Message from the Police Commissioner

The second quarter of the year was a period dedicated to developing strong partnerships between AMISOM Police and the Somali Police following the successful electoral process that ushered in a new government early this year.

The sole aim of the partnerships is to establish a strong and efficient police force capable of securing Somalia today and in the future.

Thanks to the strong partnerships, AMISOM Police was able to conduct refresher trainings and mentoring programmes for the Somali Police on sexual and gender-based violence to help improve operations and make the gender desks, already established in the country’s major towns, more efficient. The officers, for example, received refresher courses on investigation, evidence gathering and filling and prosecuting cases on sexual and gender-based violence in court.

As a result of our good work, the number of residents reporting sexual offences to Somali Police officers has increased and more victims are seeking justice in court unlike before.

It is also important to remind our readers that during the quarter Somalia hosted the joint African Union-United Nations Assessment team which visited the country in May to discuss the planned drawdown of African Union forces. AMISOM Police is pleased to have been part of the discussions, which assessed the needs of the Somali National Security Forces vis-à-vis the current security situation. The recommendations made by the team will guide our operations going forward as we continue to help strengthen capacity of the Somali Police and transforming it to a professional institution capable of securing the country after AMISOM exits.

Lastly, AMISOM Police will continue offering support to the federal and regional governments in the ongoing vetting process of Somali Police officers in Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu. AMISOM has already launched biometric identification system in the administrative capitals and trained Somali police officers on their use. The vetting process is critical as it will help reveal the strength of Somalia’s police force and will also guide the decision making processes pertaining to critical security matters.

AMISOM Police will continue executing its mandate by working closely with the federal and regional governments. I wish you all a good reading.

Thank you,

Anand Pillay
Somali police chiefs from federal and regional member state governments have approved a new police recruit curriculum.

The standardized curriculum will be used in training courses throughout the country to improve levels of professionalism in law enforcement agencies.

The move is aimed at ensuring Somalia establishes strong security institutions, at the federal and regional level, capable of securing the country.

The police chiefs signed an agreement that formally endorsed the curriculum during a meeting of the Police Working Group in the capital Mogadishu on 11 May 2017.

The meeting was attended by senior Somali Police Force officers, senior police representatives from Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Puntland and South West state, United Nations agencies, European Union Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP) in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the international community.

“Training and enhancing the capacity of someone does not mean that he will get the job done if he is not equipped. Training without equipment is worthless,” Gen. Bashir noted.

“The new police recruit training curriculum approved today is highly beneficial to the police and everyone with an interest in law and order,” said Col. Adan Ahmed Abdi ‘Bariyow’, the Police Training Chief for Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions in South West State.

He explained that the new curriculum would help the police restore the rule of law in the federal and State administrations.

The Police Professional Development Board developed the new curriculum through joint effort of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States with support from the international community, including the United Nations Joint Rule of Law Programme, EUCAP Somalia and AMISOM.

The approval of the curriculum followed the 16 April 2017 political agreement on a National Security Architecture reached by Federal President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed ‘Farmaajo’ and the presidents of the federal member states.

Gen. Bashir Abdi Mohamed, the federal Deputy Police Commissioner, appealed to Somalia’s development partners to give Somali police the resources they need to carry out their duties. He also called for the rehabilitation of damaged police stations.

“The new police recruit training curriculum approved today is highly beneficial to the police and everyone with an interest in law and order” ~ Col. Adan Ahmed
A delegation of senior AMISOM Police officers visited Jubbaland, South West and HirShabelle states to assess the needs of the Somali Police and identify areas that require urgent support.

The delegation led by Police Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Anand Pillay visited the administrative centres of Kismayo, Baidoa and Hiiran, in June, and held meeting with top security officials.

In Kismayo, the team met with Jubbaland Deputy Security Minister, Issak Mohamed Hassan, and discussed issues focusing on training and improvement of security infrastructure for Jubbaland Police Force.

“Our commissioner came here to discuss how we can retrain officers and build their capacity to be able to offer leadership to the other officers and manage the affairs of policing services in Jubbaland. We also came to discuss how we are going to renovate police stations or construct new ones so that the officers we are training can be deployed to those police stations and help expand policing services outside Kismayo,” said Paul Frimpong, the Acting AMISOM Police Reform Coordinator.

Jubbaland Police Commissioner, Ahmed Nasir Guled, thanked the senior officials for visiting the region, adding that AMISOM had pledged to support the regional administration on key security areas.

