



EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

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Because the people of Eastern Africa Matter!

*International Day of Peace:
21st September 2019*

EASF Advocating 4 Peace



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The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) turns 15 this year. EASF was established on 16th July 2004 as a regional mechanism to provide capability for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support operations and peace enforcement. The establishment of EASF is based on the past experiences of conflict in Africa, such as the Rwanda Genocide, war in deferent countries in the region. Initially

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Denmark in Support of EASF



The Eastern Africa Standby Force and the Royal Kingdom of Denmark signed a Peace and Stabilisation Document on 2nd August 2019 at the Danish Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

The present Peace and Stabilisation Engagement Document (PSED) provides the objectives and management arrangements for the peace and stabilisation cooperation in relation to the Danish support and advisors to EASF for period 2019 to 2020.

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EASF IS CURRENTLY THE AU CONTINENTAL STANDBY FORCE UNTIL DECEMBER 2019

Mission Planning and Management Section Training



During the opening ceremony the Director of EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh highlighted the importance of such a practical training course.” This would boost the overall operational effectiveness of EASF in the event that the Standby Force is tasked by the Eastern Africa Council of Ministers for Defence and Security or the African Union to deploy its forces if crisis rise in the region” noted the director.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) being one of the five regional standby forces of Africa, is currently on the AU continental standby force until 31st December 2019.

Just before EASF was rolled out as the AU continental standby force, the Mission Planning and Management section (MP&MS) training session was one organized.

The training was aimed at rehearsing the Mission Planning & Management Section (MP&MS) on their operational role once EASF is going to conduct a deployment.

Following that the planning cell at the EASF secretariat was activated. One of the important elements of this training is the practical aspect which will give the participants a sense of ‘real’ and practical experience of planning for an eventual deployment through the AU approval scenarios of fictitious Carana state. More than 50 participants from the EASF Secretariat, Logistics Base and Member States attended the training course in collaboration with the EASF technical advisors team. ■

Friends of EASF: Strengthening Partnership



The ordinary meeting of the Friends of the EASF took place in July at the Hotel Southern Sun Mayfair in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the meeting was to highlight to the strategic partners and Friends of EASF the status on implementation of the activity plan since January 2019, preparations of EASF as the Continental Standby Force that started from July 1st up to December 31st 2019, to update the key decisions of the 26th Policy Organs Meeting which was conducted in Bujumbura, Burundi from 8th – 12th July 2019 and to discuss relevant issues relating to the organization. These included finding ways to attract countries in supporting the objectives of the organization.

“ EASF was founded with the vision to contribute to regional and continental peace, security and stability as well as regional integration.

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EASF was called Eastern Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG) in order to corroborate to the Peace Security Operation (PSO) doctrine of integration and multi-dimensionality and the African Standby Force (ASF) concept, EASBRIG embraced the incorporation of the Civilian and Police components and consequently changed the name to “Eastern Africa Standby Force” (EASF).

Many activities were organized to commemorate the EASF 15th anniversary. Currently at the helm of the organization is Dr. Omar Bouh from Djibouti.

EASF declared Full Operational Capability (FOC) in December 2014 with an equipped multidimensional and multinational force of 5200 personnel which is composed of Military, Police and Civilian components. After December 2014, the emphasis changed to maintenance of FOC, deployment and sustainment of EASF missions.

15 years of EASF can be translated to 15 years of commitment to peace and to the values of humanity because for EASF the people of Africa matter.

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During the meeting, the Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and Seychelles H.E. Mette Knudsen noted that EASF has been moving on the right track by bringing representatives from different counties of its Member States to work together towards building peace, security and stability in the region. The Ambassador noted “... this agreement is a continuation of the remarkable work that we have done together within the long and successful journey of EASF because, we have same vision to see a stable and secure Africa. The objective of the peace and stabilisation cooperation between the government of Denmark and EASF is the strengthened regional capacity towards conflict management and building a stable region.”

During the signing, the Director of EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh thanked to the Government

of the Royal Kingdom of Denmark for the continued support accorded to EASF in form of finance and technical assistance. This support has been instrumental in taking EASF where it is today, the Director added. At this moment, EASF has a Start- Up Kit and Satellite Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems Capability which were donated by the Kingdom of Denmark together with the United Kingdom. Dr. Bouh added.

The Director assured the partners that EASF is committed to cooperate with the Civilian and Police advisers in order to ensure that the Danish sponsored programmes are a success. He also thanked the Friends of EASF for their commitment to support the organization in regional capacity building, through financial and technical resource provision.

