Message from the Police Commissioner

Somalia embarks on an electoral process to elect new political leaders, who will be responsible for steering the State and Peacebuilding in the country for the next four years.

In order to ensure a safe, peaceful and credible electoral process, AMISOM will support the Federal Government of Somalia and the Somali security forces in safeguarding and protecting the process.

President Sheikh Hassan Mohamud appointed the Somali Police Commissioner, Major General Mohammed Sheik Hamud, to head the Somali Elections Security Task Force. Two senior officers from AMISOM; Col. Shadrack Othieno, the Military Chief Operations Officer and ACP Francis Ayree, the AMISOM Police Training Coordinator, were also appointed by the President as members of the Elections Security Task Force.

AMISOM Police Component is committed to its support to the Somali Police and will work hand in hand with them to secure venues where the elections will take place.

The team will further provide a rapid response capability, under the Formed Police Units, to attend to any incidents or threats that may impact on the elections in the vicinity of the electoral centers.

The military component of AMISOM will provide the outer perimeter protection of the electoral venues, in conjunction with Somali National Army.

In preparation for the elections, AMISOM Police embarked on capacity building to enhance security skills of the Somali Police. Training workshops were held in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismaayo, Jowhar and Adado to enhance the skills and sensitize local police on election security. Brochures and posters detailing guidelines on conduct of police officers on electoral duty were distributed to members of the public and also shared with populations living near electoral centers.
Somalia President appeals to AMISOM to help secure upcoming elections

Somalia President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, appealed to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces to secure the parliamentary and presidential electoral process.

President Mohamud said the elections would be a turning point for Somalia in its steady progress to peace and stabilization. He, however, asked security forces to be alert, adding that the terror group, Al-Shabaab, may seek to disrupt the process and prevent voters from exercising their democratic rights.

The President made the appeal on 6 August 2016 at a dinner he hosted for the police and military commanders of AMISOM, the Somali National Army and Somali Police at Villa Somalia, the presidential palace, in Mogadishu.

In attendance were Somali government officials, top AMISOM officials led by the Special Representative of the African Union Chairperson (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, and his Deputy (DSRCC), Lydia Wanyoto, Police Commissioner Anand Pillay, the Force Commander Lt. General Osman Noor Soubagleh, senior commanders as well as diplomats from Troop Contributing Countries.

The President praised AMISOM’s efforts in fighting Al-Shabaab as well as supporting the country’s state formation process.

“The best gift that a human being can give to another human being is life. There is nothing more precious than our lives. And this is what the Troop and Police Contributing Countries and African boys and girls in uniform here in Somalia are giving. We have lost many brave men from different countries in Somalia and we have many orphans back home in the Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs). We have very good boys and girls who have been maimed because of the war here in Somalia. All these are important contributions your people are making here in Somalia,” said President Hassan Sheikh.
AMISOM deploys police officers to Adaado and Jowhar to boost security

The Police Component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) deployed officers to Adaado and Jowhar to help secure the electoral process in the Galmudug and HirShabelle regions.

Teams of Individual Police Officers (IPOs) under AMISOM were deployed in Adaado, the interim capital of Galmudug state, and Jowhar, the capital of the newly formed HirShabelle state, and will work closely with the Somali police in boosting security during the elections.

The police officers were briefed of their role by the AMISOM Police Coordinator of Training and Development, Francis Aryee, at a function held on October 23 in Mogadishu. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Aryee urged them to serve with diligence and ensure residents elected their leaders peacefully.

The deployment of AMISOM Police personnel in Adaado and Jowhar was part of efforts by AMISOM to ensure the electoral process in Somalia is conducted in a peacefully. AMISOM Police also conducted training sessions for Somali police officers in Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu, to prepare them for the exercise.
AMISOM trains Somali police officers on securing the electoral process

AMISOM Police conducted training for Somali Police officers to enhance their capacity to secure the 2016 electoral process. The training was held in the countries major towns where the electoral process is being held, among them, Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu.

