AMISOM Police to train more specialized personnel in the Somali Police Force to boost security in major towns

AMISOM to deploy Formed Police Unit officers in three federal states

Joint AMISOM and Somali Police delegation tour police training sites in Hiiraan and Middle Shabelle regions

Senior Somali Police Officers visit Nigeria to study federal policing model

Building bridges: AMISOM and UNSOM launch Joint Police Patrol training in Gaalkacyo

AU Police hands over office equipment to the Somali Police Force

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Q&A Digest: AMISOM Police Coordination Officer, Baidoa

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AMISOM honours police officers for distinguished service in Somalia

Message from the Police Commissioner

I welcome you all to the third edition of the AMISOM Police Newsletter. The edition covers the third quarter of the year, which has been a significant period for us. The period has been dominated by conversations regarding the transition of Somalia’s security responsibility from AMISOM to Somali Security Forces. The conversation is a follow up on recommendations on security agreed upon during the London Conference.

It is important to note that the London Conference held in May, this year, recognized the important role played by AMISOM Police in establishing law and order in Somalia.

It is the reason why the United Nations Security Council, last August, passed a resolution to increase the number of police officers, by 500, to 1040 from the current 540.

Following the resolution, AMISOM decided to increase the number of Formed Police Units (FPUs) from the current two to five. Three of the Units will be deployed to Baidoa, Jowhar and Kismayo, while the remaining two will be stationed in Mogadishu.

The extra numbers will help AMISOM Police to not only enhance security but also strengthen its training and mentorship programme during the transition period.

All will agree that terrorism remains a major challenge in Somalia, and to help arrest the problem, AMISOM has embarked on offering specialized training to elite Somali Police officers to strengthen intelligence gathering and criminal investigations.

Lastly, to ensure that Somalia implements an acceptable federal policing system, AMISOM Police has facilitated a team of senior Somali Police Force officers from the five federal states to visit Nigeria and familiarize themselves with the country’s federal policing system. The officers will also visit other countries to get first-hand knowledge of various systems of policing.

I look ahead with great optimism that we will achieve substantial progress in the months ahead.

Enjoy your reading!

Thank you,
Anand Pillay
Community Policing is a fast growing policing model in the modern policing dispensation all over the world.

This is about Police participating in the community and responding to the needs of the community, and the community participating in its own policing and supporting the police. It is about establishing and consolidating relationships between Police/security agencies and communities within and for which Police has possible influence or access.

As communities grow in all manner of dimensions, as technological advancement in communication shapes and molds our lifestyles, where many people get to know about information almost at the same time especially through social media, communities becoming smaller and more confined to specific interests, which interests can be beneficial or disastrous to the wider community.

People can now hold meetings without meeting together each one from where ever they are, discuss, brainstorm, pass resolutions or even take minutes. This kind of technological freedom has posed a big challenge to Policing in its entirety particularly in the developing world.

So the question is; how will Police and Intelligence agencies know what is going on whether good or bad in this complex communication metrics. How shall the wider community be shielded or insulated from the intentions or spill overs of those who “meet” to do what would be considered as evil by the wider community.

With due respect to various legalities of privacy in communication and freedoms of association, Police has to penetrate and have an appreciation of what goes on and roundabout. That means, anything done by governments to safe guard and secure its people can never be compromised at any possible cost. With this, government backed community policing comes in so handy.

There is need to continuously review community policing strategies to fit and fix such. How? There are thousands of social media formed groups based on families and relatives, friends, workmates, working committees and the like. Why not tap into these vast and equally influential social media formations to promote peace, stability and development?

It is possible to require, through policy or law (in cognizant of freedom of association, expression and privacy), any registered internet/communication service providers to capture any formed social media group(s) that are active and trace links or information to any subscriber source or destination. Police should upgrade from the watchful eye to the involvement and proactive eye.

