Message from the Acting Police Commissioner

I welcome you all to our first quarterly newsletter for year 2019. The first quarter of the year was a mixed bag of successes and challenges for AMISOM Police unit.

During the period, the police component suffered a major blow, losing its able Acting Commissioner, CP Christine Alalo who died in a plane crash in March. Alalo was instrumental in strengthening relations between AMISOM Police and the Somali Police Force (SPF), an accomplishment that has helped establish a functioning police force both at the federal and state level in post-war Somalia. AMISOM Police will continue working towards achieving Alalo’s vision of a free, stable and peaceful Somalia. May the Lord rest her soul in eternal peace.

During the quarter, more Somali Police Force officers were trained and mentored on various topics related to security, among them, human rights, conflict-related sexual violence, crowd control and personnel management among others. The trainings enabled the federal member states to extend the rule of law in liberated areas.

The acceptance by Ghana to deploy a contingent of Formed Police Unit officers to train and provide operational support to the Somali Police Force, is a major boost for plans to extend programmes to different parts of the country during the transition period. The move will help speed up the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, whose key objective is the transfer of security responsibilities to Somali security forces.

AMISOM Police is happy to note that the quick impact projects initiated by its officers during the period, among them, construction and rehabilitation of police stations, are improving the lives of residents in various parts of the country.

Lastly, as the transition period enters a critical stage, AMISOM Police remains committed to supporting Somalia find lasting peace and security.

Happy reading!

DCP Rex Dundun
AMISOM Police officers hold security meeting with senior SPF officials

The AMISOM Police held a high-level security meeting with the Somali Police Force leadership in Mogadishu. The discussions, held on 16 February, focused on ways of conducting joint patrols to enhance security in the capital, Mogadishu.

Speaking after the meeting, SPF Commissioner, General Bashir Abdi Mohamed, said the presence of AMISOM Police together with their SPF counterparts in the streets would go a long way in keeping the city safe by preventing criminal activities. Earlier on, the officials held talks with SPF Deputy Police Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Zakia Hussein Ahmed, on a number of issues ranging from training, community policing, gender and social media awareness campaigns.

AMISOM Police conducts exit interviews with outgoing IPOs

On the 15 January 2019, AMISOM Police conducted exit interviews with 30, Individual Police Officers (IPOs) who had completed their one-year tour of duty in Somalia.

The exit interviews were to get feedback from the outgoing IPOs on their experiences working with AMISOM. The information gathered was used by the AU Mission’s senior leadership to assess the performance of the police component and identify areas that need improvement to help officers perform their duties effectively.

UNMAS to train SPF officers on countering IEDs

In February, a team from UNMAS held a meeting with Individual Police Officers in Jowhar to discuss plans of training local police officers on countering IEDs which continues to be Al-Shabaab’s weapon of choice against innocent civilians.

The officers agreed on the importance of equipping a team of SPF officers with the necessary skills to enable them to train their colleagues on handling and preventing the use of IEDs and VBIEDs in HirShabelle State.

AMISOM Police gender officer mentors IDPs on SGBV

AMISOM Police Gender Officer, Racheal Malambo, visited internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kismayo to raise awareness on the dangers of sexual gender-based violence.

IP Malambo highlighted that AMISOM Police has trained Gender Focal Persons to professionally handle sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases and help victims recover from the heinous crime.

The Gender Officer encouraged IDPs to report SGBV cases to the police to enable officers to conduct investigations and prosecute suspects in court.
AMISOM Police conducts training assessment on Jowhar Police Academy

Officers from AMISOM Reforms, Reconstructing, and Development Unit and Somali Police Force, in January, conducted a technical assessment of Jowhar Police Academy in Shabelle region, in January.

The aim was to assess the training conditions at the academy with a view of improving the welfare of the 189 recruits who were undergoing the basic three-month police programme at the facility. These recruits were part of the 800 police officers earmarked for training in Hiran and Shabelle regions respectively.

Head of AMISOM M&E visits Belet Weyne

In January, officers from the AMISOM Monitoring and Evaluation Unit visited Belet Weyne, the administrative capital of Hiran region, to assess the construction of Hal Wadaag Police post.

The team led by the Head of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, ASP Duncan Akatukwasa, held discussions with the contractors and officers from the Somali Police Force. The unit is mandated to carry out a field assessment of quick impact projects initiated by AMISOM Police and advise the leadership on actions to be taken to ensure projects and programmes are completed. The Unit also assesses the impact of the projects on communities once they are completed.

