-day specialised training for officials of the federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to equip them with skills in strategic communication.



Senior officials of Somalia's Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and facilitators pose for a photo with participants at the end of a training on Media and Communication Strategy Development in Mogadishu.



Simon Mulongo, the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, speaks during the opening of a training on Media and Communication Strategy Development for the staff of Somalia's Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Mogadishu.

The specialised media and communication strategy development training for 20 newly recruited officers, took place in Mogadishu from the 23-25 November.

The Deputy Head of AMISOM, Simon Mulongo who officiated at the training that was organised in partnership with the Diaspora Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. During the opening, Mulongo said, "As a government officers, you need to have a clear strategy supported by action plans to be able to inform, educate and influence the masses on the subject of your choice."

Through the specialised training of its staff, the ministry hopes to enhance the country's image through effective communications, improve its messaging capabilities as well as advance the narrative of resilience, reconstruction and progress that

Somalia is undergoing. The Director of Diplomatic Institute, Ambassador Yusuf Alasow Mohamud thanked AMISOM and underscored the importance of the training for both the Ministry and the staff trained and requested more similar specialised training to be organised.

"I hope you will practice the knowledge you gained here. We have requested AMISOM for more of such specialised training to be extended to us," Ambassador Yusuf told the trainees.

Yassin Ahmed Ali said he had gained a lot from the training and was raring to go and put into practice what he had learnt.

"My understanding of the media and how media is important in my line of work has improved. I have learnt of the relationship between media and diplomats and also how the two are critical for each other," he said.



Individual Police Officers (IPOs), serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in a group photo with AMISOM senior Police officers at the end of a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu to mark the completion of their one-year tour of duty in Somalia.

MEDALS OF HONOUR FOR SERVICE IN SOMALIA

AMISOM recognised 13 police officers from Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, for contributing to ongoing efforts to stabilise Somalia.

On 10 December, the individual police officers (IPOs) completed their one year of service under AMISOM and were due to return to their respective countries. The AMISOM Police Commissioner, AIGP Augustine Magnus Kailie, awarded the officers with medals and certificates at a ceremony in Mogadishu. Kailie commended the officers for

supporting efforts to rebuild a capable Somali Police Force that will ensure law and order when AMISOM eventually exits from Somalia. Presently, AMISOM is implementing the Somalia Transition Plan as the mission gradually hands over security responsibilities to Somalia security forces ahead of the 2021 deadline. In line with the transition plan, AMISOM Police officers are training

and mentoring their Somali Police (SPF) counterparts, and also supporting ongoing stabilisation efforts to build and develop a capable force. "You came, served, and assisted AMISOM to fulfil its mandate and for that, we are all grateful for your contributions," AIG Kailie told the officers. Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, a Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Francis Ndiema from Kenya, noted that the year of service under AMISOM was challenging but fulfilling. "We thank our respective police forces for allowing us to serve," SSP Ndiema noted.

Inspector Gloria Apreko, from Ghana, who mentored and trained Somali police officers in Southwest State, said, "To be recognised for serving in AMISOM is professionally rewarding." Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Silvester Hibajene from Zambia, who was a team leader in Baidoa, was grateful for the opportunity to serve under AMISOM. "Receiving a medal to honour my service to Somalia, is a moment of history in my life, my family, and my country, Zambia," ASP Hibajene said.



AMISOM Police Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Augustine Magnus Kailie, pins a medal on a police officer serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), during a medal award ceremony in Mogadishu to mark the completion of one-year tour of duty in Somalia.



Ambassador Francisco Madeira (2nd left), the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn (left), the AMISOM Force Commander and other AMISOM officials, interact with an AMISOM soldier recuperating in a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

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He expressed satisfaction with the quality of treatment provided at the health facilities; and urge the medics to ensure the soldiers receive the best treatment.

CARING FOR THE SICK

In mid-December 2019, AMISOM senior leaders visited peacekeepers receiving treatment at various medical facilities in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The officials, led by the Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, honoured the soldiers for contributing to peace and security in the region and Africa.

"These, for us, are our heroes. We want to build a better and safer Africa, and somebody has to do the work. These youngsters are at the forefront," said Ambassador Madeira. He expressed satisfaction with the quality of treatment provided at the health facilities; and urge the medics to ensure the soldiers receive the best treatment.

"Thank you for the good work, the hospitality, friendship, and readiness to continue working with us," Ambassador Madeira added.

Ambassador Madeira was accompanied by AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn, the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Rex Dundun, and Dr. Komlan Moreira, the Mission's Medical Planning Officer.

During the visit, the medics hailed the injured peacekeepers for their contribution to regional peace and security.

"We cannot underestimate the sacrifices made by the officers when they go down there. Many of us see it on television, but they are the ones on the ground, risking their lives for us. We sincerely thank you. We have seen the positive results because we feel safe," a senior hospital administrator said.

A senior administrator at one of the hospitals reiterated commitment in ensuring the peacekeepers receive quality

medical care and thanked AMISOM for the partnership.