This is what I call E-Community Policing. Through this, communities can be informed, mobilized and empowered to fight crime and lawlessness, take part in government programs to promote development. The essential elements of community policing of responsiveness, consultation, mobilization and problem solving shall be attained to a larger extent.

E-Community Policing, The way to go.
The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) will provide specialized training to Somali Police officers under its expanded mandate to help build expertise in maintaining law and order.

The training to be conducted by AMISOM Police Component, aims at increasing the number of officers in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Anti-Terrorism unit.

The trainings, according to AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, will be conducted at both the federal and state level.

“The purpose is to uplift the Somali police to a new level in terms of building and strengthening their policing skills. We are going to train and put emphasis on specialized training,” Ms Alalo said.

The specialized training will run concurrently with the ongoing basic training and mentoring of the Somali Police officers in line with the new Security Architecture endorsed by the Federal Government and member states early this year.

The United Nations Security Council in August extended the mandate of AMISOM to 31 May 2018 and among others, enhanced the role of AMISOM Police in the stabilization process, raising its physical strength from 540 to 1040 personnel.

“The objective is to empower the Somali police to gradually begin taking the lead in policing as we take the back seat, in accordance with the Comprehensive Approach to Security,” Ms. Alalo added.

Somalia is in need of more specialized security personnel to effectively counter Al-Shabaab’s asymmetrical warfare of using vehicle born improvised explosive devises (VBIED) and suicide bombers against innocent civilians.

In May this year, Somalia and donor countries signed a security pact, following the Federal Government’s presentation of a newly enhanced National Security Architecture during the London Conference.

The pact is founded on four thematic areas namely National Security Architecture, Comprehensive Approach to Security, international support, condition-based transition from AMISOM to Somali Security Forces and implementation of the pact.

“Every citizen has a role to play in this effort to ensure that Somalia is pacified and freed from all elements of terror. It is important to note that security forces cannot uproot Al-Shabaab from the communities if the residents do not play their part by sharing the necessary information with the relevant security organs”

Head of Mission, Ambassador Madeira
AMISOM to deploy Formed Police Unit officers in three federal states

AMISOM Police plans to increase the number of its Formed Police Units (FPU) from two to five to help Somali Police Force strengthen security in the federal states.

Three of the units will be deployed in Baidoa, Jowhar and Kismayo, the administrative capitals of South West, HiraShabelle and Jubbaland states.

“The Formed Police Units will constitute the bigger part of AMISOM police because we want to spread out our FPUs to be able to support policing at the federal member state level. The FPUs will be deployed wherever there is a state headquarters, and as such we are going to deploy in Jowhar, Kismayo and Baidoa but at the same time retain two units in Mogadishu,” Deputy AMISOM Police Commissioner Christine Alalo explained in an interview.

Currently, there are two FPUs, namely from Uganda and Nigeria, each comprising 140 officers. The number of officers in each of the five units is expected to be increased to 160. Plans are already underway to bring in another unit from Sierra Leone, following completion of the verification process. AMISOM is hopeful African Union member states will provide officers for the two remaining units to bring the total to five.

Presently, the number of police officers serving under AMISOM is 540 and is expected to increase to 1,040, following the resolution made by the UN Security Council in August to increase the number of officers by 500.

AMISOM has helped establish police forces in Jubbaland and South West state, training 600 police personnel in each state, and will commence recruitment and training of the police in HiraShabelle, the youngest federal state, in January next year.

The AMISOM Police Component is made up of Formed Police Units and Individual Police Officers, with the former tasked with providing the Somali police with operational support while the latter conducts training, mentoring and advising.

Joint AMISOM and Somali Police delegation tour police training sites in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions

A joint delegation of senior police officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali Police Force (SPF) conducted a two-day assessment tour of training sites in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions in August, ahead of the official launch of a new phase of training of newly recruited police officers.