AMISOM and UNSOM Police to strengthen cooperation

Senior officers from AMISOM and UNSOM Police held discussions on strengthening working relations by sharing information on a wide range of issues. The discussions held at AMISOM Police Headquarters were attended by Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner Rex Dundun and UNSOM Police Commissioner, Meinolf Schlotmann among others.

Police Commissioner Schlotmann, reiterated that UNSOM Police and AMISOM Police mandates are interrelated hence the need to work closely through regular and timely information sharing.

DCP Dundun assured UNSOM of AMISOM’s commitment to a stronger working relationship to ensure Somalia achieves lasting peace and stability.

AMISOM Police holds joint recruitment planning meeting with FSG, UNOPS and UNSOM

Officials from AMISOM Police, Federal Government of Somalia, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) held a joint recruitment planning meeting at force headquarters in Mogadishu in March. The objective of the meeting was to discuss Police recruitment plans in HirShabelle State following the passing out of the first batch of police officers in February.

The high-level meeting also deliberated on a number of issues including availability of applicants, establishment of the vetting committee, training of the vetting committee members and the status of Jowhar training facility among others.
AMISOM hands over a refurbished police station in Belet Weyne

Crime control and law enforcement received a major boost in Belet Weyne following the refurbishment of the District Police station by AMISOM.

For three months the Police Station in Howl Wadag village was under reconstruction and residents could not hide their joy when AMISOM Police Officers finally handed over the keys to the facility to Hiraan administration officials in February.

“We are happy that the rehabilitation work has been completed and now our officers can offer quality policing services to the residents,” said the Deputy Governor of Hiraan region, Abdirahim Muhumed Takoy, during the hand-over ceremony.

Mr. Takoy thanked AMISOM for the support, saying the growth of Belet Weyne town had necessitated the need for more police stations.

“It is clear that Belet Weyne town is growing rapidly. The town previously had one Police Station located in Koshin village but due to population growth and increased crime rate, there was need for another Police Station,” he added.

The refurbished building has an office, detention cells and sanitary facilities. The rehabilitation work was funded by the Danish government.

Speaking after the hand-over ceremony, Maxwell Chikunguru, AMISOM Police Coordinator, Reform and Restructuring, said the ongoing construction and renovation of police stations is aimed at supporting the Somali Police Force to assume security responsibilities as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution, 2431 of 2018.

Belet Weyne Police Commissioner, Maj. Mohamed Maow Halane, thanked AMISOM and appealed for the renovation of more police stations to help improve law and order in the Hiraan region.

AMISOM Police donates office equipment to Somali Police Force

The AMISOM Police delivered an assortment of office equipment to the Somali Police Force to enhance operational efficiency and service to the public.

The equipment, procured with funds from the Japanese government, included desktop computers, cameras, biometric equipment and office furniture.

“I really want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the African Union, specifically AMISOM. I am very pleased how quickly you managed to get all this equipment together and I will personally make sure that they are utilised properly,” said Ms. Zakia Hussein, the Somali Police Force Deputy Commissioner of Police, during the official handover of the equipment, at the Police Headquarters in January.

AMISOM Police Coordinator of Reforms and Restructuring, Maxwell Chikunguru, who handed over the equipment, expressed AMISOM’s continued commitment to the training, mentoring, restructuring and reforming of the Somali Police Force.

“We have a mandate to build the capacity of the SPF and this event signifies our efforts towards realising the capacity building process,” Mr. Chikunguru stated.
AMISOM is collaborating with the Somali Police Force to build the capacity of Somali Police personnel to tackle sexual offences.

In March, 16 AMISOM police officers, already deployed as gender focal points in police stations located within AMISOM’s Area of Responsibility in Mogadishu and federal member states, underwent a three-day training to learn about gender relations.

The aim of the training was to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to effectively support their Somali Police counterparts in establishing gender desks, handling sexual offences and addressing the gender-specific needs of residents. According to Stella Maranga, AMISOM Gender Officer, the training focused on aspects of gender sensitisation, human rights, international humanitarian law; the protection of women and children, and conflict-related sexual violence, among other topics.

Speaking at the end of the training, DCP Rex Dundun, AMISOM Police Chief of Staff and Acting Police Commissioner said; “When you look at the various activities that have to be undertaken in order to prevent or to respond to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), you need police officers that are well trained in this concept.”

DCP Dundun urged the police officers to work closely with their Somali counterparts to understand the root cause of the problem and to adopt effective measures to end the suffering of victims. The training was organised by AMISOM’s Protection, Human Rights and Gender Cluster.
A detachment of nine Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from AMISOM were deployed to Dhobley in the Lower Jubba region, to embark on capacity building activities.

