



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

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Because the people of Eastern Africa Matter!

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Director meets Chairperson, Council of Ministers of Defence



Hon. Adolf Mwesige was assigned as the chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the Defence and Security of Eastern Africa region during the 23rd Policy Organs Meetings in January 2018, by replacing General Ali Mohamed Salem the Minister for Defence of the Sudan

who has served as Chairperson, Council of Ministers of Defence and Security for the year 2017.

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High-level Meetings in Land of Thousand Hills

In accordance with the 23rd Ordinary Policy Organs Meetings (POMs) the 24th Ordinary Session of the Eastern Africa Standby Force Policy Organs' Meetings was held from 24th – 27th July 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The meeting received a briefing on the Status of implementation of the decisions of the 23rd Ordinary Policy Organs Meetings, the report of After Action Review of the Field Training Exercise 2017, EASF Financial Status, Reviewed Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 and Internal and External Audit Reports. It was also noted that the EASF Secretariat has implemented 95% of the 23rd POMs decisions.

The 24th Policy Organs Meetings had three levels, namely, Experts working Group Meeting, Committee of the Chiefs of Defence Staff Meeting and the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa Standby Force Meeting.

The Council of Ministers of Defence and Security Meeting was officially opened by Hon. Gen. James Kabarebe, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Rwanda. During his opening

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The Flagship of EASF

Since its inception as a Brigade in 2004 then its transformation into a regional standby Force in 2007, many distinguished individuals have been at the helm of this organization. In April 2016 a new Director was appointed, Dr. Abdillah Omar Bouh.

The start of a long education path...

In 1980 an enthusiastic and motivated student joined the French University where he completed two years in Biology and two years in Chemistry. That was the beginning of a long and interesting education path of Dr. Omar Bouh which eventually led to his post Doctorate studies in United States and the acquisition of his Doctorate thereafter.

A teacher, mentor and a leader.....

Dr Abdillah Omar Bouh started his teaching career in 2004 after which he was promoted to the post of

Advisor to the Minister for Higher Education of the Republic of Djibouti. Dr. Bouh has wide experiences in academic and leadership positions both in his home country, Djibouti and abroad and he has served in many high profile positions before his appointment as Director of the EASF.

Taking EASF to new heights

Upon taking office as the Director of EASF in 2016, Dr. Bouh had one thing in mind, taking the organization to new heights and making it one of the outstanding regional standby forces in Africa.

Embracing the diversity and plurality of the workforce at the EASF, Dr. Bouh is working tirelessly to strengthen the organization at all levels. His work has not gone unnoticed as he has received numerous recognitions in the last two years.

In December 2017, Dr. Abdillah Omar Bouh received the highest medal of recognition from the Sudanese Minister of Defense for his leadership role in the



successful implementation of the EASF's Field Training Exercise (FTX) conducted in Port Sudan. In January 2018 the Director was congratulated and recognized by the Policy Organs Meetings (POM) and similarly received another recognition during the POM meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2018.

The general feeling at the EASF secretariat is that since taking office, Dr. Abdillah Omar Bouh has reinforced the values and principles of the EASF and together with the leadership of the organization he is moving EASF to the next milestone. As a way to give visibility to the organization, EASF day is organized in different member states and in one of the commemorations in Djibouti the Director was again honoured for his leadership qualities. The remarkable achievements of the organization is a clear sign of the vibrant leadership under the portent of the Director, Dr. Bouh.

The way forward....

The EASF is at a crucial and dynamic curve and with the support of the key stakeholders the organization is repositioning itself and is now more relevant in fulfilling its mandate in promoting and maintain peace in Africa.



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The EASF Director, Dr. Adbillahi Omar Bouh, made a courtesy call on the Ugandan Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Adolf Mwesige who is also the current Chairperson of the Council of Ministers for Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa region in Kampala, Uganda.

The purpose of the visit was to update the Chairperson of the Council of Defence Ministers on EASF's recent accomplishments as well as activities planned to be rolled out in course of the year 2018. Issues related to the security situation in the region also came into focus during the meeting. Both leaders agreed on charting the way forward in order to implement the decisions made by the Council of Ministers during the 23rd Ordinary Policy Organs' meeting which was held in the Republic of Djibouti in January 2018.

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statement, the Guest of Honour took note of the region's collective efforts and commitment that have contributed towards progress by the continent in its quest for lasting peace, security and stability.