The delegation led by the AMISOM Police Commissioner Brig. Gen. Anand Pillay, and the SPF Deputy Police Commissioner, General Mohamed Abdi Bashir, inspected training facilities in Belet Weyne and Jowhar, the administrative capitals of Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions.

AMISOM police plan to train up to 1,000 Somali police officers of which, 600 will be drawn from Beletwwayne and the remaining 400 from Jowhar. With funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), the development arm of the UK, AMISOM police expect to strengthen the manpower capabilities and capacity of the Somali Police Force.

“In Belet Weyne, I met with the Commissioner of HiraShabelle state where we discussed training of 600 police officers for Belet Weyne. We also went to Johwar to see the premises where we will train 400 police officers. We also visited to encourage the police officers and thank them for the good work that they are doing as well as provide some equipment for Jowhar police station,” AMISOM Police Commissioner Anand Pillay said.

Pillay handed over office equipment donated by the Japanese Government to Jowhar Police Station, as part of efforts aimed at enhancing capacity and improving the efficiency of the Somali police force.

The Middle Shabelle Governor, Ahmed Mayre Makaran, who received the donation hailed AMISOM Police and the Japanese government for the assistance, saying it would greatly improve the work of the law enforcement officers.

“We are extremely grateful for the equipment to HiraShabelle police, and particularly to the police in Middle Shabelle. The equipment is extremely useful and will help in the establishment of a database of necessary information.”
A team of nine senior Somali Police Force officers travelled to Nigeria to study the West African country’s federal policing model.

The one-week tour by police commissioners from all the five federal member states was part of a series of planned visits, facilitated by AMISOM Police, and meant to aid the officers make informed choices on the type of federal policing they would prefer for Somalia.

“Though Somalia has endorsed to have a federal policing model, they still have to decide on the type of federal policing which is best for the country. Therefore we have decided to take a team of nine senior police officers to Nigeria, which also has a federal policing model, so that they see, learn and pick aspects which they think can suit them here,” AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo said.

The Nigeria visit had been funded by the Danish government, and funds permitting, the team will also travel to India and Germany, which also operate federal system of policing.

“When they return we will have a brainstorming workshop for them to thrash out issues and come up with what they think is the best type of federal policing for Somalia,” Ms Alalo explained.

Early last year, Somalia adopted a federal policing model and structures are currently being put in place to ensure the system works.

The National Security Architecture (NSA), endorsed by Somali leaders last year also provides for a stronger policing, both at federal and federal member state level.

AMISOM Police has helped establish functioning police forces in Jubbaland and South West, training 600 police personnel in each state, and will soon commence training the police in HirShabelle state.

“"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
The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) facilitated a joint training aimed at preparing a group of police officers from Puntland and Galmudug states carry out joint patrols in Gaalkacyo, as part of a ceasefire agreement.

The training conducted mid-July took place under the auspices of the Gaalkacyo Ceasefire Agreement signed on 1 January 2017 by Presidents of Puntland and Galmudug states.

Under the agreement, patrol teams from both states would be trained to help enforce the cessation of hostilities. At least 100 police officers underwent the training, which was described as successful by representatives of the two federal states.

“We are ready to ensure the implementation of peace in Gaalkacyo. We have to hold each other’s hands, support one another and tell our people that we are one as brothers and sisters,” said Mohamed Hashi Abdi, the Vice President of Galmudug state.

Under the Gaalkacyo ceasefire deal, leaders from the two states also committed to withdraw troops and remove roadblocks, in order to allow free movement of people and goods.

AMISOM Chief Inspector of Police, Prosper Oklu, said the AU took the lead in delivering the joint training programme.

“We are optimistic therefore that with the right learning environment and support, the joint police patrol training programme is on the right footing,” AMISOM lead trainee said.

The training focused on effective patrol strategies, community engagement, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and respect for human rights, among other topics.

The equipment included an assortment of office furniture including desktop computers, printers, chairs, tables, cabinets, solar torches and solar lamps.