The officers were taken through topics that included the importance of elections and election security, voting systems, electoral justice and the role of police and security forces before, during and after elections. Other topics were election security targets, threat assessment and security measures to counter identified threats, causes and the prevention of electoral violence, and screening and searches among others.

In Mogadishu, the training was opened by the SPF Police Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Sheikh Hassan Hamud, and the AMISOM Police Training Coordinator Francis Ayitey Aryee.

Mr Aryee, who is also an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), noted that the elections placed an onerous task on the police and challenged them to help create a conducive environment for peaceful and secure parliamentary and presidential elections.

Maj. Gen. Hamud observed that the police will play a leading role in safeguarding the electoral process and urged the officers to take the training seriously, to help deter bad elements from frustrating the process.

“What we need from you is to take the lead role in the training and share the same knowledge with your colleagues. In this training you will learn how to secure the upcoming elections, and when you return to your stations teach others who did not get the opportunity to undertake this training,” he added.

The training was part of a grand programme conducted by AMISOM Police and was aimed at educating and preparing the police for the electoral process.
AMISOM Police rallies residents to counter violent extremism

AMISOM Police, on 30 August, held a community sensitization meeting on countering violent extremism and radicalization in the southwestern city of Baidoa.

The campaign, aimed at promoting community policing was one of a series of sensitization meetings planned by the police component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) ahead of the forthcoming electoral process.

The Baidoa meeting was attended by Abdirashid Abdullahi, the Governor of Bay Region and representatives from civil society organizations, women leaders, youth, senior Somali Police Force officers and officials from the Interim South West Administration (ISWA).

The Bay Governor affirmed the residents’ resolve to cooperate with security forces to counter violent extremism.

“...with support from AMISOM, were ready to secure the electoral process, which will culminate in a vote to choose the country’s next President.”

“The local community has a role to play. They have been sensitized about this at the district and the regional level. The Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Interior have carried out awareness activities to encourage community members to participate in security programmes and counter any threats on the safe conduct of the forthcoming electoral process in Baidoa,” Mr. Abdullahi said.

Chief Inspector, John Marete, the AMISOM Police Public Information Officer, said the ISWA state security forces with support from AMISOM, were ready to secure the electoral process, which will culminate in a vote to choose the country’s next President.

In Kismayo, a similar meeting was held on 6 September 2016. Participants comprising representatives of the business community, youth, women’s groups and civil society, pledged to work closely with the Somali police and other security agencies, to foster peace in the area.

Jubbaland Police Commissioner, Colonel Hassan Kheyre, described the meeting as fruitful. He said it had been convened in line with the regional police strategy of working more closely with members of the public, for enhanced security.
The month of September was marked by a bustle of activity as preparations for the 2016 electoral process got into top gear. Candidates for seats in the Lower House of the country’s next federal parliament hit the ground running, drumming up support among clan elders, religious leaders and other influential members of their communities. AMISOM Police worked hand in hand with the Somali Police to ensure the campaigns were held in a peaceful environment.

A visit to some of the country’s major cities showed the excitement, among the residents, on the electoral process, which will culminate in the election of a President before the end of the year. In Baidoa, candidates campaigning for various parliamentary seats had put up posters and erected billboards in an effort to win the backing of clan elders and Electoral College delegates.

Subaida Haji Muktar, a female candidate for Parliament, and a new face in the region’s politics, said education, job creation and women’s health would be her key priorities if elected. According to Siid Ali Abukar, the Deputy Head of Registration of the State Indirect Electoral Implementation Team (SIEIT), for the Interim Southwest Administration (ISWA), the process was proceeding smoothly.

The electoral process regulations stipulate that 275 electoral colleges consisting of 51 delegates each will choose members of the Lower House of Parliament. Sixteen of the 51 delegates must be women, 10 youths and the remaining 25 drawn from the wider community, including members of civil society. State assemblies will elect most of the 54 members of the Upper House of Parliament.

