



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

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Because the people of Eastern Africa Matter!

Inside this issue.....

- Pulling Together for Peace in Africa.....1
- Maritime Security and Blue Economy.....1
- Enhancing Partnership with Friends of EASF.....2
- Sudanese Higher Military Academy Visits EASF FHQ3
- Forging Ahead, Crisis Response and Mandating.....4
- EASF Civilian Roster Verification.....5
- Maritime Search & Rescue Course Successfully Conducted in Seychelles.....5

Highlights

- EASF Spokesperson Training.....6
- EASF Experts Working Group Meeting.....6
- EASF Director Courtesy Call to Japanese Mission to AU7
- EASF SOPs Workshop.....7
- Integrated Human Rights Course.....8
- UN Military Experts on Mission Course.....8
- EASF's Internal Staff MP & MS Workshop.....8

Pulling Together for Peace in Africa



The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) is one of the five regional organisations with the mandate of enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region.

Peace, security and stability are matters of highest priority for the Eastern Africa region and the promotion and maintenance of regional peace and security is also central to EASF.

continued on page 3

Maritime Security and Blue Economy

In preparation to the UN Ocean's Conference 2020, Kenya has hosted the first Global Blue Economy Conference from the 26th – 28th of November 2018, in Nairobi. The discussions focused on the priorities and challenges of establishing a sustainable Blue economy and its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including maritime safety and security.



continued on page 2





Continued from page 1

On the third day of the conference, the Director of the Eastern Africa standby Force, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh addressed the delegates. In his presentation the EASF Director highlighted the importance of information sharing "a critical component of achieving and enhancing Maritime Domain awareness (MDA) is the development of regional information sharing. EASF is in the process establishing the information sharing network through agreements with the member states and memorandums of

understanding with other regional organizations such regional coordination and operations center" said Dr. Bouh.

The Director also pointed out that EASF has conducted several courses for the member states on maritime operations planning, integrated mission planning and maritime search and rescue. These courses have enhanced the capacity and expanded the capability of the region in planning and executing maritime operations.

The event was attended by several ministers, delegations from UN member states, heads of various UN agencies and international organizations, private sector, academia and Civil Society Organizations.

Different speakers lauded Kenya for showing leadership and demonstrating commitment to the world on how to build a Blue Economy with Japan indicating they will partner with Kenya and Canada to ensure the success of the first global conference that seeks to build on the momentum of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Enhancing Partnership with Friends of EASF



The ordinary meeting of the Friends of EASF took place on Friday 9th November at the Sankara Hotel, in Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force has many strategic partners, one being a pool of many countries regrouped under the name 'Friends of EASF'. The aim of



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continued from page 1

To achieve the regional cooperation and coordination with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (REMs) as well, as with Training Centres of Excellence and institutions in accordance with the Africa Standby Force, the African Union organised a workshop in November 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya.

In his speech, the EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh expressed his appreciation to the African Union and the Kenyan Government for hosting the annual workshop in Nairobi, the home of the EASF Secretariat. Dr. Bouh underscored the importance of relevant training in creation and maintenance of adequate peacekeeping capacities,

able to respond to crises in the region and beyond when called to do so at any given time.

The African Standby Force (ASF) Training Implementation Workshop (TIW) is an annual stock-taking activity on training and capacity development of the ASF.



the meeting was to discuss pertinent issues relating to the organization and how to attract other potential countries in supporting the work of the EASF.

In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of 'Friends of EASF' Col. Joern Rasmussen spoke about the importance of collaborating and networking with the countries represented and also considering other

potential countries in coming onboard to support the EASF.

On his side, while addressing the meeting, the Director of the EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, highlighted the remarkable achievements and also challenges currently facing the organization. He went on to explain that in the coming year 2019, EASF will focus more on developing the Early Warning Capacity and the establishment of the 'Panel of the Wise'.

After the opening ceremony, the meeting proceeded with presentations followed by deliberations. In one of the presentations by the Head of the Peace Operations Department, Brigadier Albert Kendagor, the highlight was on the major decisions taken from the 24th Ordinary Policy Organs meeting as well as an overview of the achievements of EASF.

Sudanese Higher Military Academy Visits EASF FHQ



High level military officers from Sudanese Higher Military Academy were among the many visitors who paid official visits to EASF Force Headquarters based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this year.

The delegation's visit was aimed at familiarizing the students with the roles and responsibilities of regional

continued on page 4





continued from page 3

Forging Ahead, Crisis Response and Mandating

The Eastern Africa Standby Force rolled out a Crisis Response Mechanism and Mandating Process Workshop in Naivasha, Kenya in November 2018.

The aim of the workshop was to review and enrich the existing draft handbook on Crisis Response Mechanism and Mandating Process that will be presented for adoption to the next 25th Policy Organs Meetings. EASF Policy Organs are responsible for deliberating and making decisions which are then passed over to the Secretariat for implementation.

In his opening remarks, the Director of the EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh said “as an inter-Governmental organization responsible for peace, security and stability in the Eastern African region we recognize and

embrace our noble mission to maintain and sustain a fully operational, multi-national and multi-dimensional standby force ready to respond in emerging crisis”.

“The handbook is important in identifying the responsibilities and roles of the Policy Organs and EASF Structures towards crises response and mandating process with the ultimate aim of providing clear guidance on the institutional responsibilities at the Secretariat and Structure Levels” said Dr. Bouh.

The workshop, had drawn twenty-four participants from EASF staff and the region including Technical Advisors from the United Kingdom and the Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff (NACS).

peacekeepers in Peace Support Operations within Eastern Africa and beyond.

