



**SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF EASF SECRETARIAT, DR  
ABDILLAH OMAR BOUH, DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF  
FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE MASHARIKI SALAM II 2017**

**ON**

**03 DECEMBER 2017**

**IN**

**GEBEIT, PORT SUDAN**

OUR GUEST OF HONOUR FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT, YOUR EXCELLENCY  
HON GEN AWAD MOHAMED AHMAD MINISTER FOR DEFENCE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SUDAN,

HON LT GEN ALI MOHAMED SALIM, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL  
OF MINISTERS OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS,

HONOURABLE MINISTERS FROM THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION,

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE RED SEA STATE,

COMMISSIONER OF GEBEIT LOCALITY,

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF  
DEFENCE STAFF, GEN YAHYA MOHAMED KHAIR,

DISTINGUISHED CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES OF  
CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,

INSPECTOR GENERALS OF POLICE OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION,

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRESENT,

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FRIENDS OF EASF AND TECHNICAL  
ADVISORS,

EXERCISE DIRECTOR,

HEAD OF MISSION,

DISTINGUISHED EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS,

INVITED GUESTS,

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED, **GOOD AFTERNOON!**

IT IS WITH GREAT HUMILITY THAT I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE **“FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE, MASHARIKI SALAM II 2017”**. THIS SPECIAL CEREMONY MARKS THE END OF OUR EXERCISE THAT STARTED TWO WEEKS AGO HERE IN GEBEIT.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

MAY I FIRST OF ALL THANK OUR GUESTS FOR HONOURING OUR INVITATION TO GRACE THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT GOES A LONG WAY TO SIGNIFY THE IMPORTANCE YOU ATTACH TO EASF AND TO THIS TRAINING EVENT IN PARTICULAR.

ON BEHALF OF EASF I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE HOST NATION, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN FOR THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ALL OF US DURING OUR STAY AND FOR THEIR GREAT COMMITMENT IN THE PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF THE FTX. WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE ALL THEIR SUPPORT INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS. THIS SUPPORT REAFFIRMED THE ASSURANCE OF THE CHAIR OF EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THIS FTX THAT SUDAN’S SUPPORT WOULD SURPASS OUR EXPECTATIONS. WE THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY.

FURTHER, MY GRATITUDE GOES TO THE EASF POLICY ORGANS AND IN PARTICULAR THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL AND THE CHAIR OF CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF FOR THEIR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF THIS EXERCISE.

### **EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**“FTX MASHARIKI SALAM 2017”** WAS A MULTI-NATIONAL, MULTI-DIMENSIONAL AND MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS EXERCISE. THE FTX WAS SET TO TEST, TRAIN AND PRACTICE EASF’S OPERATIONAL READINESS IN FORCE GENERATION, DEPLOYMENT, SUSTAINMENT AND RECOVERY OF THE FORCE. DURING THE EXERCISE, EASF PRACTISED STRATEGIC LIFT BY BOTH AIR AND LAND, MISSION SUPPORT INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT OF FORCE HEADQUARTERS START UP KIT, THE EASF MANDATING PROCESS AND TESTING OF EASF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT.

OVERALL, THE FTX GREATLY IMPROVED THE INTEROPERABILITY OF EASF FORCES. INDEED WE REALIZED THE VISION OF “ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION.” THE BROTHERLY COOPERATION, SOLIDARITY AND HIGH LEVEL OF DISCIPLINE DISPLAYED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS WAS QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, I AM DELIGHTED TO CONFIRM THAT THE FTX HAD REMARKABLE PARTICIPATION FROM ALL THE TEN (10) EASF MEMBER STATES. THIS BY ITSELF IS AN ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENT. FOR THIS I PROUDLY THANK ALL OUR MEMBER STATES FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT TO THIS FTX AND INDEED TO ALL ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

AT THIS POINT, MAY I REAFFIRM TO OUR MEMBER STATES THAT EASF IS AT FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY AND REMAINS A READY CAPABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES,**

THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF THE FTX WAS ALSO DONE IN THE SPIRIT OF FINDING “AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS” IN LINE WITH THE DREAMS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION.

**EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

TO FORTIFY OUR INTERACTION WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION OF GEBEIT, EASF RENOVATED AND EQUIPPED THE GEBEIT HOSPITAL AS A QUICK IMPACT PROJECT. THIS CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC) PROJECT WAS UNVEILLED TODAY AND OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN AND WE BELIEVE IT WILL REMAIN A LASTING MEMORY OF OUR PRESENCE IN GEBEIT.

**EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND EXTEND OUR MOST SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE FRIENDS OF EASF FOR THEIR CONTINUED FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. THEIR SUPPORT DURING THIS FTX WAS QUITE REMARKABLE. WE ARE INDEED VERY GRATEFUL. WE ALSO CHERISH THE GROWING COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PEACE AND SECURITY. IN THIS REGARD I RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ICGLR AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SADC IN THIS EVENT.

AS WE ALL TRAVEL BACK TO OUR VARIOUS DESTINATIONS, I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE JOURNEY, HAPPY END YEAR FESTIVITIES AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR, 2018.

**LONG LIVE OUR COOPERATION! LONG LIVE EASTERN AFRICA STANBY FORCE!**

I THANK YOU!

MERCI BOUCOU

SHUKRAN!