The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Adolf Mwesige, who is the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, acknowledged the fact that the region still suffers from intermittent insecurity and conflicts that have led to loss of lives and livelihoods. Hon. Mwesige pledged to maintain the tempo that has been set in ensuring the attainment of the objectives of the organization and in fulfilling the aspirations of the Eastern African people. The 24th Ordinary Session concluded with discussions on the overall progress made until now and how to achieve the remaining targets until the next POMs, scheduled to take place in the Republic of Sudan in November 2018.

Supporting the Democratic Process in Comoros

This was also an opportunity for the Director of the EASF to pay a courtesy visit to the President of the Union of Comoros.

The main purpose of the mission was to seek an in-depth understanding of the issues that have led to the national referendum. To this end, the team consulted widely with various stakeholders among them government officials, political parties, opposition leaders, civil society organizations, community leaders and religious leaders on a number of emerging issues in this area. The team sort thereafter, to engage with the Government on possible ways of building consensus on emerging issues surrounding the referendum.

Among the high profile individuals with whom the team held discussions included the President of the Union of Comoros, H.E. Azali Assoumani, the Governors of Grand Comores and Anjouan, Ministers, the Coordinator of the Opposition in the island of Anjouan, Dr. Kamal Issoufissouf and many others.

A few weeks after the fact finding mission, EASF deployed an election observer mission



to observe the Referendum. The mission comprised of 13 observers from EASF member states and the duration of the mission was four days.

The EASF observer mission (EASF-SEOM) was deployed on all three Islands namely, Anjouan, Moheli and Grande Comore. Prior to polling day, the observers met with different stakeholders including the civil society organisations, the media and officers from the Election Commission (CENI).

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On main polling day a total of 94 polling stations were visited by the observers followed by the observation of the tally centre.

The methodology used for the EASF-SEOM was based on the 'AU Charter' on democratic elections and good governance in Africa. The observers described the mission as interesting and fruitful.



Celebrating EASF in Rwanda

The Eastern Africa Standby Force Open Day was held on 28th July 2018, in the Kimironko Sector, Gasabo District in Rwanda. The main purpose of the EASF Open Day was to boost up the visibility of the organization, as well as take up the regional cooperation in line with EASF's Mission and Vision.

The EASF open day coincided with the Umuganda day which is observed as a voluntary day in the whole of Rwanda. Umuganda means coming together in common purpose to achieve a common outcome in Rwanda's culture.

The monthly Umuganda Day presented EASF with an opportunity to actively interact with its local communities through voluntary work.

The day allowed EASF not only to showcase its progress in supporting peace and security functions in the region, but also to reaffirm its position as a credible contributor on Social matters as well.

Hon. Dr. Edouard Ngirente, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda expressed his appreciation to the EASF for organising and conducting

the event through active participation align with the monthly community work in Rwanda.

The EASF Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh expressed the commitment of the organization to continue enhancing security and stability in the region. He noted that peacekeepers are formed with the vision to contribute to regional and continental peace and developments.

"Participating in Umuganda day is one way of bringing EASF close to the local community and helps us to promote the progress and achievements of the organization" said Dr. Abdillahi.

The Chairperson of the Friends of EASF, Col. Joern Rasmussen focused on the enthusiasm of many young people who are genuinely interested in peace and security matters. The Eastern Africa region has a strong resource base of talented young people who are interested in the welfare of the society and are willing to contribute to its further development, he added. ▶▶▶



▶▶▶ Over 1500 participants attended the EASF Open day in Rwanda. These included residents of the village, government officials, university students, security forces, representatives of EASF, representatives of Friends of EASF and representatives of various organizations.



EASF Conducts Deployment and Readiness Roster Workshop

EASF conducted a three-day Deployment and Readiness Roster Workshop from 31st July to 2nd August 2018 at the Kenya Commercial Bank Leadership Centre in Karen, Nairobi.

The workshop aimed at coming up with essential system requirements that would inform the design and consequent development of the database. This integrated database is intended to hold information about civilians, police and military officers who have been adequately trained for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and are ready to be deployed.

In course of the workshop, the three components (civilian, police and military) which form the EASF Planning Element, worked separately whereby each was able to come up the needed requirements based on the component itself.

The workshop, fully funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, was attended by nine out of ten EASF Member States, namely; Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.



Police Points of Contact Workshop Concludes in Ethiopia

A four-day EASF Police Points of Contacts' workshop, organized with the aim of updating the Police Component on the enhancement and continuous preparedness of pledged capacities in EASF Member States to support future deployment, came to a successful close on Thursday, 26th July 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In course of the four days, Police Points of Contact reviewed and validated existing records of these capacities in the EASF Police Roster Database. This exercise, which is usually carried out throughout the year by officers in their home countries aims at bringing all records in the database to the same level of validation so that the regional peacekeeper maintains an overview of actual deployable officers at any time.

