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### Message from the Acting Police Commissioner

Colleagues, friends and partners, I welcome you all to our AMISOM Police Newsletter. In this edition, we reflect on the activities we have undertaken in the first quarter of year 2018.

Our focus remains enhancing the capacity of the Somali Police Force both at the federal and state level. This process is ongoing in the form of trainings and mentorship programs, which have been effective in establishing a functioning police unit that has presence in the federal and regional states.

I am happy to note that between August 2017 and March 2018, we have been able to train a total of 1,070 Somali police officers out of which 140 are women, representing 13 percent of the total number of trainees. AMISOM Police will continue building on this momentum going forward and keep encouraging women to join security forces and contribute in the stabilization process.

Last year, the United Nations Security Council gave AMISOM the green light to bring on board additional police officers to help establish a strong Somali Police Force capable of securing the country.

With an increased number of police officers, we will be able to expand our operations to other liberated areas. Currently, for example, AMISOM, with the support of the European Union, is establishing a training facility in HirShabelle, where 400 police officers will be trained in the course of the year to take up security responsibilities in the regional state.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all AMISOM Police officers for their continued dedication and hard work in executing the Mission's mandate of helping secure Somalia after decades of war.

Thank you and happy reading!

**CP Christine Alalo**

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## Nigerian FPU officers honoured for distinguished service

A colourful medal awards ceremony for 139 Nigerian Formed Police Unit (FPU) officers was held at the Joint Military Training Centre (JMTc) in Mogadishu. The ceremony was graced by the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Simon Mulongo.

The DSRCC commended the group for its selfless contribution and hard work in helping AMISOM achieve its mandate. In attendance was the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff Rex Dundun, AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations, Ali. D. Gwambal, and the Special Assistant to AMISOM Police Commissioner Col. Idris Nuaradin.

## AMISOM Police to support SPF establish Public Relations offices

AMISOM Police is assisting Somali Police Force (SPF) to establish Public Relations offices in Federal Member States Police and aiding SPF strengthen its communication department in Mogadishu. Recently, AMISOM Police organized a one-week training in Media and Public Relations training for officers drawn from the five federal states and Mogadishu

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## HirShabelle President visits AMISOM Police Unit in Mogadishu

President Mohamed Abdi Waare of HirShabelle state visited AMISOM Police Component in Mogadishu and held discussions with the senior leadership led by Acting Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo. AMISOM Police is aiding HirShabelle establish a state police force capable of maintaining security in the regional state. President Waare thanked AMISOM for continued support to regional states.

## Inspector Engineer Kunda becomes the first female mamba instructor

Inspector Engineer Mirriam Kunda made history, becoming the first female Armoured Personnel Carrier (Mamba) instructor for AMISOM Police Component after proving her impeccable driving skills in Mine-Resistant Protected Vehicles. The Zambian inspector, who is also vastly experienced in fleet management, proved to be a reliable trainer to her colleagues and was subsequently confirmed as a mamba instructor. Inspector Kunda joined AMISOM in February 2018 as an Individual Police Officer.

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## AMISOM Police welcomes new officers

Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, welcomed 120 new Individual Police Officers into the AMISOM family at the opening ceremony of their induction course held at the Joint Mission Training Centre. The officers are part of the additional personnel authorized by the UN Security Council in resolution 2372 passed in August last year.

## Third FPU Contingent arrives and deployed in Kismayo

The long-awaited Sierra Leonean Formed Police Unit (FPU) contingent arrived in Kismayo to take up various policing duties. The officers will help beef up security in the region by conducting joint patrols with Jubbaland State Police officers and protecting Individual Police Officers when carrying out their day-to-day mentoring, training and advisory duties to Somali Police officers in Kismayo. Sierra Leone is the third country to deploy FPUs after Uganda and Nigeria.

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## AMISOM renovates police stations

AMISOM Police joined hands with development partners to renovate police stations in Mogadishu and in the regions. One of the stations renovated during the quarter was Karaan Police Station in Mogadishu.

