

STATEMENT BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR -----

**-- DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE FIELD
TRAINING EXERCISE (FTX) MASHARIKI SALAM**

II

- **Honorable Ministers of the Eastern Africa Region**
- **The Representative of the African Union Commission,**
- **Governor of Red Sea State**
- **The Mayor of the Red Sea Province,**
- **Distinguished Chiefs of Defense Staff of the Eastern Africa Region,**
- **Ambassadors of the Eastern Africa Region,**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Chair of the Friends of EASF and your team,**
- **Director, EASF Secretariat,**
- **Exercise Director,**

- **Head of Mission,**
- **Key Exercise Players, and distinguished participants,**
- **EASF Staff,**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests,**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **All protocols Observed,**

Good Morning!

Asalaam Aleikum!

Bonjour!

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of the Sudan, I welcome you all to Gebeit, Port Sudan and to the closing ceremony of the Eastern African Standby Force Field Training Exercise "***Mashariki Salam II***". The Sudan is greatly honored by being given the opportunity to host this exercise.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you know, this exercise which ended yesterday, Mashariki Salam II is one of the many regular Exercises conducted mainly to our forces and train EASF's operational readiness. It has been held in accordance with the African Union Roadmap and the EASF strategic plan 2015 - 2020. More importantly, today we reaffirm and strengthen the bonds of solidarity which bind our region and our continent. We redeem our promise to be our brothers' keeper.

It is my conviction that due to such regular exercises, EASF is ready to respond swiftly and firmly to the current and emerging security challenges in the Eastern Africa Region and in the continent.

We are all aware of the continued insecurity and conflict that continues to plague our region. The

ongoing conflict in South Sudan and the death of more than 300 Somalis in a terrorist attack the past October in our sisterly Republic are only a few examples of the challenges our region faces. Our countries and citizens have suffered from threats of intra-state conflicts, terrorism, democratic upheavals and state collapse. Thousands of civilians continue to lose their lives and livelihoods while attempting to flee for safety from the vagaries of conflict.

Conflict is at our doorstep as EASF, and being ambassadors of peace, this is the correct time to review the political and cultural dynamics which lead to various forms of conflict and war in the region, and also to re-align our strategies to emerging conflict situations and scenarios.

EASF needs now, more than ever, robust and capable multi-dimensional forces at high readiness in order to meet current and future security challenges. We will intensify efforts to engage with and reach out to those

partners across the globe that can contribute significantly to address shared security concerns.

This includes enhancing the early warning systems which may help prevent conflict and identify mechanisms and interventions at various stages since no development can take place where there is no peace and security.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The EASF FTX Mashariki Salam 2017 has demonstrated and validated the multidimensional Force Readiness. It provides a coherent and comprehensive package of necessary measures to respond to the current and future security challenges that are of concern to the Eastern Africa Region and across the continent.

EASF FTX 17 has further demonstrated that Member States commitment to reinforce their interoperability and provide practical platforms as part of the enhanced

opportunities within the member states to build necessary capability to rapidly respond to the six scenarios of conflicts as outlined in the AU Roadmaps.

We therefore, have all it takes to be able to take charge of our collective security. We have the political will and a capable Force that has gained formidable experience and operational capability.

As I conclude, May I thank the African Union Commission, which has given support through providing the necessary strategic guidance to our regional efforts and the financial resources in building the force.

May I also thank the Friends of EASF who have been instrumental in ensuring necessary coherence of the EASF training and conduct of exercise elements of the readiness and responsiveness required of the multidimensional force.

We are glad, because these efforts remind us that much as we need solidarity between Africans to defeat terror and other threats to our security, solidarity between us and non-African partners also promises much.

I further commend all FTX participants, the EASF Secretariat, and all the people that worked tirelessly to make it the FTX a success.

God bless you. God Bless Africa

Shukran!

Thankyou!

Merci!