



**OPENING REMARKS FROM THE DIRECTOR EASF SECRETARIAT
DURING THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEACE ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2016**

- **Our Chief Guest, Hon Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, The Cabinet Secretary for Defence of the Republic of Kenya;**
- **Chairperson of the Friends of EASF;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya;**
- **Representatives from the Kenya Police Service;**
- **Representatives of the County Government**
- **Director International Peace Support Training Center;**
- **Director Africa Peace Support Trainers Association;**
- **Commandant, British Peace Support Team;**
- **Commandant, Defence Staff College;**
- **Friends and Partners of EASF;**
- **Members of the Civil Society;**
- **University Lecturers and students;**
- **EASF Staff here present;**
- **Technical Advisors;**
- **Other Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the Press;**
- **All Protocols Observed;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome all of you here today, on this 21st day of September, 2016, as we join the entire world in celebrating the International Day of Peace.

In a very special way, I welcome our Guest of Honour, **Hon Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, the Cabinet Secretary for Defence of the Republic of Kenya.** Hon Ambassador Omamo, we sincerely thank you for finding time to grace this occasion despite your very busy schedule.

Guest of Honour,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I continue, may I request all of us to kindly stand up, and observe a moment of silence, in honour of all those who in one way or the other, have sacrificed their own lives, for the sake of peace.

1 minute of silence

Guest of Honour,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Eastern Africa Standby Force was created to respond to security challenges in the region, hence the commitment by the ten Member States of the region, in the spirit of regional integration for peace, to come

together and work towards a peaceful and stable Eastern Africa for development.

This day therefore, marks a very important occasion not only in the global calendar but also for the EASF since we are the regional mechanism for maintenance of peace and security, under the African Peace and Security Architecture.

Guest of Honour

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For any society to enjoy peace, cohesion and integration is very essential. That is why ten countries from the Eastern Africa Region, came together to collaborate on matters of peace and security in the region. Apart from the multicultural nature of the Force, EASF is also multidimensional. It integrates Military, Police and Civilian personnel, who work together to promote peace and security in the region.

We are here today, to preach peace and promote cultural tolerance and peaceful coexistence among our people of Eastern Africa. That is the only way we can achieve sustainable peace, and consequently, sustainable development in Eastern Africa.

Guest of Honour,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all EASF Member States, for the invaluable support provided to our Organisation since it's inception in 2004 and that have made possible the progress of EASF to its current strategic status.

I also wish to thank all the invited guests for finding time to celebrate with us this important day. We recognize our Partner Organisations, Representatives from various Ministries, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, the county Government, the University lecturers and Students, the Entertainment team and members of the Media.

We renew our thanks to all the Friends and Partners of EASF for making the journey with us and for assisting the development of EASF with their invaluable technical and financial support. In a special way, I thank the Nordic Advisory Committee Staff (NACS), for sponsoring this event.

We express our gratitude to the Republic of Kenya, our Host Nation, who have not spared any effort to support the progress of our Organization, and who have always supported the EASF Secretariat.

I thank the EASF Staff and the organisers of this event for their commitment and support that ensured the event is a success.

Finally, I renew my sincere appreciation too our Chief Guest, Hon Amb. Raychelle Omamo, for having honoured our invitation to grace this occasion.

Thank you.