In Baidoa, the delegation held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Mohamed Hassan Fiqi; the South West Police Commissioner, Col. Mahat Abdirahman Adan, and other state officials at the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, Brig. Gen. Pillay pledged to improve the capacity of the police in the regional states through trainings and refurbishment of the existing police infrastructure to enhance service delivery.

The AMISOM delegation also pledged to train 600 police officers in HirShabelle under the programme funded by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID).

“They [AMISOM Police officers] came so that we can have consultations on how to build HirShabelle Police Force. We agreed that they train 400 police officers for HirShabelle. Two hundred will be trained in Belet Weyne and another two hundred will be trained in Jowhar town. They will be the first police officers of HirShabelle state,” said Hiiran Police Commander, Col. Issak Ali Abdulle.

“Our discussions focused on four areas; giving more training opportunities to the 600 police officers, who were trained by AMISOM, support to cover other needs of the police force and establishment of police structures so as to transform it into a modern police,” Mr. Guled noted.
AMISOM conduct close protection training for Jubbaland and South West police

AMISOM Police conducted training on close protection for police officers in Kismayo and Baidoa to help enhance security in the federal states.

In Kismayo, 25 officers drawn from Jubbaland state undertook the intensive course aimed at developing skills to protect Very Important Persons (VIPs).

Mr. Christopher Mumo, AMISOM Police Deputy Training Coordinator, said the officers were equipped with skills to avert attacks and assassinations targeting top government officials.

“These police officers are now expected to be able to provide security to their principals or members of parliament; and other VIPs in the state,” ASP Mumo noted during the training held in May.

Khadija Mohamed, a graduand, said she had gained invaluable knowledge and skills, which will make her work effective.

“I am grateful for the training I have taken. We learnt how to provide protection to Very Important Persons,” Ms. Mohamed stated.

Feisal Abdullahi, another graduand, concurred with Khadija, saying “based on what I have learnt, I believe that I can protect myself and the lives of others.

A similar training was held for officers in South West state in June. Speaking at the conclusion of the course, ASP Mumo said the training will enable Somali Police improve VIP security in the federal states.

The AMISOM official said it was important for Somalia to be able to provide adequate protection to elected leaders, following the conclusion of the electoral process early this year.

Adan Ali Hassan, a South West state police officer, praised AMISOM for organizing the course, saying the participants had benefited immensely and are ready to offer protection to their leaders.

“The course was rigorous. We have benefited greatly from the course. I thank AMISOM for implementing and making it possible for us to conclude the two weeks training,” Mr. Hassan noted.

Mursal Mohamed said the skills acquired will enable them serve the state better, particularly securing government officials and institutions.

AMISOM trains Somali police on biometric registration

AMISOM Police Component extended the training programme on the use of biometric registration system to the South West state in April as part of the elaborate plan to strengthen Somalia’s security institutions.

The aim of the training was to help the police department strengthen its human resource management as the administration strives to provide adequate security to its residents.

The registration of the 500-plus South West police officers is expected to guide human resource management decisions mainly those on identity verification, promotion and personnel transfer among others.

AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay, said the collection of data will improve the management of the Somali Police personnel both at federal level and regional states.

“We support the development of the biometric human resource management database, and software. These are to register all the Somali Police officers, in terms of biometric data registration, to determine the number of police officers and their locations, where they are deployed. It is a human resource data base, to help the states know how many officers they have and what are their skills, age, qualifications and all other details with regard to Somali Police,” Brig. Gen. Pillay explained.

Participants described the training as fruitful, expressing optimism that the system will help improve the management of the regional police.

“This is a new registration system. The training is about how to file data of Somali Police Force officers mainly name, age, location so that it is kept well and easy to use when needed,” noted Lt. Colonel Mukhtar Ahmed Ibrahim, the Commander of Baidoa Police Station.

Lt Colonel Ibrahim added that the software will facilitate easy access to the officers’ data in case of death or desertion, among other scenarios.

Mursal Ahmed Hassan, a trained data entry police officer at Baidoa Police Station, echoed Lt. Colonel Ibrahim’s sentiments, saying it will improve efficiency in the police force.

“I appreciate the training AMISOM Police provided to us. It has been very professional and conducted in a short time. We are grateful for how AMISOM Police have supported us and we thank them,” said Mr. Hassan.
200 police recruits trained by AMISOM graduate in Jubbaland

More than 200 Jubbaland Police recruits graduated in April after completing a three-month training programme conducted by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The 201 policemen and women are the third batch of recruits to graduate in Jubbaland, bringing the total number of officers trained in the state to 600.

The increase in number of trained officers is in line with the New Policing Model (NPM), endorsed in June 2016, which calls for the establishment of both state and federal police forces.

