Message from the Deputy Police Commissioner

I welcome you all to the fourth and last edition of AMISOM Police Newsletter for the year 2017. The year was indeed a busy one for AMISOM Police officers who worked tirelessly to help the Mission achieve its mandate of capacitating the Somali Police Forces (SPF), and ensuring officers have the necessary skills to assume policing responsibilities in the country.

During the quarter, AMISOM Police enhanced its training programme, offering a wide range of specialised Police courses such as crime investigation techniques, crime scene management, close protection, weapon handling, station management and record keeping, among others. I am glad to announce that hundreds of SPF officers benefited from the courses and are applying the knowledge and skills learned in their day to day policing work.

To ensure SPF have the required infrastructure, AMISOM Police - in collaboration with partners - donated various equipment among them, crime scene investigation tools, office equipment, stationery, handcuffs and vehicles. The construction of new police stations and rehabilitation of others is also being done. AMISOM will continue lobbying for more funding to help SPF acquire critical tools and infrastructure.

Following the UN Resolution 2372 passed in August 2017, AMISOM Police strength was increased by 500 police officers, who will help the Mission strengthen its training and mentorship programme and extend it to newly liberated areas, to help in the restoration of peace and security.

Last but not least, on behalf of AMISOM Police, I would like to wholeheartedly thank Brig. Gen. Anand Pillay who rotated out after three years of service as the head of AMISOM Police. We will forever be grateful to Pillay for championing and helping SPF implement key reforms.

As we usher in the New Year, I would like to assure all you of AMISOM Police’s continued support to SPF.

Enjoy your reading!

Thank you,

CP. Christine Alalo
AMISOM Police steps up security training for Somali Police Forces

AMISOM Police stepped up its training programme for the Somali Police Forces (SPF) in the last quarter of the year to adequately prepare them for more responsibilities on security in accordance with the approved National Security Architecture as well as the AMISOM transition of security to the Somali Security Forces.

The resolution approved a reduction of AMISOM uniformed personnel to a maximum 21,626 by 31 December 2017, and transfer more responsibilities to Somali National Security Forces.

The trainings covered specialized and managerial courses all geared towards building the capacity of the SPF. Below are some of the trainings AMISOM Police conducted in 2017.

**Close Protection and Weapon Handling**

SPF officers were trained on how to protect VIPs in view of increased cases of targeted assassinations by Al-Shabaab militants. In addition, the officers were also trained on the proper use of firearms. The course was conducted in Mogadishu and the regional capitals.

**Criminal Investigative Skills and Techniques**

Selected groups of SPF underwent Serious Crime Investigations Course to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to handle serious offences such as rape, robbery, piracy and terrorism. The officers were trained on how to deal with evasive suspects and apply fact-eliciting approaches of questioning to extract credible evidence that lead to successful prosecution. As a result, by the end of November 2017, 60 SPF investigators were trained in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Belet Weyne.

**Crime Scene Management Training**

SPF officers were trained on how to manage crime scenes in accordance with internationally accepted standards, to ensure crucial evidence is preserved.

**Station Management and Record-Keeping**

Station management and record-keeping is significant to the future operations of SPF. The training was a key part of the Basic Recruit Training Course, Training of Trainers for Station Commanders Course and the Training of Trainers Course on Basic Recruitment Curriculum, conducted in collaboration with development partners. The officers were also taught note-taking and record-keeping.
Representatives from AMISOM and the Somali Police Force (SPF) held a consultative meeting to deliberate on the outcome of a study tour by senior Somali security officers, to familiarize themselves with the workings of a federal system of policing.

The consultative meeting, held at the Police Training Academy, was organized to discuss the appropriate policing model for Somalia, as the country continues to institute security reforms to bring back lasting peace and security.

The one-week tour of Nigeria by police commissioners from all the five federal member states was organized by AMISOM Police and the Danish Government.