The workshop was attended by seven out of ten representatives from EASF Member States, namely; Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda. It was steered by the EASF Head of Police Component. Further participants included the Head of GIZ Police Program Africa, the GIZ Police Project Officer, EASF Staff and a Database Development Specialist.

The workshop was fully supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented through the GIZ.



EASF Civilian Foundation Course



The Eastern Africa Standby Force Civilian Component conducted two civilian foundation courses among the three that planned for the year 2018 at the Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Civilian Foundation Course is a mandatory training considered a prerequisite for deployment of Civilians in any Peace Support Operations (PSOs) rolled out by either EASF or the African Union.

The training helps the trainees to understand a numbers of cross-cutting issues within the complex framework of modern day Peace Support Operations (PSOs) which are usually carried out in multinational and multidimensional environments.

The Head of Civilian Component, Mr. Steve Lalande, explored various deployment areas at length, in which trained civilians could be engaged during PSOs. The head of Civilian Component emphasized the importance of fully understanding the groundwork of peace support missions which extensively covered throughout the two courses.

The two-weeks' courses are designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the conceptual framework of Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and to analyse the main tasks which are usually performed by civilian personnel in peace keeping missions. Moreover, the course contributes to the creation of a sense of common identity among future mission members who have different professions, organizations and cultural backgrounds.

EASF Oversees Staff Rotation at the Secretariat

In conformity with EASF's Rotational Matrix, the Secretariat, bid farewell to officers from the Planning Element and welcomed their replacements in May 2018, in Karen, Nairobi.

The EASF Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh expressed his gratitude to the respective Member States for availing dedicated Officers to serve at EASF. Among other contributions, the Officers have played key roles in organizing and coordinating Planning Element's (PlanElms) activities including Peace Support Operations' trainings. Among the most memorable trainings was the multinational and multidimensional Field Training Exercise 2017 (FTX-17), was successfully conducted in 2017 in the Republic of the Sudan.



The Staff rotations are usually rolled out alphabetically among the ten EASF Member States in order to ensure an equitable approach in representation within the Standby Force. A single position will thus rotate through Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda for a specified period of time.

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Highlights

EASF Enhance Partnerships with Ambassadors and Friends



Her Excellency Ambassador Mette Knudsen the Danish Ambassador to Kenya, hosted Ambassadors, High Commissioners, EASF Managements and Defence Attaches at a breakfast meeting at her residence.

The meeting brought together Friends of EASF with the aim of enhancing the common ambition for the organization as a regional mechanism for Peace, Security and Stability by discussing to support EASF to enhance its capacity for efficient and effective responses to emerging crises. The EASF Team was led by the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, and the Director takes his part during the discussions on the table included the current status of EASF, possible security threat scenarios in the region and future perspectives with regard to EASF's capacity development.

EASF Maritime Cell

The EASF Maritime Cell held workshop on Maritime Regional Safety and Security Coordination (MRSSCM) in Mombasa, Kenya in June 2018.

The workshop included the participation of Maritime Experts of the Member States of EASF. They discussed

NATO Representatives Visited EASF Force Headquarters



The delegations of NATO visited the EASF Force Headquarters and Logistics Base in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The visit aimed at introducing the new NATO Team which has been assigned to AU to the regional peace-keeper.

The EASF Force Commander, Brig. Gen. Aladdin Osman Mirghani, welcoming the guests on behalf of the entire fraternity and briefed the delegation on the main achievements and the progress of EASF since its establishment in 2004

ways of establishing a Regional Maritime Safety and Security Mechanism that will enable EASF to respond to any maritime safety and security crises and emergencies at Sea during Maritime Peace Operations.



EASF MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY MECHANISM WORKSHOP
Pride Inn Paradise Beach Resort & Convention Centre Mombasa, Kenya 19th - 23rd June 2018

Highlights

EASF Open Source Intelligence and Analytical course

In line with Operationalization of EASF's Early Warning Mechanism (E-WARN), Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Analytical Skills' Course held in April 2018 at the Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi.

The course was aimed at enhancing the capacity development of selected trainees by optimizing their individual skills and consequently augment institutional response and productivity.



EASF Director at African Union Meeting



The meeting of senior officials of African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Regional Mechanisms (RMs) was held on 31st July 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meeting was officially opened by Amb. Ruth Solitei, the Director of East African Community Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. Representing the EASF Secretariat was the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh.

The participants of the meeting, who are well versed in conflict prevention, management and resolution on peace and security, reviewed the implementation of the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union and RECs/RMs.



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