The pass out ceremony held in Kismayo, was attended by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira; Jubbaland President, Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madobe; Somali Police Force (SPF) Commissioner, Abdihakim Dahir Saaid; AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay, and several top AMISOM and Jubbaland administration officials.

Ambassador Madeira congratulated the officers, comprising 180 men and 21 women, for completing the programme and reminded them of the task of securing the country.

“This is not only an onerous task but also a call that must be discharged with patriotism and the highest level professionalism.

I am reliably informed that these recruits have worked extremely hard during this period of training and if, their smartness and turn out at this graduation is anything to go by, I cannot but be confident that they will discharge their roles and responsibilities to the communities they have been called to serve with distinction and admiration,” Ambassador Madeira who is also Head of Mission observed.

On his part President Madobe thanked AMISOM and other stakeholders for making the training programme a success and urged the officers to serve the public diligently.

"I thank Francisco Madeira, the head of AU Mission and other organizations that have taken part in this training like United Kingdom's DFID (The Department for International Development), the trainers and AMISOM's role in organizing the training. There is no doubt that we are in need of police officers. The police have a huge responsibility because they are the first point of contact with the public," the Jubbaland President observed.

The SPF Commissioner appealed to the graduands to execute their duties with professionalism and commitment, saying the Somali public is relying on them to secure the country.

“"This is not only an onerous task but also a call that must be discharged with patriotism and the highest level professionalism.”

Head of Mission, Ambassador Madeira
AMISOM hands over newly refurbished police station to Jubbaland state

A newly refurbished police station was handed over to Jubbaland authorities in Kismaayo, the administrative capital of the Jubbaland state, in May by the Police component of AMISOM, as part of the AU Mission’s support, to strengthen policing in Somalia.

The fully equipped police station, handed over to the Jubbaland Police Commissioner, Ahmed Nasir Guleed, at a ceremony attended by senior AMISOM officials, is expected to boost maintenance of law and order in the state.

“AMISOM has done a lot for the Somali people and this is just one of the projects they have undertaken,” Mr. Guleed said.

“What you have done is tangible. We can confidently say that you have met your objectives and hope that you will continue to support us in the future,” he added.

Francis Aryee, the AMISOM Police Training and Development Coordinator, explained that the facility would provide the necessary enabling environment for residents to go about their normal duties, without fear or intimidation.

The completion of the project is in line with one of AMISOM’s key objectives, which is to provide the Somali Police with essential infrastructure to enable them execute their duties professionally.

“We want to reiterate our commitment to assisting the Somali people to come up on their feet, towards building peace in this country,” Dr. Opio Ododa, AMISOM’s Head of Stabilization and Early Recovery reiterated.

Adan Yussuf, the Director General of Jubbaland’s Ministry of Security, appealed to Jubbaland residents to collaborate with the administration in its efforts to secure the state.

“Our priority is to be self sustaining. Refurbish our police stations, enhance our security and rely on ourselves for security, because AMISOM will not be here forever,” he emphasized.

AMISOM hold workshop on road safety held in Mogadishu

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) held a workshop to discuss ways of reducing the number of fatal road accidents involving Mission convoys.

The workshop, held in Mogadishu, in early May, was convened by the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC) and attended by AMISOM staff from different departments.

Participants included officers working in the transport, legal, operations, and civil-military coordination departments.

Others were the provost marshal, public information officers, liaison officers, CCTARC, Board of Inquiry (BOI), military and police officers.

CCTARC is a unit mandated to track and capture incidents and events involving civilian casualties in AMISOM areas of operation. The unit is currently coming up with strategies on reducing traffic accidents to help reduce the loss of civilian lives.

Colonel Ali Nouhou, the AMISOM Chief of J7 Training, who opened the workshop, said there was urgent need for AMISOM to come up with an elaborate plan on how to reduce traffic accidents involving its personnel.

“It is for that reason that this workshop was organized so that stakeholders can come together and look at the root causes of these accidents and also find workable solutions to reduce future occurrences,” said Colonel Nouhou.

Highlights of the workshop included presentations on the implications of civilian casualties from a reputational, legal, investigatory and compensatory perspective.

During the discussions, participants identified the common causes of road accidents and also proposed recommendations on tackling the problem.

The common causes of accidents in AMISOM area of responsibility, participants noted, include; human error, use of defective vehicles and lack of traffic signs and traffic officers at road intersections.

Other causes identified include poor road infrastructure (narrow, uneven, underdeveloped roads), poor understanding of traffic rules and unattended livestock on the roads.