According to the EASF Strategic Plan of 2015 – 2020, the NORDIC countries will continue to support the Standby Force both financially and technically even if some programmes will be terminated, Colonel Rasmussen said.

The Friends of EASF meeting was attended by representatives and Defence Attachés from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Kenya, Somalia, Turkey, United Kingdom, including Technical Advisors and EASF Staff



In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of 'Friends of EASF' who is also the Danish Defence Attaché to Kenya, Col. Joern Rasmussen noted that EASF does extensive trainings every year that help to ensure the regional peace-keeper is well prepared, equipped and ready to deploy at anytime, anywhere on the continent should need arise. Colonel Rasmussen

The EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh thanked the participants of the meeting for their attendance despite their busy schedules. This clearly demonstrated their commitment to support EASF in order to maintaining and sustaining multidimensional and integrated capacity to respond to emerging crises in the region and beyond.

expressed his appreciation of the entire EASF fraternity including the Technical Advisers of EASF for their hard work which has catapulted the organization to where it is now.

The Director highlighted the remarkable achievements and also challenges currently facing the organization. EASF was founded with the vision to contribute to regional and continental peace, security and stability as well as regional integration. Dr. Bouh informed the audience that the organization aspires to build and enhance its capacity for conflict prevention, mediation and resolution.

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EASF Meets Journalists from Member States



Union continental standby force for six months. It was the first time for the EASF to organise such a regional press open day with journalists form member states and also two other journalists form Denmark.

Journalists from most of the EASF member states gathered at the EASF secretariat in Karen, Nairobi to celebrate EASF's 15th anniversary and also commemorate the milestone event of EASF taking up the position as African

The aim of the press conference was to give clear information about the successful 15-years' long journey of EASF as well as inform about EASF being a Continental Standby Force from July 1st – December 31st 2019 as mandated by African Union.

The Director of EASF Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh welcomed the journalists who came from EASF

EASF Deploys Election Observer Mission

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) deployed an election observer mission in the Union of Comoros to observe the presidential and governors' elections held on the 24th of March 2019.

The mission was comprised of 28 observers from EASF member states and they covered all three Islands namely; Anjouan, Moheli and Grande Comoros. The EASF deployment in the Union of Comoros was led by the former Burundi Minister for Defence, Lt Gen. (RTD) Germaine Niyoyankana assisted by the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Steve Lalande the head of EASF civilian component.

According to the Director of EASF, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bohu, the EASF mission has the mandate for independent, impartial and objective observation of elections. Its assessment will be based on relevant provisions of the AU African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2012, the OAU/ AU Declaration



on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, other relevant international instruments on election observation as well as national legal framework governing presidential and governors' elections of the Autonomous Islands of the Union of Comoros.

The on-the-ground preparations for the EASF Elections' Observations' Mission (EOM) to

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EASF Roster Verification and Recruitment

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) is a multidimensional organization, comprised of Police, Military and Civilian capabilities, on standby for any eventualities. The African Union and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), such as EASF to intervene to maintain peace and stability in the region and beyond, recognizing that civilian expertise to fulfil the Africa Standby Force (EASF) main objectives.

One of the primary objectives of this mission is to recruit, verify, validate and roster experts who could be deployed into Peace Operations in the Eastern Africa Region and on the African continent. Rostering process involves recruitment, verification and validation of civilian capabilities in the ten EASF member states for the purpose of generating a pool of civilian experts, ready to deploy, in the event of an unfolding crisis. The Civilian Component of EASF, based



in Nairobi, Kenya provides planning, training and deployment of civilian experts for peace support operations. Within a mission, the Civilian Component comprises of various key functions and interventions.

The civilian component carried out a roster recruitment and verification exercises in Rwanda, Kigali in February 2019 and in Uganda, Kampala

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Member States and appreciated the commitment of the Member States in supporting the organization in its long journey.

Dr. Bouh noted that the objective of EASF is to carry out in a timely manner the functions of maintenance of Peace, Security and Stability, through a regional conflict prevention, management and resolution. The regional peace-keeper must also be capable to respond effectively to crisis within Eastern Africa region and across

the African continent when mandated to do so by the AU Peace and Security Council.

The media has a vital role to play in promoting the positive progress of EASF via different outlets and supports the efforts of the organization to enhance Peace, Security and Stability in the region as well as on the continent, Dr. Bouh said. Journalists from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda and Denmark took part in the press conference including those from print and electronic media houses.