## AMISOM donates vehicles to Somali Police Force

The Special Representative of the African Union Commission Chairperson, (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, handed over two brand new armored vehicles to the Federal Government of Somalia's Minister of Internal Security, Mohamed Abukar Islow Duale, at Force Headquarters, on 7th February.

The vehicles were donated by the Italian government through the Italian Embassy in Somalia. The SRCC thanked the Italian government for the continued support to FGS and particularly the security sector. Present at the handover ceremony was the AMISOM Acting Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo among other dignitaries.

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## AMISOM Increases number of AU Police officers following UN Security Council Resolution



AMISOM Police Component is in the process of expanding its operations following the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 2372 mandating the AU Mission to increase the number of officers serving in Somalia.

Last year, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of an extra 500 police officers to help build the capacity of the Somali Police Force to take over security responsibilities once AMISOM exits.

According to the Acting Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, the officers are expected to come from Police Contributing Countries comprising Kenya, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Nigeria and Ghana.

Sierra Leone has responded by deploying a 160-strong Formed Police Unit (FPU) to help implement AMISOM policing programs in Jubbaland.

The deployment increases the number of FPUs serving in Somalia to three, including Nigerian and Ugandan contingents.

"We started implementing the increment in January this year and this is being done gradually. So far in this increment, we have had 160 join the Mission. And this has boosted our capacity to operate," said the Acting Police Commissioner.

In HirShabelle state, CP Alalo noted that AMISOM will not only help in the recruitment and training of state police officers but will also strive to observe Somali Police Force requirements which demand that 20 percent of the recruits be female.



Ag. AMISOM Police Commissioner CP Christine Alalo



## AMISOM commences registration of regional forces in Jubbland State



AMISOM commenced the biometric registration of regional forces in Jubbland to pave way for their integration in the state's security forces.

More than 5000 individuals are to be registered in Gedo, Lower Jubba and Middle Jubba regions in a move aimed at improving security and also providing impetus to the fight against Al-Shabaab militants in Jubbland.

Apart from capturing biological data of the regional forces, the registration exercise will also reveal their numbers, composition and identify what equipment they own and infrastructure.

"This (the registration) is in line with AMISOM and UN program aimed at developing a strong police force in Jubbland that will be mandated to keep law, order and security in the state," Ernest Martin Abilu, the AMISOM Police Coordinator for Jubbland state explained.

Mr. Abilu said the militia will be integrated either into the Jubbland state's police force, the paramilitary or the Somali National Army.

The exercise is part of the security sector reform, viewed as a key priority for the Federal Government of Somalia and its partners, as set out in the landmark political agreement, the National Security Architecture adopted by Somali leaders in April 2017, and the launch of the Security Pact at the London Somalia Conference on 11 May 2017.

Mr. Adan Yusuf Sala, the Director General of Jubbland's Ministry of Security, lauded the cooperation between AMISOM and Jubbland state in the realization of the registration exercise.

The Jubbland Force Commander, Brigadier General Adan Mohamud Ibrahim, described the exercise as critical for the region.

"We are ready to avail all the troops everywhere, so that they are registered," Brig. Gen. Ibrahim stated.

He called on AMISOM, the UN and other partners to support Somalia conduct the Operational Readiness Assessments, which is an essential component for 'right-sizing' and reforming the Somali National Army (SNA) and the Somali Police Force.



## AU team on fact-finding mission in Somalia

A team from the African Union Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) undertook a fact-finding mission in Somalia, in January, to assess activities undertaken by AMISOM Police, in support of the Somali Police Force (SPF).

The delegation led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Aderemi Adeoye, Police Coordinator at the African Union

Commission (AUC), and Col. Muhamed Benadire, AUC Police Advisor, held meetings with the leadership of AMISOM Police and Individual Police and Formed Police Unit officers. The discussions focused on the transition, the increase in the number of AMISOM Police officers and capacity building for the SPF among other matters of strategic importance.



## AMISOM launches forensic fingerprint training for Somali Police Force in South West State

AMISOM Police conducted a 14-day basic training course on forensic fingerprints in Baidoa, for the Somali Police Force to empower its officers to use the technology to investigate criminal cases.

At least 15 police officers, including five female officers, attended the course which was conducted by AMISOM and funded by the Japanese government in January.