The AMISOM leadership periodically visit the personnel admitted to various medical facilities in Nairobi for medical attention. The peacekeepers from various Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), suffering from multiple ailments, including injuries sustained in battle, are usually evacuated to Nairobi for specialised treatment.



Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn, the AMISOM Force Commander, greets a wounded AMISOM soldier recuperating at a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya

FEMALE AMISOM, SNA, SPF OFFICERS UNDERGO CIMIC TRAINING

In mid-November, the UK Mission Support Team (UK-MST) and AMISOM held a week-long Female Engagement Team course to equip female AMISOM, SNA and SPF officers with skills on how to engage local communities in liberated areas.

The 20 AMISOM and 12 SNA and SPF female officers were drilled on civil-military coordination, Somali culture and context, gender perspectives in operations, combating and preventing conflict related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and handling of defectors.

Lt. Col. Nick Morton, the Officer Commanding UK-MST urged the officers to put their training to good

use, especially in assisting female civilians in the communities. "The hard work starts now. You have done the course, you now have the skills and it is now for you to go forward and actually talk to and engage with over 50 percent of the population that are female," Lt. Col. Morton observed.

Maj. Pete Thompson, the UKMST Stabilisation Advisor and the instructor of the course highlighted the need to

engage with the local population to identify their needs.

"The aim of the course was to prepare students so that they can go out to the ground, and be able to engage with female and youth members of the Somali population, extract information and find out what the real need is from the female and the youth population so that we can do further development down the line," Maj. Thompson noted. The UKMST works with AMISOM



Female military and police officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali Security Forces in a group photo on the sidelines of a Female Engagement Team (FET) training organised by the AMISOM and UK Mission Support Team in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Female military and police officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali Security Forces attend a Female Engagement Team (FET) training organised by the AMISOM and UK Mission Support Team in Mogadishu, Somalia.

through targeted training and mentoring of AMISOM and Somali security forces as one way of achieving peace and stability in Somalia.

At the end of the training, the AMISOM Police Gender Coordinator, Stella Sedame, said the training had

equipped them with skills to deliver on their mandate of mentoring the Somali Police Force.

“The training has helped us, the female engagement team, to assist our fellow Somali officers in engaging with the local population. We have built our knowledge, skills and capacity,”

Sedame said.

Second Lieutenant Nasteha Hassan Ahmed of the Somali Police Force Joint Investigation Team (JIT) was full of praise for the training. “The training on Somali culture has helped me to gain more insights and I believe it also benefited our AMISOM colleagues



Lt. Col. Nick Morton (left), Officer Commanding UK Mission Support Team (UKMST), presents a certificate to a Somali National Army (SNA) officer at the end of a Female Engagement Team (FET) training organised by the AMISOM and UKMST for AMISOM and Somali Security Forces in Mogadishu, Somalia.

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Participants in a group discussion during an awareness-raising forum on the prevention of recruitment and use of child soldiers in Baidoa, Somalia.

PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF SOMALIA

During the last quarter of 2019, AMISOM intensified community awareness events to address the forceful recruitment and use of children as fighters by armed groups in Somalia.

Through an awareness workshop, AMISOM reached out to civil society groups, ministries and child protection committees to help strengthen community mechanisms to protect children.

The AMISOM Protection Officer, Gloria Jaase argued that if communities are aware of the violations against children, they will take an active role to

ensure children are not recruited into armed forces.

The AMISOM Protection, Human Rights and Gender (PHRG) cluster organised separate child protection workshops in Kismayo, Baidoa, and Mogadishu.

The events attracted participants from civil society, women and youth groups, administrators to discuss the rights of children, forms of child recruitment and the vulnerabilities of children and community protection mechanisms.

AMISOM Human Rights Officer, Ulrike Kahbila Mbuton reiterated AMISOM's resolve in tackling the recruitment and use of child soldiers by involving the public to join in the fight.

"This is a very critical issue which we seek to engage the communities for them to understand the various existing frameworks for the protection of children and engage them on the role that they can play to prevent the recruitment or use of children by

armed groups," said Kahbila. A report by the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict revealed that armed groups in Somalia forcefully recruited and used 2 228 boys and 72 girls in 2018. The report

released in June 2019 indicated that terrorists recruited 1 865 children, accounting for the highest number of child recruits. Also, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) committed to implement

a national plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers by instituting measures to prevent violations against children, releasing child soldiers and reintegrating them into communities.



Participants pose for a group photo with facilitators during an awareness-raising forum on the prevention of recruitment and use of child soldiers in Baidoa, Somalia.



Gloria Jaase-Nkundanyirazo, Women and Child Protection Officer for AMISOM addresses participants during an awareness-raising forum on the prevention of recruitment and use of child soldiers in Baidoa, Somalia.



Participants attend an awareness-raising workshop on the Prevention of Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in Kismayo, Somalia.







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