In the capital Mogadishu, excitement was palpable as campaigns got underway in September. The residents expressed optimism about the process as they voiced their expectations of future leaders.

“I am hopeful about the future and that the electoral process will usher in development. Since I was born, I have never known what peace means in Somalia. We hope for an elected President who will initiate development and investment in education, make scholarships available for students and create more jobs for the youth,” Aliza Mohamed Ibrahim, a student at City University in Mogadishu said.

“We hope that after the elections, our livelihoods will improve and job opportunities will increase,” Ali Osman, a cart pusher stated.

Somalia’s 2016 electoral process will see 14,025 delegates vote in a Lower and Upper House of Parliament, who will in turn elect a president. The country is expected to hold a true universal ballot in 2020.
AMISOM Police component continued to recruit and train young Somali youths to take up policing responsibilities and help stabilize the country.

In Jubbaland State, the second phase of training new police recruits commenced on 7 July in the port city of Kismayo. Conducted by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Police unit, the three-month training course attracted 203 recruits.

Speaking during the launch of the training, the commander of the Jubbaland Training Center, Colonel Hassan Gabose Affey, said the new recruits were full of optimism and looking forward to serve their country as security officers.

"We would like to thank AMISOM for their sacrifice to offer training to our police officers using experts from different parts of our African continent. They have left their families so as to train and play greater role in restoring peace in our country, Somalia," Colonel Affey said.

Speaking on behalf of AMISOM Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Alexander Kweku Obeng, said the basic policing course would also focus on human rights observance and community policing, among other aspects.

The three-month training programme, which ran from July to October, focused on both practical and theoretical aspects of policing.

AMISOM trains Somali Police Force on biometric data management

The use of modern technology is core to effective functioning of a police force worldwide. To ensure Somali Police is not left behind in modern technology, AMISOM not only donated software but also conducted training on biometric data collection and compilation for both Federal and State Somali Police officers.

The data system was formally handed over to the Somali Police Commissioner, Major General Mohamud Sheikh Hassan Hamud, by the AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay, on 17 July 2016.

Thanks to the training, Somali Police officers will now be able to capture data of its personnel in the federal and regional police units. The biometric data management also allows storage of critical information, including officers' fingerprints, ranks, stations of work and academic qualifications.

"Now that we have the bio-data, the report that will be generated will help in managing the personnel, in terms of rank, promotion and also identifying crime prone areas and where to send more personnel. By a click of a button you will be able to know all the data about a particular station," Assistant Commissioner of Police Samwel Winful explained.
The Somali Police Commissioner, Major General Mohamud Sheikh Hassan Hamud, thanked AMISOM for the kind gesture, which he noted will help in managing the force.

“I would like first to thank our partners, AMISOM Police. What we have launched is our Human Resources Department’s new biometric equipment. We are trying to recover what we had lost in the two decades and a half of civil war and lawlessness. The biometric equipment will provide the exact number of Somali Police Forces wherever they are. To get personal details of an officer, we will just click on his figure print or date of birth, so it easy to work with,” Major General Hamud said.

Close to 200 police recruits graduate in Baidoa

A total of 199 police recruits graduated in Baidoa, the capital of the South West State of Somalia (SWSS), after completing a three-month intensive training programme conducted by the Police Component of AMISOM early August.

The group was the third to graduate in the regional state, in the past one-and-a-half years, bringing the total number of police officers who had completed the training programme to 600.

The colourful pass out parade was witnessed by senior AMISOM and Somali Government officials, among them, Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Lydia Wanyoto; Speaker of South West State of Somalia, Abdukadir Sharif Sheikhuna Maye; AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay; Somali Police Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Hassan Sheikh Hamud and representatives from the United Nations.

DSRCC Lydia Wanyoto, who was the chief guest, congratulated the recruits for completing the training programme and urged them to serve the country diligently.