SPF Deputy Police Commissioner, Gen. Bashir Abdi Mohamed, and Director of the SPF Regional Relations Directorate, Col. Abdikarim Moalin Hussein, were among senior officers who made presentations at the consultative meeting.

AMISOM Police Reform Advisor, Paul Frimpong, took participants through the New Policing Model, which was adopted in March 2016.

Senior SPF officials have so far expressed support for the Nigerian model and are expected to hold further discussions with the Minister of Internal Security and other senior government officials.
AMISOM Police donated an assortment of office equipment to the South West State Police Force to help enhance security in the regional state.

The equipment was handed over to Gen. Mahat Abdirahman Adan, the Commander of South West State Police Force, by SSP. John Ambayo, from the AMISOM Police Reform, Restructuring and Development Unit in South West state.

The donation, which included computers, printers, furniture, filing cabinets, solar lamps and stationery, was distributed to various police stations.

Mr. Ambayo said the donation was meant to improve service delivery by the police and also maintain law and order in the region.

"Today we donated items that will support and enhance their [South West State Police Force officers] capacity to deliver services better. AMISOM remains committed to fulfilling this mandate," said the AMISOM official.

Gen. Adan described the gesture as timely, given the dire need for modern equipment by Somali Police Force.

"Today I have received office equipment that we needed. It is in response to our earlier request to AMISOM. We are very grateful to all who donated the equipment," Gen. Mahat stated.

AMISOM Police is mandated to provide operational support to the Somali Police Force (SPF), by helping it build the necessary capacity to enable it to handle the security needs of the country and discharge its functions in accordance to international rules and standards of policing.

Formed Police Unit and Individual Police Officers core to security improvement in Somalia

Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and their counterparts from the Formed Police Unit (FPU) played a major role in securing the country during the last quarter of the year.

IPOs attached to the Joint Operations Coordinating Centre (JOCC), Joint Intelligence Management Cell (JIMC) and the Joint Terrorism Analytical Centre (JTAC) were instrumental in offering advice to the Somali Police Force (SPF) on security matters in Mogadishu and other major towns.

FPU, on the other hand, participated in joint security operations with the SPF officers. The operations, for example, bore fruit in deterring some of the planned terrorist attacks and arrests of the masterminds.

According to AMISOM Police Operations Coordinator, Ali Daniel Gwambal, the training and mentoring programme offered by the two AMISOM Police Units have been successful in bringing back law and order in many parts of the country.

"So far the knowledge imparted on the SPF is yielding results as they also practise what they have learnt from their counterparts. For example, we see a great improvement in weapon handling. SPF junior officers don't just shoot indiscriminately," said ACP Gwambal.
AMISOM Police and UNSOM Jointly train 200 Galmudug and Puntland Somali Police Forces on Joint Patrols in Galkacyo

A total of 200 officers from Galmudug and Puntland states successfully completed a Joint Police Patrol training in Galkacyo in December.

The 15-day training was aimed at preparing the officers in carrying out joint patrols in Galkacyo as part of a ceasefire agreement (Galkacyo Ceasefire Agreement) signed on 1 January 2017 by the Puntland and Galmudug State Presidents.

Speaking during the closure of the training, Galmudug Finance Minister, Sa’ed Seed, thanked the officers for completing the training, adding that the exercise was important for the restoration of peace and co-existence between residents of Galmudug and Puntland States.

His sentiments were echoed by the Puntland Military Commander Gen. Sa’ed Hersi who commended the trainees for their courage to serve residents and urged them to be vigilant and disciplined as they undertake the joint police patrols.

He thanked AMISOM Police, the United Nations and development partners for facilitating the training as per the ceasefire agreement.

Also present at the function was the Regional Governor of Puntland, Ahmed Khalif, and his counterpart from Galmudug, Abdirashid Haji. Representatives from AMISOM and UN, traditional elders and members of the civil society attended the ceremony.

Under the agreement, patrol teams from both states will be trained to help enforce the cessation of hostilities between the two administrations.

