Welcome to the first quarter edition of the AMISOM Police newsletter. During this period, Somalia emerged from a successful parliamentary and presidential election. The new President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, and members of both the Upper and Lower House of Parliament were elected. The President appointed, Hassan Ali Khaire, as the Prime Minister, who later constituted a cabinet. The new government will be responsible for governing Somalia for the next four years.

The AMISOM Police component is proud to be part of this historic electoral process. The police from the onset was involved in the planning and coordination of the electoral process together with their colleagues from the military and the Somali National Security Forces.

In addition, AMISOM Police trained the Somali Police Force to equip them with the skills required to manage and secure the elections. The police component also deployed its officers to all election venues to support their Somali counterparts in securing polling stations, providing inner perimeter security and ensuring a rapid response capacity to counter any incident or threat was in place.

The inauguration of the President which was held at the Somalia Air Force hanger at the Mogadishu International Airport was attended by heads of state from neighbouring countries, international diplomats and other high profile dignitaries. AMISOM Police with the support of the Somali Police Force took the responsibility of securing the venue and ensured everything went on smoothly.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the AMISOM Police component to congratulate the newly elected President, the Prime Minister and all elected and appointed officials in the Somali Government on their success and wish them well in their tasks ahead. A big thank you to all police officers, both at AMISOM and the Somali Police Force, for the efforts made to ensure the whole electoral process was a success.

Thank you,

Anand Pillay
Joint policing secret to success in securing 2016 electoral process

The Police Component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) helped secure Somalia’s 2016 electoral process through hard work and close cooperation with the Somali security forces.

According to AMISOM Police Acting Operations Coordinator, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Emmanuel Mukama, the joint initiative between AMISOM Police and Somali Police (SP) helped deliver a secure and incident free electoral process, which paved way for the election of a new president and establishment of a new federal parliament.

AMISOM Police helped in the establishment of an Inter-Agency Security Task Force, headed by the Somali Federal Police Force Commissioner. Joint Security Committees, chaired by the respective state Police Commissioners were also established at the regional level.

The Task Force, with the help of AMISOM, put together a detailed security plan. Under the plan, Mogadishu and all other areas where the elections would take place were zoned into security rings. Somali Police and AMISOM Police, for example, were tasked with securing the venues while the National Intelligence Security Agency (NISA) was entrusted with the security of the immediate environs. The Somali National Army (SNA) and AMISOM troops manned the outer security ring, at a radius of about 20km, to keep Al-Shabaab militants at bay.

“The zoning of the areas worked very well. In all regional states where the elections were held, there was not a single incident of disruption of the elections by the Al-Shabaab,” SSP Mukama observed.

AMISOM Police also opened two Forward Operating Bases for its Formed Police Unit (FPU), in Baidoa and Kismayo, and deployed teams of Individual Police Officers (IPOs) to Jowhar and Cadaado.

While the FPU teams in Baidoa and Kismayo helped beef up security in the two towns, the IPOs in Jowhar and Adaado mentored their Somali counterparts on issues regarding elections.

Following the successful conclusion of the electoral process, a post-mortem exercise conducted by key stakeholders dealing with security, recommended that best practices be retained and challenges be addressed ahead of the 2020 elections.

AMISOM Police, for example, resolved to retain its teams in Jubbaland, South West State of Somalia (SWSS) and HirShabelle, to continue training and mentoring Somali Police officers to effectively handle the 2020 elections.

All told, SSP Mukama noted that a number of issues still need to be addressed to transform Somali Police into a formidable force. These include intelligence gathering, training, timely provision of logistics, adherence to the electoral calendar (which was a major challenge), adequate funding and the need to address the welfare, particularly of the SP officers.
Six thousand Somali Police Officers trained by AMISOM

AMISOM Police Component has trained 6000 police officers in Somalia since its inception, making it one of the Mission’s major achievements.

According to AMISOM Police Commissioner, the Mission provided basic police training as well as specialized training to the officers in various parts of the country.

The Commissioner, however, noted that AMISOM Police would have trained more officers if it had more personnel on the ground.

"With our current deployment and activities we are too few in number to be all over and assist the Somali Police (SP) in all areas. There is great need for us to increase our numbers to enable us expand our operations to other areas," the Police Commissioner observed.

AMISOM Police is mandated to train, mentor, monitor and advise the Somali Police with the aim of transforming it into a credible and effective organization that adheres to international standards.

It comprises Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Individual Police Officers (IPOs), who offer training and mentoring, and the Formed Police Unit (FPU), tasked with offering operational support to the Somali Police. The Police Component has deployments in Beletweyne, Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu.

Brigadier Pillay noted that more funding is needed for Somali Police if it is to be transformed into a credible institution, capable of dealing with security challenges.

