Message from the Acting Police Commissioner

Colleagues, friends and partners, I welcome you all to our AMISOM Police Newsletter for the second quarter. In this edition, we look at the activities we have undertaken in helping Somali security forces secure the country.

First and foremost, our main focus remained the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, whose key objective is to transfer security responsibility to the Somali security forces. As a result, during the quarter, AMISOM Police continued to capacitate the Somali Police Force by training, mentoring and advising the officers on matters of security both at the federal and state level.

Presently, AMISOM Police is focusing on conducting a series of training programmes in Galmudug to establish a functional and formidable police force in the regional state.

To ensure a professional force is established, deliberate efforts are being made to raise the number of women serving in the Somali Police Force as one way of enhancing female participation in the decision making process and also achieving gender parity.

I am also happy to announce that the police component was able to expand its programmes and activities to areas that were hitherto a challenge to access, thanks to the United Nations Security Council’s resolution which granted AMISOM the greenlight to increase the number of officers serving in Somalia.

Also, during the quarter, AMISOM Police participated in a consultative meeting aimed at harmonizing Boards of Inquiry standard operating procedures to improve investigation standards of security-related incidents involving its officers. Harmonised procedures will help ensure proper decisions are made on incidents that lead to injury or death of personnel or damage to Mission property.

Lastly, my heartfelt appreciation goes to my fellow officers who continue working tirelessly to make Somalia great again despite the challenges faced in a conflict environment.

Happy reading!

DCP Rex Dundun
AMISOM Police Officers hold Gender sensitisation workshop in HirShabelle State

AMISOM Police Gender Officer, CIP Rachael Malambo held a sensitisation workshop on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) for female officers of HirShabelle State Police.

The workshop held in April was part of a countrywide campaign to educate and distribute SGBV sensitisation materials to both the federal and state police officers. Among the issues discussed during the meeting were responsibilities of police officers and community members in tackling SGBV, caring for child victims and ways of reporting SGBV cases to law enforcers.

AMISOM Police receives newly deployed SLFPU II

The Officer in charge (OIC) of the Police component, and coordinator operations, DCP Daniel Ali Gwambal, received 147 Sierra Leone FPU II on April 16, 2019, in Mogadishu en route to Kismayo, Jubbaland state. Recently, AMISOM honored 159 SLFPU one officers by medals and certificates for the excellent work they performed during their duty tour in Kismayo, Jubbaland state.

DCP Gwambal urged the newly deployed SLFPU II to work hard noting that, their counterparts, the outgoing SLFPU one set a high standard which they must maintain or even surpass. Senior leadership team members and Individual Police Officers accompanied Gwambal to welcome the SLFPU II.

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 and UNDP conduct TOT course for Galmudug officers

AMISOM Police conducted a human rights Training of Trainers (TOT) course for 16 Galmudug State Police officers in June. The 10-day workshop held in Mogadishu was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Speaking at the training, the Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, Rex Dundun, reiterated that AMISOM Police will continue building the capacity of the Somali Police Force during the transition period to enable it execute its security responsibilities effectively. The participants were taken through various topics, that included, introduction to human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, children in conflict areas and tenets of the International Human Rights Law.
AMISOM Police marks International Mines Awareness Day in Dhobley

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) team held a sensitisation workshop for the AMISOM soldiers and police officers in Dhobley. The sensitisation training, held in April, was part of a range of activities to commemorate the International Mine Awareness Day. During the training, the participants displayed their skills by conducting outdoor demos on handling and demobilising explosive devices.

The Dhobley team site leader, SP Edison Muhangi, thanked UNMAS for training the participants, adding that the knowledge acquired will be shared with other officers. SP Muhangi noted that the training would help the officers tackle security threats involving explosive devices.

AMISOM Police holds induction workshop for newly deployed IPOs

Forty-four (44) newly deployed Individual Police Officers (IPOs) underwent induction training in April to familiarize themselves with the AMISOM mandate and the environment under which they will operate in while in Somalia.

The 7-day training held in April, in Mogadishu, was officially opened by the Acting Police Commissioner, Rex Dundun, who reiterated AMISOM’s commitment to help Somalia establish a formidable security force capable of maintaining law and order. DCP Dundun urged the new officers to uphold professionalism and develop good working relations with their Somali counterparts. The IPOs are from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, and Zambia.

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 introduces happy hour session

The AMISOM Police senior leadership introduced happy hour session for officers in June to help improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

The session, dedicated to physical and mental activities, will be observed every Friday afternoon from 1400 hours onwards in both Mogadishu and the sectors.

The Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, DCP Rex Dundun, issued the directive while presiding over a senior leadership meeting to review the police component’s performance in Mogadishu and the sectors. The maiden session was observed on June 28.
AMISOM hands over policy documents to Jubaland and South West State Police forces

To help streamline policing in federal member states, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) handed over policy documents on law enforcement to Jubaland and South West states in April. The documents focus on issues critical to establishing a professional police force, mainly code of conduct, transfer guidelines, human resource management, dress code, community policing, recruitment, job promotion and gender equality among others.

“These are guiding principles for the Somali Police Force that will be used effectively and efficiently to improve policing activities in the federal member states,” said Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Alusine Dumbuya, a Project Officer in AMISOM Police Reform and Restructuring Department, during the handing over ceremony in Kismayo.

The development of policy documents is part of AMISOM Police’s grand programme to strengthen the capacity of the Somali Police Force to maintain law and order in the federal member states and secure the country against Al-Shabaab insurgency.

The Somali Police Commander in charge of Lower Jubba, Mohamed Nasir Gulled, said the policy documents will help professionalise Jubaland State Police Force and improve policing services in the region. “The documents are intended to streamline policing activities and we appreciate the help provided by AMISOM,” said Mr. Gulled.

In Baidoa, the documents were handed over to Brig. Gen. Mahan Abdurrahman Adan, the South West State Police Commissioner, who noted that the policies will be implemented to enhance administrative and operational capacity of the regional state’s police force.

AMISOM Police Coordinator for South West State, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Tresphord Kasale, said the policy guidelines was part of the ongoing implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan whose key objective is to establish a strong Somali security force capable of securing the country.

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 commences review of its Boards of Inquiry standard operating procedures

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) held a consultative meeting in June to discuss ways of harmonising its Boards of Inquiry standard operating procedures (SOPs) to enhance efficiency in investigating security incidents occurring in its areas of operation. The meeting held in the capital, Mogadishu, in June, was attended by the AU Mission’s components, mainly police, military and civilian units.

In his address, AMISOM Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Nakibus Lakara, said the leadership had noted that the boards have been faced with various challenges, among them, administrative processing delays and application of different SOPs. “It is against this backdrop therefore, that this review and harmonisation workshop is taking place in order to develop relevant and all-encompassing SOPs,” Maj. Gen. Lakara added. According to the United Nations, a Board of Inquiry is an analytical and managerial tool to review investigation reports, establish facts related to critical security incidents involving organisations of the United Nations Security Management System, including whether the incident occurred as a result of the acts or omissions of any individual(s).

AMISOM’s legal officer, Dr. Henry Nampandu, said the workshop will help harmonise the Mission’s compensation standards in accordance with the existing international laws. “The Boards of Inquiry are administrative managerial tools which we use to investigate serious incidents that occur in the Mission, to establish facts and circumstances under which such events, harmful to Somali citizens or our own staff, occur,” Dr. Nampandu observed.

According to the rules, in the event of an incident that leads to the disability and/or death of personnel and loss or damage of Mission property or casualties of third parties and the loss of or damage to their property, AMISOM is required to carry out a compensation process through legal provisions encapsulated in the African Union legal and regulatory frameworks.
AMISOM equips Somalia’s security forces with specialised containers

In order to enhance the capacity of the Somali security forces as they intensify operations to liberate the country from militants, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) donated specially-designed refrigerated containers for storage and movement of perishable products.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony of the six containers, in June, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, said AMISOM would continue to motivate and support the Somali security in their effort to secure the country.

Four of the containers were donated to the Somali National Army (SNA), and two were handed over to the Somali Police Force. The specialised containers have a capacity of 34 tonnes.

“As we move into the more critical stages of implementation of the Somalia Transitional Plan in the coming months, allow me to reiterate the critical importance of having a well-funded, well-resourced and adequately-supplied Somali security forces,” said Ambassador Madeira.

“In the coming months, AMISOM in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia and partners will be transferring Forward Operating Bases to the Somali security forces. This is in the spirit of the Somalia Transitional Plan,” he added. Somalia’s Minister of Defence, Hassan Ali Mohamed, thanked AMISOM for the donation, saying the containers will ease logistical challenges security forces face in securing the country. Commissioner of the Somali National Police Force, Maj. General Bashir Abdi Mohamed, also thanked AMISOM for the donation saying the containers will help ensure security forces get fresh food supplies.

Community policing and human rights observance to take precedence in Somali Police Force

During the second quarter, the Somali Police Force focused on redefining its policing priorities to help strengthen its law enforcement capabilities. To realise the objective, at least 25 top police commanders were trained on Human Rights observance and Community Policing, to enable them better manage crime and improve their engagement with populations under their areas of jurisdiction.