“The purpose of this course is to ensure that we train our officers on how to finger print, how to store finger prints and how to make references to future cases in terms of investigations,” said the South West State AMISOM Police Coordinator, Tresphord Kasale.

Assistant Minister of Security in the South West State, Abdirizak Abdi Aden, lauded AMISOM for organizing the specialized course, adding that it will go a long way in improving security in the region.

“The police force has different sectors; this [CID] is the most important one. As to why we put more efforts on this sector, it is the area that separates the criminals and non-criminals and they [CID officers] are the people to differentiate. I hope they will benefit from the training and serve their community,” Mr Aden said.

Shukri Muhumed Wardheere, a female officer who participated in the training, said the course had improved her knowledge on criminal investigation.

Fingerprint evidence is a modern analytical feature that plays a crucial role in criminal investigations and is used to quickly identify suspects.



## AMISOM to train more SPF officers this year

AMISOM will this year train and mentor more police officers in federal states to strengthen security in the regions.

The move is in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2372, passed in August last year, which authorized the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to commence transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali national security forces.

Speaking during a medal awards ceremony, held on 7th January for a group of Nigerian police officers who had completed their tour of duty, the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Simon Mulongo, said the plan is aimed at building the capacity of the SPF to enable it discharge its security duties effectively.

“This year, there will be more intensified training, more intensified mentoring of those who are there (Somali Police Force officers) and that also means recruitment, training and forming the officer core that will see the police leap from the current stage to a higher one,” Mr. Mulongo noted.

The DSRCC hailed the Nigerian Formed Police Unit (FPU) for their distinguished service to the Mission and their contribution to the stabilization process in Somalia.





## AMISOM Police conducts training on security intelligence for South West Police Force

AMISOM Police conducted a 10-day training course on criminal investigation for South West Police Force in Baidoa.

Twenty officers, sixteen male and four female, drawn from different parts of South West state attended the training, whose objective was to strengthen the force's capability to investigate crime and prosecute suspects.

Tresphord Kasale, AMISOM Police Coordinator, for South West state, said the aim of the training was to develop the skills of the officers to enable them gather concrete evidence during investigation of crimes.

"The purpose of this course is to empower our local police on how to gather information, how to process information and how to analyze that information and give an informed decision on their work," Mr. Kasale noted.

Col. Adan Ali Hassan, Training Coordinator of South West Police, said the course would benefit the officers in their day-to-day activities of maintaining law and order.



## AMISOM conducts training on close protection for Somali Police Force



AMISOM Police conducted a series of training programs for the Somali Police Force to enhance their knowledge, skills and attitudes on close protection.

The training conducted in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo, between January and March, attracted a total of 60 participants and aimed at countering the increasing threats of assassinations and attacks by insurgents, targeting senior government officials and other very important persons (VIPs) in both federal and regional states.

Eight female officers were among the 60 participants, who exhibited courage to undertake the task of protecting VIPs.

AMISOM Police Training and Development Department launched the programs together with Somali Police Force officers who were initially mentored on close protection.

The programs were implemented with the support from the Japanese Government through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

## AMISOM Police conducts battlefield casualty drills for Somali Police Force

AMISOM Police conducted pre-hospital/battlefield casualty drills training for six Somali Police Force (SPF) officers in Baidoa, Southwest State of Somalia in March. Participants gained knowledge and skills in first aid and battlefield casualty management. AMISOM Police trainers in Baidoa had earlier organised a Training of Trainers' (TOT) course in the same field. The TOT course was facilitated by Royal Army Medical Corps/UK70. Casualty drills are critical for officers operating in a conflict environment.



## AMISOM to train first batch of police recruits in HirShabelle State

AMISOM Police will train the first batch of police recruits in HirShabelle as the process to establish a strong state police gets underway.

The 400 recruits will be vetted, screened and trained by AMISOM Police officers with support from the European Union and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The recruits will undergo a three-month training on basic recruit curriculum with special emphasis on operational response, tactical skills development and human rights to enable them perform policing functions effectively in a volatile environment. The training will be conducted in two batches comprising 200 officers each.