“As you go out to serve your communities, I urge you to discharge your duties with devotion, patriotism and hard work so that you raise the Somali flag high,” Hon. Wanyoto said.

The AMISOM Police Commissioner stressed the need for sustained support to SPF, adding that AMISOM would continue aiding the country’s security forces.

Maj. Gen Hamud said the recruits were the last batch to graduate in SWSS, under the first phase of the training programme, urging the international community to continue aiding the country’s security forces.

“What we need is a continuation of this programme. This is the end of phase three but we like to have a continuation to ensure sustainability of these young police officers,” the SPF Commissioner appealed.
AMISOM supports Jubbaland Police in establishing Family Violence, Sexual Offences and Child Protection Desk (Gender Desk)

On the 7th August 2016, a select group of police officers from Jubbaland State Police Force completed a six-day training programme on sexual and gender based violence, conducted by the AMISOM Police component in collaboration with the Somali Police Force. The training focused on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Child Protection, International Humanitarian Law and the management and investigations of such cases reported to the police.

On conclusion of the training programme, AMISOM donated sets of office equipment, comprising of tables, chairs, printer, photocopying machine, desktop computer, laptop and cameras to set up a functional Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Child Protection office in Kismayo.

ASP Otu-Nyarko, a Gender and Child Protection Officer with AMISOM Police, said participants were taken through various topics among them types of sexual gender based violence, child abuse and how to handle under-age offenders. They were also taught how to prepare charge sheets and case files.

Acting Jubbaland Police Commissioner, Lt. Colonel Hassan Kheyre Ahmed, commended AMISOM for organizing the training and donating equipment for setting up the Kismayo office.

“I am very glad that Jubbaland police officers, women and men in equal numbers, have been taught about human rights issues and sexual and gender based violence. I am also grateful that AMISOM has supported the Jubbaland Administration with essential equipment which will help us to effectively assist in addressing sexual gender based violence and child abuse,” he said.

Nadifa Horow Ibrahim, a Jubbaland police officer who participated in the training, expressed satisfaction with the training. She said she had learnt a lot of issues related to gender based violence.

Over 120 Somali Police Officers from Baidoa, Beletwewyne and Mogadishu underwent similar training.

Functional and fully equipped Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Child Protection offices have been established by AMISOM in support of the Somali Police force at the CID Headquarters, Somali Police Force headquarters; and Abdul Aziz, Baidoa and Beletwewyne police stations. The deployment of the trained gender and child protection officers is expected to encourage more victims of sexual and gender based violence to report cases to police officers, in search of justice.
hard. He emphasized the importance of the induction training, adding it would prepare them for the major tasks relating to law and order and the implementation of the Concept of Operations.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Rachael Munge Kironji, the new Kenyan Contingent Commander, said the officers were ready for the task ahead and would do their best to help AMISOM achieve it mandate.

“We feel capacitated to undertake the tasks ahead of us. As we embark on our duties, we will continuously remind ourselves of the mandate of AMISOM and we promise to work towards its achievement.”

Individual Police Officers are tasked with mentoring the Somali Police Force (SPF) to help build the capacity of the SPF and transform it into a credible and effective institution that adheres to international policing standards.

AMBASSADOR MADEIRA CHALLENGES NEWLY DEPLOYED AMISOM POLICE OFFICERS ON EXCELLENT SERVICE

Thirty-one newly deployed Individual Police Officers from Sierra Leone and Uganda completed an induction course, on the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on 10 September 2016, in Mogadishu.

Speaking at the official closing of the course, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, advised the officers to approach their duties with confidence and exercise diligence.

“Your contribution will determine if this country will be dominated by criminals or by law-abiding citizens. If you are strong, professional and you know your duties, this country would go a long way in consolidating the shape of its future state,” Ambassador Madeira stated.

AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay, briefed the police officers on the expectations of their role as Individual Police Officers.