General Ahmed Hassan Malin said the consignment would go a long way in facilitating the work of police officers in maintaining law and order.

“How are we thankful for the donation brought to us by our brothers at AMISOM Police. We will distribute them to four police stations in Banadir and I know they will greatly enhance our operations,” Gen. Malin stated.

The Head of Logistics of the Somali Police Force, General Omar Mohamed Hassan, lauded AMISOM Police and the Danish government for the donation.

“This equipment simplifies our work. Instead of using fuel for lighting, we will use solar. There will be no more typewriters, as the officers will now use computers,” he noted.
AMISOM Police trains SPF on Counter Insurgency Techniques

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) conducted a 10-day training course on basic counter insurgency for Somali police officers in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Beletweyne and Baidoa.

The objective of the training was to impart the Somali police officers with the necessary knowledge on human rights and countering extremism.

Speaking during the closure of the training, AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations, Daniel Ali Gwambal, reiterated the mission’s commitment to help establish a strong and professional police force capable of handling security challenges facing Somalia.

“AMISOM is ready anytime to offer training and contribute to the development of Somalia,” Mr. Gwambal said at the function presided over by the then Somali Police Force (SPF) Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Abdihakim Dahir Said.

Speaking at the function, Brig. Gen. Said, noted that the trainings were timely and of priority to the force, given the changing nature of crime in the country.

“This training was important to the extent that we had to postpone other trainings and fast track this one so as to enhance the skills and capacity of the police,” Brig. Gen. Said stated.

He added that the trainings were in line with the decision of the SPF leadership to localize basic and non-specialized training to help in strengthening capacity of the force.

This single incident brought all Somalia’s Security and Intelligence clows out in readiness for any further attacks in and around Mogadishu.

This widely regrettable and unfortunate incident ignited a strong sense and desire for Somalis to say enough is enough to such wickedness by those who perpetrate such.

With the support of AMISOM Police, the SPF, NISA and other security agencies worked together to secure the city and rid it of such insurgent elements. Residents and people of Mogadishu received a resemblance of unity that gave them hope that one day all security organs in Somalia shall hold the same security bound ideology.

This forged unity is steadily working well for AMISOM and must be encouraged and nurtured by all. That Unity, coordination and collaboration is what we as AMISOM Police have been yearning for for a long time.

Although a lot is yet be desired from Somali Police Force, the cooperation exhibited by some SPF commanders is highly appreciated.

There have been a number of SPF operations that have been coordinated and synchronized with AMISOM Police resulting into significant progress in fighting crime and such unprogressive tendencies in various communities across the regions. It is unity, coordination and collaboration of information and intelligence fed operations that shall bring about the desired state of a modern SPF operations.

Our role as AMISOM Police is to assist SPF to build and strengthen their Policing capabilities at all fronts. As SPF takes the lead in internal security we avail ourselves as AMISOM Police to make SPF realize the most reasonable state of peace and security in Somalia.
AMISOM Police and SPF commanders visit site for the new Police Station at Harere Kadiyaw IDP Camp Baidoa.

IPOs visit to Police cells is part of mentoring roles to foster Human Rights observance to detained suspects.

AMISOM Police and the SPF Commander jointly brief FPU and SPF officers ahead of the Ramadan Season in July.

IPOs during Mentoring and Advisory roles. Baidoa.

Field Force Police jointly working with the SPF during day and night patrols.
Q&A Digest: AMISOM Police Coordination Officer, Baidoa

ACP KASALE TRESPHOD

Q: How long have you worked in Baidoa?

Since June 2017, that is five months now.

Q: What kind of co-location relationship with SPF leadership did you find here and what is the current relationship like?

AMISOM officers who were here before me did their best to establish a fairly good working relationship amidst uncertainty and volatile situations. The problem could have been with us as AMISOM Police, for instance, team sites members with FPUs were working separately from Reform and Restructuring units yet we have the same mandate to achieve. Coordination and collaborating efforts were difficult. Today we are all working together as a team and as a result we see improvement even in the way we make reports to AMISOM Mogadishu and the way we associate with the State Police in Baidoa.