Some of the solutions proposed by participants are the creation of a road traffic management body to regulate motorists and pedestrians, communication campaign targeting road users, installation of road traffic signs, training Somali traffic police officers and ensuring the licensing of drivers.

CCTARC is expected to review the contributions made by participants and produce a report on the next course of action.
AMISOM and Somali police hold awareness campaign on sexual violence in internally displaced camps

Police officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali Police Force (SPF) held a two-day awareness campaign on sexual and gender-based violence in the internally displaced people's (IDP) camps in Baidoa, the administrative capital of the South West State.

The officers, drawn from the gender and protection units, held sensitization meetings owing to concerns of an increase in sexual violence cases in the temporary settlements.

South West state is hosting one of the highest numbers of IDPs, who have fled their homes in search of food and water, as a result of the prolonged drought that affected several countries in Eastern Africa.

“We face challenges when female victims of torture and rape come to us,” Farhiyo Ahmed Mohamed, a Gender Officer with the Somali Police Force said at the event held in June.

She expressed concern that traditional beliefs continue to jeopardize efforts to find justice for victims of sexual violence, adding that influential clan elders normally prefer traditional justice mechanisms, to settle disputes.

“The elders want to resolve the cases traditionally. Yet we want to take cases to court so that victims can get legal redress,” she explained.

The AMISOM Protection Officer Ms. Gloria Jaase decried the living conditions in the internally displaced people’s camps, saying the temporary settlements lacked basic amenities such as water and sanitation.

The delegation from AMISOM and Somali Police met with different partners to find ways of resolving the challenges facing women and girls in the camps.

CSP Patience Adegoke, AMISOM Police Gender Coordinator urged victims of sexual violence to utilize the gender desks set up at police stations, to report cases of rape and other forms of violence.

“We have gender desks now and there is an officer in Baidoa that they can report to. That is why we are here,” Adegoke stressed.

AMISOM and Somali police secure Mogadishu during the Holy Month of Ramadan

AMISOM Police and the Somali Police successfully secured the city of Mogadishu during the holy month of Ramadan.

The joint implementation of the comprehensive Ramadhan Security Plan enabled the public to go about their normal business in the month of June save for a few isolated incidents.

“We came out with a plan to secure Mogadishu during the Ramadhan season. This is a plan where AMISOM Police and the Somali Police Force are working closely together to secure a zone they were assigned. We planned and deployed jointly in every location and in executing tasks,” Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Emmanuel Mukama, AMISOM Police Acting Operations Coordinator explained.

Nigerian and Ugandan Formed Police Units alongside their Somali Police counterparts jointly conducted patrols and set up check points in the city, searching vehicles to keep Mogadishu safe from attacks by Al-Shabaab and other criminals.

The Al-Shabaab usually heightens attacks during the Holy Month of Ramadhan, denying the public the opportunity to observe the month in peace.

“AMISOM Police and Somali Police Force are jointly patrolling Mogadishu and it has paid off. The result is good and promising. Everywhere is peaceful and calm and we pray that the Almighty Allah grants that peace prevails in Somalia generally,” Uba Shehu, the Nigeria FPU Contingent Commander stated in an interview during a night patrol conducted in June.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Thomas Kamugisha, the Uganda FPU Contingent Commander explained that the purpose of the collaboration was to ensure peace and security in Somalia.

“We came here to give a hand to our Somali brothers and sisters so that they can regain their former glory, attain peace and development. We have been working hand in hand, conducting patrols and road checks, providing escort services, community policing programmes and executing other tasks,” SSP Kamugisha observed.

The officer described the joint security collaboration between AMISOM and Somali Police as a success, saying the security forces were able to thwart attacks by Al-Shabaab. On May 31, for example, security forces impounded a vehicle loaded with explosives around Afisyone, thanks to the joint collaboration.
Victims of sexual and gender-based violence can now access legal and medical aid thanks to an elaborate programme involving AMISOM and Somali Police.

The programme, which focuses on training Somali Police officers on handling sexual and gender-based violence cases, has helped the force establish gender desks in the major towns namely Mogadishu, Baidoa, Belet Weyne and Kismayo.

Chief Superintendent, Patience Adegoke, AMISOM Police Gender Coordinator, speaks about the programme and the role AMISOM has played in helping Somali Police tackle sexual and gender-based violence.

AMISOM Police has been in the forefront in aiding Somali Police fight sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Why is the fight against SGBV important to AMISOM?