“Our duties include protecting lives and property. It also entails observance of human rights which yields better understanding between the populations and the police,” Gen. Bashir Abdi Mohamed, the Somali Police Commissioner said at the end of the training, held in May, at General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu.

The participants were taught ways of enhancing partnerships with local communities in preventing insurgency and other crimes. The officers were also taken through the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, as well as the code of conduct for law enforcement officers.

“A police officer cannot do it alone. You have to work with your community to help you detect and prevent crime,” said Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Esther Kaintor, the AMISOM Police Deputy Training Coordinator.

AMISOM Police organized the training, as part of their capacity building initiatives to develop skills of Somali police officers and prepare them for the eventual takeover of security responsibilities in the Horn of Africa country.

“Our knowledge base has greatly improved,” noted Major Abdifatah Bashir Ali, the Police Commander of Waliyow Adde Section. “We will impart what we have learnt to our colleagues.”
Somalia’s security officers undergo training on human rights

Somalia’s security officials underwent a four-day training on human rights aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability in the country’s law enforcement system.

The four-day training, organised by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), was attended by officers from the Somali Police Force (SPF), Immigration department, National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) and Ministry of Internal Security.

“Participants have acquired knowledge on how to protect civilians and their properties, how to uphold human rights and the rule of law and how to apply the Somali penal code,” said Abdinasir Said Musse, the Federal Deputy Minister of Internal Security, during the closing of the workshop in Mogadishu, in April. AMISOM Police is intensifying training for Somali security officials to adequately prepare them for the handover of security responsibility ahead of the AU Mission’s exit in 2021.

Mr. Musse urged the participants to share the knowledge acquired with their colleagues to help promote the rule of law and respect for human rights in Somalia. The Acting AMISOM Police Training Coordinator, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Francis Ndiema, noted that the training would go a long way in helping law enforcement agencies uphold the rule of law in their daily functions.

“The course was aimed at enlightening officials from different law enforcement agencies in Somalia on international human rights standards that are relevant in law enforcement to enable them effectively uphold and protect people’s rights,” Mr. Ndiema observed. During the training, the participants were taken through a number of topics including international human rights standards for law enforcement, human rights and ethics, arrest and detention and criminal investigations.
The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) conducted a training workshop for members of a committee mandated to vet recruits seeking to join South West State Police Force.

The workshop, conducted in May, was organized by AMISOM Police in collaboration with the South West State, ahead of the recruitment of 400 youths to be trained as police officers.

“Our mandate is to build the capacity of the Somali Police Force. What you have witnessed today is the training of South West State committee members so that we start the recruitment of 400 State police officers to secure the Mogadishu-Baidoa Main Supply Route,” said Maxwell Chikunguru, the AMISOM Police Reforms, Restructuring, and Development Coordinator.

The South West State Police Vetting Committee, which included opinion leaders, is responsible for mobilizing the public to enlist in the police force, while taking into consideration representation from the various clans.

The six committee members were taken through the approved guidelines for police vetting and police recruitment in the one-day workshop held in Baidoa. Chikunguru added that the training workshop is in support of efforts to recruit competent and adequate police personnel to take over policing responsibilities when AMISOM eventually exits Somalia in 2021.

On his part, Isak Barrow, the South West State Deputy Minister of Internal Security, said the recruits will play a big role in combating crime once they complete training. Apart from liaising with state officials to identify recruits at registration centers, the committee members also assist clan elders to identify and distribute enrolment forms to prospective police recruits.
Second batch of police recruits commence training in Somalia’s HirShabelle State

Two hundred police recruits commenced a three-month intensive training at Jowhar Police Academy as efforts to establish a formidable force in HirShabelle State continued in earnest during the quarter.

The training was officially launched in the administrative capital, Jowhar, in May, at a ceremony attended by the Deputy President of HirShabelle State, Ali Abdullahi Hussein; Governor of Middle Shabelle region, Ahmed Meyre Makaran; HirShabelle’s Deputy Security Minister, Gelle Isak Warsame; Commander of Jowhar Police Academy, Major Osman Afrah, and officials from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

It followed the completion of the recruitment exercise conducted by AMISOM and the Somali Police Force (SPF) in Hiiran and Middle Shabelle regions. “The exercise will take three months and the aim is to graduate professional police officers who will be able to secure and protect HirShabelle State in accordance with internationally accepted policing standards,” said AMISOM lead trainer, Superintendent of Police, John Hamweene.