Do you think there has been any significant impact on the SPF professional conduct and duties as a result of mentoring and advisory roles of IPOs and how?

Yes. One significant area is the observance of human rights to especially those that are arrested. All Police stations that AMISOM has built have detention facilities that cater for female, male and juvenile suspects. They (SPF) officers know who to put where including making sure the hygiene conditions are acceptable. That wasn’t the case. IPOs here ensure that they regularly visit these facilities. Secondly, the way these people arrest their suspects has improved a lot. They don’t harass or cause bodily harm to them. They pursue a case to prosecution level. That is commendable.

Q: What do you consider as the best way to mutually work or co-locate with SPF officers in course of duties?

In my opinion, the first thing is to endeavor to understand and have a proper appreciation of the Somalis in regard to three areas;

Their capacity and capability: Understand what they a capable of doing or achieving. How much do they know about the subject matter or challenge? We are here to assist them to do their work better or professionally. So, on top of what they know or can achieve, add your input through showing them how things should be done (Mentoring) or offer appropriate advice without imposing much on them. Appreciate their gains and correct them without any tress of ridicule or disrespect. Give them what they can accommodate as you slowly monitor progress.

Culture and Religion: Friday is a special day for Somalis in general. It’s a prayer day and so they leave the work stations much earlier. However crimes are still committed on that day. Our staying at the stations on Friday even to attend to some cases with a few who remain behind sends a signal that Police work is 24/7 and therefore should be at the stations. What remains to be done is their (SPF) bosses to live by example and once their bosses stay or institute a special arrangement for emergency cases then we shall have scored high on that one.

Social Life: Many Somali people like Kat-Mira. Even Police officers are not spared. So that keeps them busy even during what we consider as office hours. We try to respectfully talk and advise them about consuming it during working workers. The challenge is the communication barrier and our language assistance are often hesitant to explain what we say because of fear to hurt their feelings. The other thing is that there seems to be no urgency in anything here. I encourage my colleagues to create in the officers that sense of urgency and use all possible means to get the intended results especially through productive rappel. Where possible, humble yourself before them, lower yourself and do not underrate them and offer possible respect even to the underserving because you need them anyway. Appreciate them and be available taking on every possible opportunity to deliver. That approach has assisted us so much here in Baidoa.

Q: Which legacy would you wish to leave behind?

The creation of a formidable Somali Police Force that is in line with democratic principles of Policing. One based on respect of human rights and freedoms, which is accountable to the people and Civilian authority and the rule of law. The journey is long but SPF is not static. Thank you.
The two weeks course that ended on 6th July 2017 aimed at equipping the SPF/SSPF with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them provide adequate security to Very Important Persons and other dignitaries.

The participants graduated into effective, efficient and professional officers capable of delivering close protection duties and responsibilities in line with internationally acceptable standards and best practices.

This was also intended to show improved understanding of close protection and motorcade operation, demonstrate physical and mental fitness, render first Aid when necessary in cause of duty, demonstrate and apply Police Close Protection practical duties, observe and respect human rights and Police procedures applying force professionally, handle and use arms and ammunitions consistent with the best internationally accepted principles and practices and Show improved knowledge on the basic principles and intelligence in close protection duties.

Somali Police Force officers attend a VIP close protection course at Gen. Kaahiye
AMISOM honours police officers for distinguished service in Somalia

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) honoured police officers from Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone for distinguished service after completing their tour of duty in Somalia.

Officers from Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda were feted with medals and certificates for their role in helping AMISOM achieve its mandate of training and mentoring Somali Police officers.

AMISOM Police Commissioner, Brig Gen. Anand Pillay, and AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Rex Dundun, thanked the officers and wished them well in their future assignments.

“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