The joint patrol teams are expected to provide security to the Joint Ceasefire Committee members, while on visits to the buffer zone established between Galmudug and Puntland. The officers will also support ongoing initiatives to restore stability and the rule of law, and also act as focal points for rebuilding confidence and peace in Galkacyo.
AMISOM Police Newsletter

Individual Police Officers arrive in Somalia

More than fifty Individual Police Officers (IPOs) arrived in Somalia during the last quarter of the year to replace colleagues who rotated out in September.

The officers from Uganda, Zambia, Kenya and Sierra Leone underwent an induction training to prepare them for work in the Mission and also to understand AMISOM’s Standard Operating Procedures.

Part of the induction involved a nine-day Armoured Personnel Carrier Maintenance and Driving Training Course.

Mambas (armoured personnel carriers) are the preferred vehicles used to transport AMISOM personnel to various sites located outside the protected areas.

AMISOM reviews its five-year gender strategy plan

AMISOM has reviewed its gender strategy which expired in December 2017. The five-year strategy plan was formulated in 2012 to help AMISOM integrate gender issues in its activities in compliance with the African Union Constitutive Act and the various United Nations Security Council mandates.

A two-day workshop was convened to review and come up with an updated strategy to capture the AMISOM mandate and the recently adopted Comprehensive Approach to Security whose main objective is to secure Somalia.

In August, the UN Security Council authorized the gradual handover of security responsibilities to Somali Security Forces by approving the reduction of AMISOM uniformed personnel to a maximum of 21,626 by December 31, 2017. The council also resolved that the downsizing, the first ever, would include a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM Police personnel and five Formed Police Units.

Speaking during the review meeting, Ambassador Madeira, told the participants to ensure the updated strategy is not only aligned to the Mission’s new mandate but also focuses on empowering Somalis on gender issues.

"I am looking forward to seeing an updated gender strategy that responds to the latest mandate of AMISOM, the Comprehensive Approach to Security, and the knowledge that AMISOM has an exit strategy which underlines the imperative of transferring all pertinent skills to the Somalis," the SRCC noted.

Some of the goals which AMISOM and the Somali Police Force (SPF) expect to achieve in the next three years on gender mainstreaming are:

- Develop a gender strategy for SPF
- Establish a policewomen’s network for SPF
- Develop training materials relevant to Somalia for SPF
- Establish more gender desks in police stations and train officers to manage them
- Develop a score-card to monitor progress on gender specific commitments made by SPF and AMISOM Police
- Build the capacity of SPF and increase the number of women officers in senior positions
- Strengthen links between SPF and the judiciary to ensure sexual offences cases are effectively prosecuted.

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AMISOM Police participated in the ‘16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence’ campaign, aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in Somalia.

The campaign, launched by the AU Mission simultaneously in Somalia’s regional capitals, was part of a global campaign to create awareness about some of the most widespread human rights violations.

The global theme of the 2017 campaign was “Leave No One Behind - End Violence against Women and Girls”.

“The overall theme correlates to AMISOM’s role as a peace support operation, in which we support the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states to provide a secure environment where children feel safe to go to school; where civilians can thrive and go about their daily activities unhindered; where communities appreciate the civil liberties that come with the presence of peace and security,” said Ms. Christine Alalo, AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner, during the launch of the campaign, in Mogadishu in November.

Ms. Alalo urged victims of gender-based violence to speak out and break the silence on such human rights violations.

According to a 2016 UN report based on data from 87 countries, 19 percent of women aged between 15 and 49 years, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

The report says harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, which is still widely practised in Somalia, and considered an extreme case of violence against women, has declined by 24 percent worldwide, although prevalence remains high in at least 30 countries.
Officers from AMISOM Police Component hand over an assortment of crime investigation kits to Gen. Mahat Abdirahman, the Bay regional police commissioner at a ceremony held in Baidoa.

Somali police officers receive an assortment of office equipment donated by AMISOM Police component.