The training was funded by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and conducted by AMISOM Police and Somali Police officers. The group was the second batch of the planned 800 officers the HirShabelle State intended to recruit under the grand programme supported by various partners, among them, the German Federal Foreign Office, AMISOM, United Nations, European Union and United Kingdom’s Department for International Development.

The first batch, comprising 200 police officers, graduated early this year and was deployed to various parts of the region to maintain law and order. In his remarks, Mr. Hussein said security of the regional state is top priority and urged the new officers to remain vigilant and guard the Federal Member State against insurgents.
Daniel Ali Gwambal (left), AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations, hands over a certificate to a police officer during a medal award ceremony held in Mogadishu on June 09, 2019. The Individual Police Officers (IPOs), serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), have completed their one-year tour of duty in Somalia.

AMISOM Police officers vet and screen recruits in the new police recruitment exercise in HirShabelle State, held in Belet Weyne, Somalia on 20 April 2019.

Amidst a parade during a medal award ceremony to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019, Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), salute Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, during a medal award ceremony to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019.

Rex Dundun, Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, hands over a certificate to a police officer during a medal award ceremony for Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under AMISOM to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019.

In pictures:

- Rex Dundun, Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, pins a medal on a police officer during a medal award ceremony for Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under AMISOM to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019.
- Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), mount a parade during a medal award ceremony to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019.
- Ambassador Francisco Madeira, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, inspects a guard of honor mounted by Ugandan Formed Police Unit personnel serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), during a medal award ceremony to mark the end of their tour of duty in Somalia on July 30, 2019.
- Officers from the Somali Police Force (SPF), pose for a group photograph during a workshop course on Community Policing and De-radicalization organised by the police components of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), held at General Kahiye Police Training Academy in Mogadishu, Somalia on 27 July 2019.
Sierra Leonean police officers feted for distinguished service in Somalia

More than 100 Sierra Leonean police officers stationed in Jubaland were awarded medals for their exemplary contribution in securing the federal member state. The 159 officers from the Formed Police Unit (FPU) were honoured by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) after completing their one-year tour of duty in Jubaland State.

"The FPU contingent from Sierra Leone has given us a reason to celebrate because of their excellent performance in their duties in Jubaland State and helping AMISOM execute its mandate of securing Somalia," said the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Simon Mulongo, during the ceremony held in Kismayo, in April.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from AMISOM, United Nations and Jubaland administration, among them, the Acting AMISOM Police Commissioner, Rex Dundun; Jubaland State Deputy Security Minister, Isack Mohamed Hassan, and the head of United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) regional office in Kismayo, Magnus Bjarnason.

Mr. Dundun thanked the FPU contingent for working closely with the regional administration in capacitating Jubaland Police Force and protecting communities against insurgents. The officers were deployed to Jubaland last year to provide operational support to Jubaland State Police Force, secure communities and train local security officers among others.

The contingent, which is the first FPU from Sierra Leone, is part of the additional police officers authorised by the UN Security Council in its resolution 2372 of 2017.

AMISOM awards medals to police officers for distinguished service

Sixteen police officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) were awarded medals for distinguished service in Somalia in June. The Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia were feted after successfully completing their one-year tour of duty during which they trained, mentored and advised their Somali police counterparts.

"We want to appreciate your efforts, your sacrifice, and your dedication during your one-year tour of duty in Somalia," AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Ali Gwambal, said during a medal award ceremony held in Mogadishu.

DCP Gwambal urged them to always uphold professionalism and apply their knowledge and experience in promoting peace and security in the continent. The officers thanked AMISOM for its assistance and expressed confidence that the SPF was on the right path to becoming a formidable force capable of securing Somalia. AMISOM has intensified its training programmes to help develop capacity of the SPF and professionalise the unit as part of the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. IPOs are mandated to train, mentor and advise the SPF in line with the AMISOM mandate of helping Somalia establish a strong security force.
Twenty-five police officers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) were feted for their active role in professionalising the Somali Police Force.

The Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda were awarded medals and certificates at a colorful ceremony held in April, in Mogadishu.

“You have distinguished yourselves by playing your role diligently and with dedication, pride and respect to the people of Somalia and to other peacekeepers hence we appreciate you all,” the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Daniel Ali Gwambal, AMISOM Police Coordinator for Operations, told the officers who were rotating out after completing their one-year of duty.

DCP Gwambal thanked the Police Contributing Countries for allowing the officers to serve in the peacekeeping mission and share their knowledge and experiences with their Somali counterparts.

During their one-year tour of duty, the officers trained, mentored and advised the Somali Police officers on matters of security in accordance with international policing standards.