"A lot of focus is still placed on the military with very little on the police. There is need for the international community to provide more support to the police in Somalia to ensure sustained security within the country," he observed.

The support, the Police Commissioner said, has to be tailored to the needs of the Somali Police, for better coordination and avoidance of duplication.

"We also have a number of partners and donors who are not coordinating and ensuring that support to the Somali Police is directed to the needs of the institution. With uncoordinated support, there is abound to be duplication," he explained.

Challenges aside, apart from training 6,000 officers, AMISOM has assisted in the development of infrastructure and rehabilitation of police stations, building of a clinic in Baidoa, provision of logistical support, establishment of the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) desks and assisting in securing the 2016 electoral process among others.

"We also established the human resource database for the Somali Police where all the details of officers are captured biometrically," Brigadier Pillay said.

However, for policing to effectively take root in Somalia, the Police Commissioner stressed the need for the federal government to put in place a policy that will spell out the roles, responsibilities and functions of both the federal and state police, as provided for in the provisional constitution.

"We also established the human resource database for the Somali Police where all the details of officers are captured biometrically," ~ Brigadier Pillay"
The trademark mentoring programme introduced to train Somali Police is one of the success stories of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The programme introduced in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa and Belet Weyne in 2010 has enabled hundreds of police officers gain the necessary skills and knowledge to administer law and order both at the federal and state level.

It involves AMISOM Police officers taking their local counterparts through different ways of policing to impart the necessary knowledge and skills needed to transform the force into a professional outfit capable of securing the country from local and external threats.

“Mentoring is important to the Somali Police because it enables officers acquire knowledge in line with the current policing methods. This will build the capacity of the Somali Police and enable the officers who were trained before the conflict to handle policing issues in the same manner as those who are being trained after the conflict,” AMISOM Police Public Information Officer, Janet Shako explains.

Given the challenges involved in re-training all Somali police officers, a selected number are normally mentored to become trainers who then transfer the knowledge and skills they have learned to their colleagues.

AMISOM Police personnel have defied all odds to conduct and roll out the programme, despite language barrier being one of the biggest challenges. However, the challenge is being overcome by engaging more language assistants.

The prolonged civil war that lasted more than a decade led to the collapse of the country’s security institutions, prompting AMISOM to come up with a comprehensive reform programme to help revive the once vibrant Somali Police. Since its inception, mentoring has proved to be one of the core programmes of AMISOM Police.

“Mentoring is important to the Somali Police because it enables officers acquire knowledge in line with the current policing methods” – Janet Shako
The third phase of training for 201 Jubbaland State Police recruits kicked off in the port city of Kismayo in January.

The three-month training was conducted by the AMISOM Police Component and Somali Police Force. The first and second phases of the training programme were concluded last year (2016).

The AMISOM Police team Leader for Training and Development, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Emmanuel Ogom Nwaeyzie, said 400 police officers graduated in the first two phases and were deployed to various stations in Jubbaland.

“The 201 recruits will be going through the recruitment course that is commencing today and will last three months. We had very successful training in the first and second phases. I believe by the time this group passes out, we will have a professional and well-trained Somali Police that will take charge of the region,” said DSP Nwaeyzie.

Colonel Hassan Gabose Affey, the Jubbaland Police Training Commander, thanked AMISOM for its role in training police recruits in Jubbaland, saying the programme had played a major role in boosting security and enforcing law and order in Jubbaland.

“We are gathered here to witness the commencement of the third phase of the Jubbaland Police new recruits training in collaboration with AMISOM Police. We are grateful to AMISOM Police and we are hopeful that the completion of the training will be a success to Somali people,” said Col. Affey.

Ahead of the exercise, the recruits who were gathered at the training school were taken through the elaborate programme by Gen. Yussuf Osman Dhuumaal, the Jubbaland Police Commander in Charge of Training.

The Police Recruitment Programme, which aims to train a total of 600 police officers, is sponsored by the Department for International Development.
In loving memory of

PC. Gloria Mariama Jones (Sierra Leone contingent)

1976 - 2017

Police Constable Gloria Mariama Jones, AUPOL 1343, was among 11 officers from Sierra Leone to be deployed in Somalia on the 31st August, 2016. After a one-week Mission Induction Course in Mogadishu, Gloria was posted to Team Site in Mogadishu as Police Advisor and Mentor to Somali Police officers on the 12th September, 2016.

At the Team Site, she performed her duty with dedication, commitment and humility. During the parliamentary and presidential elections in Mogadishu, she played an active role in providing security during early and late shifts.

Gloria is sadly missed not only by Sierra Leoneans, but also her fellow IPOs and the AMISOM and UN family in general. May the Lord console her family members and give them strength to overcome the grief.