“Usually, we send officers to team sites where they provide support to the Somali police. This time, we are going to support Somali Police Force in planning for the electoral process. We are going to ensure, together with the Somali authorities, that we safeguard the electoral process and also the security and safety of the citizens,” Mr. Pillay said.

Twenty of the officers were drawn from Uganda, while 11 are from Sierra Leone.
AMISOM commends outgoing Nigerian Police Contingent

A contingent of Nigerian Individual Police Officers (IPOs) was commended for its distinguished service in mentoring Somali Police Force officers.

The contingent, which completed its tour of duty under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), mentored Somali police officers from both the federal and state levels.

AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay, praised the officers for their resilience and managing to achieve positive results despite working in a challenging environment. He noted that the officers will leave a big gap in the Mission.

“There is no increase in police officers and the numbers we have are the numbers we will work with, to achieve much more than was previously expected. The Somali Police have decided on the model, which will be used at federal and state level. This means we have to develop the structures both at federal and state level and ensure they are functional,” Commissioner Anand Pillay stated in his address to the outgoing officers.

The Contingent Commander of the Nigerian IPOs, Chief Superintendent of Police, Ezeona Ifeoma, thanked her team for work well done in contributing to peace and security in Somalia.

Nigeria is one of the Police Contributing Countries to AMISOM. The country first deployed police officers in Somalia in 2010.

AMISOM hails Sierra Leonean police officers for the exemplary service

Despite having been ravaged for almost two years by the deadly Ebola disease, Sierra Leone did not abandon its responsibilities as a police contributing country under the AMISOM.

On 27 July, a team of seven Sierra Leonean police officers were feted for their service after completing tour of duty in Somalia.

AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, hailed the team for its exemplary discipline and contribution in mentoring Somali Police Force officers.

“Thank you for mentoring the Somali Police Force, thank you for
Uganda deploys new FPU contingent to Somalia

The Uganda Police Force deployed a new FPU contingent to serve under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on 2 August 2016.

The personnel under the command of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Thomas Kamugisha, replaced another contingent that had completed one-year tour of duty in Somalia.

A command handover ceremony took place at the Aden Abdulle International Airport, witnessed by senior Uganda Police commanders serving under AMISOM.

SSP Kamugisha said, “My expectation as a contingent commander is to work hard and make sure that Somalia gets peace and development. I have come to give a hand with my group so that Somalia can gain its past glory.”

“Sierra Leone, a country that needed help, is now providing help as peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions all over the world. This is a feat that we must all recognize and appreciate,” Aryee noted.

AMISOM has been at the forefront in strengthening the SPF to enable it restore law and order in towns and other liberated areas.
Ugandan Individual Police Officers feted for distinguished service

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on 19 August 2016 feted a contingent of Ugandan Individual Police Officers (IPOs) for distinguished service.

The IPOs were awarded certificates of recognition after completing one year tour of duty in Somalia; training and mentoring Somali Police Force (SPF) officers.

"I congratulate you, and on behalf of AMISOM and the AMISOM Police Commissioner, I want to say you have done a great job," AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, said at a ceremony held in their honour.

Ms Alalo hailed the Ugandan government for its Pan African spirit, saying African countries must help one another overcome problems and challenges facing the continent.

Present at the function was the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Rex Dundun; the AMISOM Police Coordinator of Training and Development, Francis Aryee, and Contingent Commanders of other Police Contributing Countries (PCCs).

AMISOM’s Deputy Commissioner noted that the officers had defied odds and helped transform the SPF into a better institution. Individual police officers are tasked to mentor Somali Police Force officers at various police stations.

The AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Rex Dundun, lauded the Ugandan police officers for their diligence and discipline, which, he said, had contributed to their excellent performance.

"I can say authoritatively they have performed extremely well. They have been very professional; they have held various positions in the Mission and some of them have been asked to extend their tour of duty. We have not had any complaints. In terms of discipline, they have been exceptional," the Chief of Staff said.