The AU police officers, who are specialists in different fields, are supporting the Jubbaland State Police Force to train local police officers to expand their presence in the region.

“The reason for coming to Dhobley today is to deploy the first detachment of 9 Individual Police Officers from AMISOM, who will assist and support the local police in Dhobley in developing their capacity,” DCP Rex Dundun said after the arrival of the Individual Police Officers in Dhobley.

DCP Dundun said the officers will train, mentor and support the Somali Police in operational policing and infrastructural development.

The deployment of AMISOM Police to Dhobley was in fulfillment of the UN Security Council Resolution 2431 of 2018, which calls for a reduction of uniformed military personnel and increased presence of the AU Police in the country, to support the expansion and maintenance of law and order; as security responsibilities transition to the Somali security forces.

DCP Dundun noted that AMISOM will also deploy a platoon of Formed Police Unit in Dhobley, for operational support to the SPF.

“We hope to learn skills and benefit from the experience and expertise of AMISOM Police officers,” Col. Haybe Ahmed Abdullahi, the police commander in Dhobley said.
TRACING AND MENTORING

Ghana to deploy additional police officers to Somalia

AMISOM Police component currently has three FPUs, from Nigeria, Uganda and Sierra Leone, and is seeking to bridge the shortfall, to arrive at authorised numbers of five FPUs.

“We are just about to kick-start training of personnel,” confirmed the Director of International Relations in the Ghana Police Service and leader of the delegation, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Baba Saanid Adamu, who added that Ghana Police had already notified the AU Commission to send an assessment team to the West African country.

ACP Adamu said once the training is completed, technical assessment of the contingent-owned equipment (COE) and personnel, will be conducted. Thereafter, the COEs will be airlifted into Somalia.

The four-member Ghanaian delegation comprising Chief Superintendent of Police, Reginald Osei from the Formed Police Unit of Ghana; Deputy Superintendent of Police, Rose Awah; Deputy Superintendent of Police, Frank Duodu, and ACP Adamu, visited Baidoa, the administrative capital of the South West State, where the Ghanaian FPU will be based, to assess the security situation and available facilities.

The FPUs support their Somali counterparts in public order management and provision of armed escort for VIPs, as well as close protection services to AMISOM Individual Police Officers, who collocate at various police stations across the country, to provide day-to-day mentorship to Somali police officers.

Ghana announced plans to deploy a contingent of 160 officers from its Formed Police Unit (FPU) to boost stabilisation efforts ahead of AMISOM’s exit in 2021.

Ghana’s deployment of additional officers to the Horn of Africa country, will be in response to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2431 of 2018, which recommended an increment in numbers of AMISOM police personnel.

HirShabelle State’s first Police Officers complete training

A total of 198 youths recruited by HirShabelle State Police, last November, underwent a colourful passing out parade after completing a three-month intensive police course.

The Police Officers are the first batch of 800 recruits to be absorbed in the State’s Police Force, to maintain law and order in Somalia’s youngest federal state. “It’s your responsibility as Police Officers to ensure that you exercise professionalism, observe fundamental issues of human rights, issues of rule of law and constitutionalism when carrying out your duties as Police Officers,” Honourable Simon Mulongo, the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, told the new recruits, during the ceremony held in Jowhar, the administrative capital of HirShabelle State in February.

The passing out parade was attended by high ranking federal and HirShabelle State officials, among them the Federal Minister of Internal Security, Mohamed Abukar Islow; the Police Commissioner of the Somali Police Force, Gen. Bashir Abdi Mohamed, and HirShabelle State Police Commissioner, Col. Hassan Dhicisow. “On your shoulders is the arduous task of securing HirShabelle. You are mandated to maintain law and order, but do so within the confines of the law,” HirShabelle Vice President, Ali Abdullahi Hussein Guudlaawe, urged the new recruits.

The training was conducted by AMISOM Police and funded by the European Union. Somali Police Commissioner, Gen. Bashir Abdi Mohamed, urged the officers to maintain a high level of discipline in their work.

Rahma Mohamed Hassan, one of the recruits, said the officers were ready to defend and sacrifice their lives for peace and security in the country. The three-month comprehensive training focused on different aspects of policing including crime prevention and public order management.
Somali Police Force station commanders from three federal states underwent a ten-day training course to enhance their leadership and managerial skills.

The training, organised by AMISOM, in March, attracted 40 station commanders from the federal member states of Galmudug, HirShabelle and Jubbaland.