HirShabelle State President, Mohammed Abdi Waare, recently conducted a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the commencement of construction works for the training facility located in Jowhar. AMISOM and European Union officials also attended the ceremony.



Above: HirShabelle State President H.E. Mohammed Abdi Waare laying a foundation stone for the training facility in Jowhar. Below: Part of the facility structure.



## AMISOM Police Commissioner commends UNMAS for continued support

AMISOM Police has praised the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Somalia for its continued support in training officers on countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs) commonly used by Al-Shabaab militants.

UNMAS conducts explosive hazard awareness training course for newly deployed African Union police officers to ensure they have adequate knowledge and awareness of the threats posed by IEDs.

The Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, Christine Alalo, said UNMAS had played a major role in helping the Mission achieve its mandate of securing Somalia, through the regular training offered to AMISOM personnel.

"We wish to thank UNMAS-Somalia for the support it has accorded to AMISOM Police in providing training to our police officers with a goal of strengthening the operational capability of the SPF (Somali Police Force) to mitigate the threat of IEDs in Somalia," Ms Alalo noted.

UNMAS official, Seamus McMenamin, affirmed the agency's commitment to deliver quality training in support of mitigating the threats posed by IEDs to Mission staff and the general public.

Mr McMenamin described the training as an integral part of the overall development of a safe, secure and stable Somalia.





## AMISOM Police officers celebrate International Women's Day.



AMISOM Police officers joined their counterparts in the military and civilian components in a colorful ceremony to mark the International Women's Day in March. The ceremony which was held in the Base camp, Mogadishu, saw female AMISOM officers and their Somali counterparts gather to take stock of their contribution to global peace.

The officers congregated to chart new ways to bolster their contribution to global peace and also champion the rights of women and girls in Somalia and the rest of the world.

"Women's Day has a special significance to women in peacekeeping. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security also was launched 18 years ago today," Stella Maranga, a Gender Officer with the AU Mission noted. "It is a very exciting day for the women of AMISOM," she added.

According to Maranga, International Women's Day is a celebration that calls on global decision-makers to act by promoting gender equality to enable the world achieve 50/50 representation by 2030.

AMISOM police and military female officers representing various contingents, also gathered under the scorching sun and

marched in the expansive AMISOM basecamp to demonstrate their solidarity with women all over the world, especially Somali women who have borne the brunt of insecurity in the Horn of Africa country.

"We are spread out across headquarters and rural forward operating bases in our areas of responsibility, attending to our various Mission posts daily. Today is special because it's a day we get the chance to come together in large numbers, know one another and advocate for a common cause dear to all of us as women in peacekeeping," Lt. Col Glenna Josephine Nicholson, an officer from Sierra Leone said.

The participants called on the AU and the UN to help facilitate more women to join peacekeeping missions in various parts of the world.

"There is a common misconception that when women call for action on issues such as 50/50 participation and representation, we want half the roles simply portioned off and handed to us for the plain biological fact of our gender. No, this is not the case," said Chief Inspector of Police, Mavis Kabila, from Zambia. "We make the call because we know well that we can back it up with practical facts and evidence-based arguments detailing our vast contribution."





Ag. AMISOM Police Commissioner Introduces the Sierra Leon FPU Contingent Commander CSP Kaba Sheku to the Jubbaland State Police Commissioner Col. Muhammed Guled Nassar at the Regional Police Hqtrs in Kismayo. Right: One of the Sierra Leon Contingent Owned Equipment in Kismayo.



AUPol officers from Kenyan Uganda Sierra Leone and Zambia ended their tour of duty with AMISOM and were awarded medals in honoured for their contribution towards the AMISOM mandate .



Ag. AMISOM Police Commissioner CP Christine Alalo in an Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA) planning meeting with Jubbaland Security Officials in Kismayo ahead of the registration of regional forces (Darwish)



AMISOM Engineer Eng. Andrew Alele and AMISOM Police Procurement Officer Inspec. Felista Chungu onsite inspection of the renovations Karaan Police Station in Mogadishu.