EASF Gearing up

The Eastern Africa Standby Force launched its Force Headquarters Training at the Kenya Commercial Bank Leadership Training Center in Karen, Nairobi, Kenya in June this year.

The regional peace keeper has been placed by the African Union on continental standby which means that EASF will be responsible for rolling out Peace Support Operations, should a crisis arise anywhere on the continent.

While opening the training, the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, thanked EASF Member States for their continued support in capacity building of the regional Standby Force. He urged the training audience to make the best out of the training period so that they are in a position to roll out and support deployment should this be required in the near future.

The two-weeks training provided an opportunity for the Kenya Defence Forces Signal battalion



together with EASF's Communications team to work together in ensuring that the two can establish communications infrastructure supporting data, voice and multimedia in the remotest parts of the continent within a reasonably short period of time. Of particular importance was the use of Command & Control Communications Information Systems equipment received from the Danish and United Kingdom Governments in the recent past.



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the Union of Comoros included organization of collaborative meetings with election observers from many parts of the African continent as well as those from other parts of the world. These meetings paved way for the planning of the actual conduct of the EOM; consequently, all polling stations in the three islands which make up the Union of Comoros were mapped and diverse teams assigned to these locations.

The Head of Mission Lt Gen. (RTD) Germaine Niyoyankana together with the Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Steve Lalande expressed confidence in the deployed team of professionals from diverse backgrounds from EASF Member States. The team has been able to stamp concrete footprints on campaign trails of diverse aspirants and continues to gather the necessary data whose analysis was conducted in a professional and impartial manner.

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in May 2019. The Roster Recruitments activities aimed at assessing the suitability and capacity of personnel who have been trained for Peace Support Operations (PSO) by EASF or its affiliate training centers in the region.

Over 50 PSO trained civilians from EASF Member States being evaluated in accordance with the regional peacekeeper's rostering principles. A substantive number of those interviewed will join the African Standby Capacity, this is yet another milestone which consolidates EASF's leading role in providing the Continental Standby Force with highly trained personnel ready and willing to roll out their acquired skills in peacekeeping activities.



Some of the key substantive areas of the civilian dimension are areas to do with political affairs, rule of law, legal affairs, public information, economics, public administration, elections, humanitarian affairs, human rights, Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), civil affairs, child protection, protection of civilians etc.

EASF Gets Satellite Communication Equipment

The Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, together with the United Kingdom presented the Command & Control Communications Information Systems (C2CIS) equipment to EASF in March 2019 at the Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the Danish and United Kingdom Governments, the equipment was handed over to

EASF by the Danish Deputy Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Nina Berg and the Representative of UK Col. Freddie Ground.

The Deputy Ambassador applauded the numerous milestones EASF has achieved since it was established in 2004. Since 2011, EASF has been a

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very important partner to the Danish Peace and Security program, working together closely in many capacities building activities.

The EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh underlined the regional peacekeeper's focus on capacity building with the goal of establishing a tangible force ready for deployment. Significant progress has been made to ensure readiness in the event that EASF is called upon to deploy forces both within the region or elsewhere on the continent.

According to Dr. Bouh, the procured satellite communications system will augment the requirement for establishing strategic communication links between EASF Secretariat, Rear Force Headquarters, Logistics' Base and

Mission Area Components. Subsequently, installation and operational training has been conducted with focus on EASF CIS Staff Members as well as a detachment of the Signal Squadron of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF).



EASF Police Points of Contact Workshop

Eastern Africa Standby Force Police Points of Contact Workshop that was conducted in April 2019 in Victoria, Seychelles. The aim of the workshop was to update the participants on achievements, progress and challenges of EASF Police component and the need to keep an updated police database by Member States.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to guide the participants on the criteria of selecting candidates to be placed on the Police roster as well as also to familiarize them with the newly developed Police Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The Head of EASF Police Component Ms. Dinah Kyasimiire outlined the conduct and progress of the workshop and thanked the workshop participants for their tireless efforts to achieve the laid down objectives within the planned timelines. The EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh underlined the important role played by police officers in security and Peace Support Operations

(PSOs). He thanked EASF Member States for availing officers in capacity building endeavors.

The Director thanked the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the continued financial and technical support to the EASF Police Component which is implemented through the "Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" (GIZ).

The workshop, attended by seven out of ten EASF Member States, was fully financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented through the GIZ.



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