“The course was aimed at equipping station commanders with leadership and management skills that would enable them to coordinate, control, organise and lead their personnel during operations,” said AMISOM Police Trainer, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Christopher Kashita.

The participants were taken through various topics, among them, leadership and management, Somalia’s penal code, command and control, community policing and gender and human rights.

The training was part of AMISOM’s capacity building programme to prepare Somalia’s security forces to assume security responsibilities from the AU Mission.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Yusuf Mohamed Ali, the Director General in the Federal Ministry of Internal Security thanked AMISOM for organising the training which he noted will help professionalize the country’s police force.

“This training focused on how to build the capacity of the Somali police and the 40 police officers who managed to attend this training received valuable skills which they will in turn transfer to their counterparts in various stations,” Mr. Ali observed.

Adan Yussuf Salah, the Director General in Jubbaland’s Ministry of Security commended AMISOM trainers for establishing a programme for senior police officers, adding that the training provided participants with the opportunity to network and share experiences.
Forty Individual Police Officers honoured for exemplary work in Somalia

AMISOM honoured 40 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia, for their invaluable contribution to the professional growth of Somali police officers.

A medal award ceremony was held in Mogadishu, in March, to honour the officers who completed their one-year tour of duty in Somalia.

“AMISOM appreciates you for the services you have rendered with dedication and loyalty over the past one year,” DCP Rex Dundun, told the outgoing IPOs, who were responsible for training and mentorship programmes in various Police Stations in the country.

DCP Dundun noted that the officers had also learned and gained valuable exposure from their counterparts.

The Senior Police Officer hailed the respective countries for nominating personnel with special skills, to share their expertise and experiences with their counterparts in Somalia.

Inspector Janet Musau from Kenya, who was among the officers leaving the country, expressed confidence at the level of training given to the Somali Police Force.

“We have done our best in mentoring the Somali Police Force and we are proud we are leaving them adept at policing and patrols,” she said.

Inspector Amadu Kargbo, from Sierra Leone, echoed similar sentiments. He described his tour of duty in the country as a unique and rewarding experience.

AMISOM Police plays a critical role in ensuring that the Somali Police Force is adequately capacitated and capable of taking full charge of policing activities in the country.
Forty Individual Police Officers feted by AMISOM

Forty Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Police Contributing Countries to AMISOM departed Somalia in January at the end of their one-year tour of duty.

The officers from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia received medals and certificates at a colourful ceremony presided over by Maj. Gen. Fidza Dludlu, the AMISOM Head of Mission Support.

The event, held in Mogadishu, in March, was also attended by DCP Rex Dundun; the Force Engineer, Col. Olugbemi Adeboye Obasanjo and other senior officials.

Gen. Dludlu described the Officers as true ambassadors of Nigeria and the African Union, saying the contingent excelled in its role of providing operational support to the Somali Police Force (SPF).

“AMISOM is pleased to note that while performing these duties the members of this unit have been exemplary, diligent, committed and dedicated in their selfless service to humanity and attainment of peace and security in Somalia," Maj. Gen Dludlu noted.

His remarks were echoed by DCP Dundun, who noted that the officers had performed well in their duties, among them, conducting patrols, protecting and securing communities, supporting the SPF in public order management and performing guard and escort duties.

The Nigerian contingent, he added, was among the first FPUs to not only deploy 160 personnel, in line with a recent decision made by AU’s Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) but also operate outside Mogadishu, particularly HirShabelle State.

“I give all the glory to God because when I first landed here on January 8, 2018, I never knew that I would receive this award. I feel blessed,” Inspector Adelaja Oluwadamilare said.
AMISOM holds a memorial for the late Acting Police Commissioner

Colleagues and friends of the late Acting Police Commissioner Christine Alalo who died in a plane crash held an inter-denominational memorial service in her honour in March.

The deceased was among the 157 passengers, who perished aboard the Ethiopian Airlines, flight ET302, which crashed shortly after takeoff in Addis Ababa on March 10.

Mourners, among them, foreign diplomats accredited to Somalia, AMISOM and UN officials eulogised the late Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner as a champion of Somalia’s recovery and growth.

“She understood that the police played a bigger role in bringing Somalis together,” said the AU Special Representative for Somalia, Francisco Madeira.

Ambassador Madeira noted that the late senior AU Police official understood the policing needs of the Somali population and championed community policing in the grassroots, “persuading the population, the villages, that the police is not an enemy.”