AMISOM Police is aiding Somali Police fight SGBV because the prolonged conflict in Somalia affected all government sectors especially security, resulting in breakdown of law and order, which led to the rise in cases of SGBV. As part of our mandate, AMISOM Police mentors, monitors, trains and advises Somali Police officers. We train them on how to handle SGBV cases and ensure justice for survivors.

AMISOM is helping Somali Police establish gender desks in various police stations. Explain the progress of the project and its achievements?

AMISOM Police has supported Somali Police establish sexual offences and child protection desks in Baidoa, Belet Weyne and Kismayo. We have also established similar desks in the Women and Child Unit at the Somali Police headquarters and Abdul Aziz Police Station in Mogadishu. AMISOM Police has also trained the Somali Police officers attached to the desks. We have also conducted awareness campaigns on SGBV in the regions and the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The public is aware about the gender desk and are now reporting cases to the police.

What are your targets as far as the setting up of gender desks is concerned this year?

Firstly, we want to ensure the desks we have established are fully functional. We are also planning to expand the family violence, sexual offences and child protection desk in Baidoa. In addition, we are going to train officers of the Somali Police on how to use the referral pathways for survivors of SGBV.

In your assessment, is the Somali Police able to investigate SGBV cases given the training they have undergone?

Since undergoing training, the officers have been handling cases of SGBV on their own. The feedback we are receiving from the field is that all the SPF officers are performing excellently. The officers will continue to benefit from further training both inside and outside the country.

What are the main causes of SGBV in Somalia and how can they address them?

My point of view as a law enforcement expert is that one of the main causes of SGBV is that the country has been in conflict for over two decades, resulting in breakdown in law and order. As a result, criminal elements take advantage of this situation. Overcoming the problem requires the rebuilding of the justice, law and order system, which includes the Somali Police.

What challenges has AMISOM faced in helping Somali Police tackle SGBV?

The main challenge is that the community members rely on the traditional justice systems, mainly clan elders to handle cases of SGBV, rather than using the formal justice system that include the police. However, we have sensitized the community on the benefits of using the nascent state institutions rather than clan systems. The police are empowered to deliver justice in instances where victims have suffered trauma and where death has occurred.
AMISOM spearheading the revival of INTERPOL Mogadishu office

Senior Superintendent of Police Titi Ayiera has an arduous task of rebuilding the National Central Bureau (NCB) of International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in Mogadishu.

Mr. Ayiera’s task is to make the NCB great again by ensuring it functions effectively and to the required international standards.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) has been in the saddle since June, this year, working under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in building the capacity of the officers at the INTERPOL office through mentoring and training. He is also expected to engage donors to equip the office and make it functional.

The Mogadishu office which falls under the Nairobi Regional Bureau has 11 members of staff including two women. To bring it to the required standards, to enable it serve as a National Central Bureau (NCB), a further 10 officers will be trained and mentored by SSP Ayiera.

Located at the Somali Police Force headquarters in Mogadishu, the NCB is the focal authority through which INTERPOL can engage Somalia. The current Head of NCB Mogadishu is Brig. Gen. Jaylani Mohamed Shekuna, who reports directly to the Commissioner of Police.

Somalia has been a member of INTERPOL since 1975 and despite the collapse of the Siad Barre government in 1991 and the subsequent chaos, the country remained a member of the intergovernmental organization.

The prolonged civil strife in Somalia took its toll on the NCB, creating a big deficiency that affected its operations.

Some of the major deficiencies that hindered the smooth running of the organization was understaffing of key personnel and lack of expert labour.

Currently, for example, the bureau has only one trained National Security Officer. Similarly, it lacks a Data Protection Officer (DPO). Besides personnel, the NCB also lacks adequate equipment and furniture, hampering operations.

The deficiencies have negatively impacted on the Mogadishu office denying it an opportunity to actively participate in INTERPOL operations and activities.

A vibrant NCB is key in the fight against international organised crimes. This is because Somalia and the region faces a myriad of organized crimes including terrorism, maritime piracy, human trafficking, proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), environmental crimes (e.g. illegal burning and trade in charcoal), narcotics drugs and motor vehicle theft among others.

It is the reason why AMISOM deployed SSP Ayiera to lead in the advice and mentorship of the NCB staff, to help Somali mitigate international crimes.

The Mission through its Commissioner of Police Brig. Gen Anand Pillay, in July, handed over information technology equipment to SPF Deputy Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Bashir, at the NCB. AMISOM will also carry out repair works and furnish the NCB office.

INTERPOL is the largest police organization with 190 member countries. The intergovernmental organization is headquartered in Lyon, France.