Newly deployed Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under AMISOM follow proceedings during a ceremony to conclude an induction course in Mogadishu.

AMISOM’s DSRCC, Simon Mulongo, inspects a Guard of Honor performed by the Nigerian FPU of AMISOM Police component during a farewell ceremony for the contingent on January 6, 2018.

Ghanian police officers attend a farewell ceremony after completing their tour of duty under AMISOM.

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The main objective of AMISOM Police is to help Somalia establish a strong and professional Somali Police Force capable of securing the country. Tremendous progress has been made to achieve the objective, however, challenges still remain. AMISOM Public Information Officer, Superintendent, Philip Mukasa, interviewed Baidoa Police Station Commander, Lt. Col. Muktar Mohamed, on policing at the federal state level.

Q: The establishment of a strong police force in Somalia is critical in securing the country. Kindly explain the working relationship between SPF and AMISOM in achieving this noble goal?

A: The relationship between AMISOM and SPF is cordial. In Baidoa, for example, AMISOM Police has done a commendable job for us. We are now able to do proper patrols because of the trainings we have received. In fact the security situation in the region is under control.

Q: Has the AMISOM mentoring programme benefited police officers in Baidoa?

A: Yes. The programme has benefited us tremendously in our capacity building efforts. Many of our officers, for example, can work confidently knowing what to do and possibly how to do it. We like the way AMISOM officers work with us and many of our officers are always looking forward to co-locate with AMISOM officers. What isn’t yet right shall be sorted out.

Q: Kindly explain what you think is not right that needs to be sorted out.

A: We need more officers in the Criminal Investigation Department; hence more training programmes in this area will benefit us tremendously. It is not easy to investigate cases but if more officers are trained and have the necessary skills then our work will be easy. In brief, what remains is increasing criminal investigators and equipping them with the necessary tools.

Q: What other areas would you like AMISOM to focus on?

A: We need more capacity building particularly to enable us to identify extremists. We need skills in crime intelligence because it is difficult to identify extremists among us. However, we will continue to try our best despite the challenges. I believe AMISOM will always be on our side.

“Many of our officers, for example, can work confidently knowing what to do and possibly how to do it.”

Baidoa Police Station Commander Lt. Col. Muktar Mohamed
AMISOM Police Commissioner ends tour of duty in Somalia

AMISOM Police Commissioner Brigadier General Anand Pillay ended his tour of duty after serving the Mission for three years.

Brig. Gen. Pillay, who joined the AU Mission in 2014, is credited with championing and operationalizing key reforms in the Somali police, both in the federal government and regional states.

Under his leadership, AMISOM Police rolled out an elaborate capacity building programme for the Somali Police Force (SPF), which included screening, recruiting, training and mentoring officers.

Also, under his tenure, AMISOM Police extended its services to newly recovered areas, and expanded its operations to towns and state capitals among them Baidoa, Jowhar, Kismayo, Dobley and Belet Weyne among others.

"I can say categorically, that he (Pillay) has served with merit, with strategic leadership and the achievements are there, for everybody to see," Alex Dundun, the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff said, during a send-off ceremony for Brig. Gen. Pillay.

The sentiments were shared by the AMISOM Deputy Police Commissioner CP Christine Alalo.

"You were the first person to implement the new policing model, we have seen you successfully securing the elections, you have been successful in trying to push, so that we go to the recovered areas, despite the challenges that are there," Ms. Alalo noted.

Brig. Gen. Pillay ensured the training and skilling of over 3,500 Somali police officers and the establishment of systems and processes, including the introduction of a biometric database for the officers serving in the force.

Mr Dundun commended Pillay for spearheading the construction and rehabilitation of various police stations across south central Somalia, in a bid to ensure law and order is restored especially in newly recovered areas.

The outgoing Police Commissioner advised AMISOM Police to focus on efforts that will ensure the SPF is self-reliant, adequately trained and equipped to preside over policing responsibilities in all of Somalia.