~ By The Sierra Leonean Contingent Commander – CSP Sahr Richard Marka

AMISOM Police conduct training on gender-based violence in Belet Weyne

Somali Police officers in Belet Weyne underwent a one-day sexual and gender-based violence training to help strengthen their capacity in tackling the crime which has been on the rise in the country.

The training organized by AMISOM Gender Office was part of a greater effort by the Mission to engage with communities in liberated areas and provide continued knowledge transfer and technical aid to Somali Police.

The training conducted by AMISOM Policer Officer, Insp. Lilian Chepkorir, focused on investigation techniques, counselling and the process of filing cases in court on behalf of victims.

Insp. Chepkorir said women in Somalia face a higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence than their counterparts in many African states partly due to the ongoing conflict in the country.

“The risk is high among women as they are more sexually abused. They suffer many forms of sexual violence and impunity during armed conflict,” she said.

The Somali Police officers thanked AMISOM for organizing the training and expressed commitment in fighting the vice.

Thanks to AMISOM’s effort, Somali Police has established gender desks in Belet Weyne and unlike in the past, sexual and gender-based violence cases are now being investigated and accused persons taken to court.

Somali Police gender officers in Belet Weyne, for example, can now receive complaints, investigate and prosecute cases.

“We usually accord cases of SGBV the level of seriousness and justice they deserve. Belet Weyne court is the system that adjudicates over cases, ours is to receive cases, make the necessary arrests and enforce the law. AMISOM’s trainings have been a pivotal part of our current knowledge base,” Somali Police officer, Duniyo Ibrahim Hassan said.

Duniyo and her colleagues conduct community gender outreach campaigns designed to create awareness on SGBV and encourage members of the community to speak up.

AMISOM’s mentoring program is designed to complement the Somali federal government’s security plans in a wider effort to stabilize the country.
The gender unit of AMISOM Police Component rolled out a campaign to increase awareness on Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Somalia’s regional states in January.

The campaign builds on an initiative launched last year, which saw Family Violence, Sexual Offences and Child Protection Desks, established at police stations in Mogadishu and some of the state capitals.

The initiative seeks to enhance the capacity of Somali Police in handling sexual and gender-based violence cases.

“In October last year, AMISOM trained police officers on how to handle cases of gender and family violence. We established, in a number of police stations, family violence, sexual offences and child protection desks,” Stella Maranga, the AMISOM Gender Officer explained.

“This campaign is a follow-up with the same set of police officers, to help them understand better how to handle cases of gender and sexual-based violence, family violence and child protection,” she added.

15 police officers undertook the refresher training in Baidoa.

Noor Ahmed Mohamed, a police officer based at the Baidoa Central Police Station, who was one of the beneficiaries of the refresher training, said the sessions had enhanced his understanding of matters related to sexual and gender based violence.

“The discussions have strengthened my understanding of child protection and the rights of women,” he said.

AMISOM Police Gender Coordinator, Patience Adegoke, said the campaign will continue in other parts of Somalia.

The team also rolled out a similar awareness and sensitization campaign with Jubbaland Police in Kismayo, the administrative capital of Jubbaland state and HirShabelle State Police.

“AMISOM trains Somali Police on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence” ~ Noor Ahmed Mohamed
AMISOM female police celebrate role in global peacekeeping initiatives

On the eve of International Women’s Day in March, female police officers serving under AMISOM joined their colleagues in Mogadishu, to take stock of their contribution to global peace and security.

The women from Troop and Police Contributing Countries and the Somali security institutions, started the day with a march, to demonstrate their solidarity with women all over the world, who have borne the brunt of insecurity in the Horn of Africa country.

The march culminated in a conference dubbed 'Women in Peacekeeping', which deliberated on the status of women peacekeepers in AMISOM. Discussions centred on the role of women leaders in peacebuilding, community engagement and policing.

Christine Alalo, AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner and the Kenya Police Service’s Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Judy Lamet, were some of the keynote speakers during the conference.

“We cannot do without women in peacekeeping situations because women are more approachable. Women will handle gender issues better. Women have a secret eye to analyse things and are able to understand issues,” Lamet said, in her keynote speech.

Ms. Alalo, called for more deployment of female peacekeepers in the Mission, saying their numbers need to be increased to help AMISOM fulfill its mandate.

In her remarks the then Deputy AU Special Representative for Somalia, Lydia Wanyoto, supported echoed the sentiments saying the full impact of women in peacekeeping can only be felt, if they are more in numbers.

“We want to focus on what we have done as AMISOM and how we can help Somalia women stand out, to contribute in terms of peace and stability in their own country,” Wanyoto said.

Colonel Flavia Byekwaso, an army representative in the Ugandan Parliament, said all African states should prioritize and include gender perspectives in peacekeeping missions.