Left: Ag. AMISOM Police Commissioner CP Christine Alalo disembarks from one of the Sierra Leon COE at Kismayo. Right: AU Police on day patrol in Kismayo city street.



# Q and A Digest



SP. Philip Mukasa, AMISOM Police Public Information Officer interviews the AMISOM Police Coordinator for Jubbaland state, Abilu Ernest Martin

**AMISOM Police is helping Somalia establish a strong and reliable Somali Police Force capable of maintaining law and order. To better understand efforts being made, AMISOM Police Public Information Officer, Philip Mukasa, interviewed AMISOM Police Coordinator for Jubbaland state, Abilu Ernest Martin, on policing in Jubbaland.**

***What is your experience working with Jubbaland Somali State Police (JSSP) in regard to fulfilling AMISOM Police mandate?***

First, our mandate is to capacitate the JSSP through mentoring, training, advisory services and equipping them with skills to enable it perform policing activities in a professional manner and as per internationally acceptable standards. We also coordinate AMISOM Police projects, with the support of the international community, to help provide equipment such as those used in crime investigation and intelligence, office equipment and the like. This is steadily increasing and the Jubbaland State Police is slowly getting back to its feet. We hope to continue supporting the JSSP until such a time when they are able to take charge of their own security.

***Is there notable progress registered in the establishment of a strong Jubbaland Police?***

Jubbaland Police is supported by AMISOM Police, under different units. These are the mentors who are deployed at team sites, trainers, reform and restructuring team as well as the Formed Police Units (FPUs). We all collocate with Somali Police officers. In Lower Jubba where the trained 600 local police officers were deployed, we see a great improvement in the way they carry out their policing activities. We have continued to offer them specialized training and various skills. Hopefully we will soon have Gedo and Middle Jubba completely recovered from Al-Shabaab, so that we extend the support of AMISOM Police to those areas as well.

***What do you consider as the major milestone for AMISOM Police since you joined the AU Mission?***

This is a very unique and challenging mission. First, it is a peace enforcement mission where the military is fighting Al-Shabaab in some areas and policing is taking place in the recovered areas. In the areas where policing is taking place, locals are now experiencing law and order enforced by Somali Police officers, something many young people had never seen in their lifetime. Cases are reported to police stations and are investigated. Since its recovery from Al-Shabaab in 2012, Kismayo has greatly evolved and now has a functioning government and police. We are hopeful that the entire territory will soon be liberated. Right now the judiciary, the electoral agency, the prisons and other government departments are operational, enabled by the internal security provided by the Jubbaland State Police forces together with AMISOM forces.

***As the coordinator, how would you describe your relationship with the Jubbaland Police Force?***

First, I have a good understanding of my area of responsibility. I encourage team work, constantly remind my AMISOM colleagues to respect the locals, be willing partners and apply virtues of transparency and honesty. I also urge my team to do their best while on duty in close cooperation with the local leaders. This is a complicated mission, so one must always listen and involve every stakeholder. For the SPF and sister force commanders here, we work in partnership and are in constant consultation.

***Any significant challenges you face as AMISOM Police together with JSSP in Kismayo?***

We are still operating only in lower Jubba where the population has seen the full impact of AMISOM-trained police officers. There is a great call from many locals to extend AMISOM Police services to places like Gedo and Middle Jubba but because of security challenges, we are not able to function in these areas.

Secondly, some of the Police stations in Kismayo are dilapidated and need urgent attention. Resources are being sought to have these stations re-constructed or rehabilitated.

Thirdly, SPF urgently requires operational support in terms of equipment including vehicles, communication gadgets, uniforms and timely payment of salary for the officers.

The lack of these demoralizes the officers who are willing to serve their country. Their inability to sustain their livelihood is a security concern.

***As a senior officer, what advice would you give other AMISOM police officers serving in Somalia?***

It is important to appreciate the environment and read the situation on the ground before you take a step. Treat locals with respect and closely work with the Somali Police Force (SPF). Understanding their method of doing things and tactfully aligning your purpose is the key to successful collocation. Be there when SPF needs you and offer appropriate advice without forgetting to consult AMISOM Police authorities, teammates or local leaders including commanders.

***Thank you!***