The EASF Force Commander, Brigadier General Alaadin Osman Mirghani, briefed the higher Military official students on the achievements of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) since it was established as Regional Mechanism. In course of the visit, the students had an opportunity to tour the EASF’s Logistics’ Base as well as the Logistics Training Centre, which are also located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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EASF Civilian Roster Verification

The Civilian Component of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) conducted two roster verification this year. The first one was in the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the second in the Republic of Djibouti.

The aim is to verify the deployment suitability of civilian personnel from its Member States who have been trained for Peace Support Operations (PSOs).



The exercise gives the opportunity to see a number of PSOs Trained Civilians from EASF Member States being evaluated in accordance with the African Union's rostering principles and conduct interviews with civilian personnel to join the African Standby Capacity. The Roster Verification exercise has a high impact at a regional and continental level in supporting peacekeeping missions to address the challenges of protecting civilians as well as to maximize the participation of civilian personnel in integrated and multidimensional peacekeeping missions.

Maritime Search & Rescue Course Successfully Conducted in Seychelles



During the first week of October 2018, EASF conducted a two-week Maritime Search and Rescue course (SAR) in Victoria, Seychelles. The aim of the course was to train and equip naval, coastguard officers and maritime rescue coordination centers (MRCC) staff with skills that would enable them respond to any emergencies or distress at sea.

This course was the first course to be run by the EASF Regional instructors, after the hand-over of the course from Nordic instructors (NACS) at the end of August 2018. The overall Objective of this course was to improve the regional coordination of maritime operations from shore-based to other government agencies who deal with maritime safety and security in order to respond to incidents in the regional maritime zones.

The course was attended by 31 participants from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, EASF Maritime Planning Cell Staff as well as the Regional Center for Operation Coordination staff personnel.



Highlights



EASF Spokesperson Training

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) conducted a spokesperson training for the management team of the organisation in September 2018 in Naivasha, Kenya.

The aim was to enhance the capability and competency of the EASF management in undertaking the roles and functions of spokespersons for EASF and to provide them with the skills to effectively address the media.



EASF Experts Working Group Meeting



The Eastern Africa Standby Force Experts' Working Group Meeting got going in September at the Secretariat, in Karen, Kenya. According to the decision of

24th Ordinary Policy Organs' Meetings, the Experts Working Group Meeting is being held to review the Rotation Matrix of the organisation for consideration and approval by the 25th Policy Organs' Meetings (POMs) which is due to take place in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 12th – 17th December 2018.

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.

EASF Director Courtesy Call to Japanese Mission to AU

The Director of EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh held a key meeting with the Deputy Head of Japanese Mission to the African Union Mr. Tetsuya Unno who was accompanied by the Japanese Defence Attaché to Ethiopia, Colonel Hidemasa Murata on 5th October 2018. The meeting took place at the Japanese Mission to African Union Offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dr. Bouh informed both Mr. Tetsuya Unno and Colonel Murata about the activities held in 2018. He expressed the desire to build bridges across



Highlights

the global arena and also making sure that the Standby Force maintains its critical role in capacity building.



(AAR). This paper clearly spells out the various gaps identified in both Mission Headquarters (MHQ) and Force Headquarters (FHQ) during the successfully concluded FTX 2017.

The workshop has produced two Operating Handbooks which will steer the two headquarters in future Peace Support Operations' missions and practical training exercises.

EASF SOPs Workshop

EASF held the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) review workshop for Mission Headquarters (MHQ) and Force Headquarters (FHQ) at the Kenya Commercial Bank Leadership Centre in Karen, Nairobi, in November 2018.

The workshop, which was opened by the EASF Joint Chief of Staff Major General (Dr) Charles Rudakubana was guided by the Requirements' Paper compiled after the Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2017's After Action Review



Integrated Human Rights Course



EASF conducted the Integrated Human Rights (IHR) course at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) Nairobi, Kenya, on 19th November 2018.

The course was aimed at building and enhancing the capacities of the various actors who will be involved in multi-dimensional peace operations to ensure Human Rights' awareness, compliance, effectively addressing Human Rights violations and mainstream Human Rights principles and practices. The Integrated Human Rights course was planned to help EASF to increase available capacities in the areas of Human Rights during peace operations.

Highlights



UN Military Experts on Mission Course

A three-week United Nations Military Experts on Mission (UNMEM) course, attended by five Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Member States was held in Musanze, Rwanda, in November 2018.

The course intended to train military officers who will later serve in UN peacekeeping operations as military observers, military liaison officers and military advisers.



EASF's Internal Staff MP & MS Workshop

A three-day Mission Planning and Management Section Workshop was held between 27th to 29th November 2018 at the EASF Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi.

The workshop was organised to enhance the EASF's Leadership and Mission Planning & Management Section (MP&MS) about their operational roles and responsibilities in the event of a regional or continental deployment.

During the opening ceremony, the EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh reassured his commitment in ensuring that the Standby Force remains ready at any time should the need for deployment arise.

Strengthening the Police Force

The Police component in the EASF with the financial support of the African Union organised a two-week course aimed at strengthening Command, Control and Communication of formed police unit (FPU).

Over 30 participants from EASF member states attended the training which was held in Djibouti from 22nd October to 9th November, 2018. It was also the first time for Djibouti to host such high level training for formed police units. The commanders' course is very crucial because the FPUs play a very important role in the Peace support operations (PSOs) by providing security support to the UN/AU operations by ensuring the safety and security of the UN/AU personnel and assets, contribute to the protection of civilians and also support police operations in general.



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