The Head of AMISOM recalled that in his last telephone conversation with the late Commissioner of Police, she was enthusiastic about the implementation of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and enhanced training of the local police forces.

Lisa Filipetto, the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), highlighted Commissioner Alalo’s determination to fulfil and realise AMISOM’s mandate in Somalia.

“She was not working really just for herself, she was working for the women and children of Somalia and to make sure that one day, they can all live in peace,” Ms. Filipetto told mourners.

Fulgencio Garrido Ruiz, the EU Charge d’Affaires to Somalia; Carlo Campanile, the Italian Ambassador to Somalia; Qin Jinn, the Chinese Ambassador to Somalia; AMISOM Force Commander Lt. Gen. Tigabu Yilma Wondimhunegn, and the Deputy AMISOM Force Commander Lt. Gen. Nakibus Lakara in-charge of Operations and Plans, all paid glowing tributes to the late Christine Alalo. May her soul rest in eternal peace.
Female peacekeepers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) joined the rest of world to mark the International Women’s Day in March.

The women drawn from all the Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and Somali security forces, gathered in Mogadishu to take stock of women’s contributions to global peace and review the challenges facing them in the social, economic and political fronts.

Donning white, purple and blue t-shirts emblazoned with the words ‘better the balance, better the peacekeeping’, the female peacekeepers kicked off the celebrations with a march to highlight the important role women play in the development of the continent.

They later congregated at a conference addressed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, Deputy Commissioner of Police from Nigeria, Rotimi Adelesi, and Assistant Commissioner of Police from Ghana, Lydia Yaako Donkor, among others.

“We honour the sacrifice you continue to make, thousands of kilometres away from your loved ones, for the sake of peace not only in Somalia but Africa in general,” Ambassador Madeira observed.

The SRCC noted that female peacekeepers have immensely contributed to the success of the AU Mission, by helping tackle sexual and gender-based violence, advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups and capacitating their Somali counterparts.

In her speech, DCP Adelesi lauded the peacekeepers for their sacrifice and commitment and called for the increase in female representation in the AU Mission.

Her sentiments were echoed by ACP Donkor, who hailed the female peacekeepers for taking up roles, hitherto perceived as reserved for men.

International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8 every year and has been a focal point in the movement for women’s rights.
Ms. Lisa Filipetto, the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), writes a message in the condolence book at the AMISOM Headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 14 March 2019, following the death of Christine Alalo, the Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, in a plane crash in Ethiopia on 10 March 2019.

Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, in a photo with Deputy Superintendent of Police Charles Kwaye and Sergeant Dora Asante, both from the Ghana Police Service, who completed their tour of duty with AMISOM on 09 March 2019

Nigerian Formed Police officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) attend a farewell ceremony to mark the completion of their tour of duty in Somalia on January 5, 2019.

Female Peacekeepers of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) pose for a group photo during the celebrations to mark International Women’s Day held in Mogadishu on March 08, 2019.

NEWLY RECRUITED HIRSHABELLE STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ON PARADE DURING A PASSING OUT CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF TRAINING IN JOWHAR, SOMALIA ON 14 FEBRUARY 2019.

AMISOM POLICE OFFICERS VET AND SCREEN RECRUITS IN THE NEW POLICE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IN HIRSHABELLE STATE, HELD IN BELET WEEYNE, SOMALIA ON 20 APRIL 2019.

Daniel Ali Gwomhal, AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations pins on an AMISOM police officer during a medal parade for AMISOM IPO’s, who have completed their one-year tour of duty in Mogadishu.

AMISOM IN PICTURES
The Director of Peace Support Operations in the Uganda Police Force, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Grace Turyagumanawe, led a delegation of Police Officers on a week-long working visit to Somalia in January.

AIGP Turyagumanawe held talks with the AU Special Representative for Somalia, Francisco Madeira, at the Mission headquarters in Mogadishu. The talks focused on a wide range of issues related to Security and Policing in Somalia.

The visiting Uganda Police Official said he was in Somalia to carry out an assessment of personnel and audit the status of contingent-owned equipment.

“We have brought new spares, which we want to use to repair our machinery and put them to good use,” AIGP Turyagumanawe explained.

Uganda is one of the six Police Contributing Countries to AMISOM and has a 160- strong contingent of Formed Police personnel deployed in the horn of Africa country; in addition to Individual Police Officers, who train, mentor and advise Somali police officers.

“The equipment that you are going to repair, will be of extreme importance when undertaking mentoring operations; taking our people for training; helping with patrols and escort duties,” noted Ambassador Madeira.