



# EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

*Because the people of Eastern Africa Matter!*

*Special End Year Edition*



*Editorial*



## Inside this issue.....

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Another successful year in the making.....                      | 1 |
| EASF & NACS: Ten Years of Partnership .....                     | 1 |
| RECSA & EASF, penning the accord.....                           | 2 |
| New Faces at EASF.....  | 3 |
| Certified Trainers of the IMPP, another Milestone for EASF..... | 5 |
| EASF Maritime Cell Search and Rescue Course.....                | 7 |
| Emma Ng'ang East Africa's Youth Ambassador.....                 | 8 |

## EASF, Crowning 2019 with Success

*Another Successful Year in the Making....*



**T**he Eastern Africa Standby Force was established on 16<sup>th</sup> 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. We cannot forget the reason for our creation, which is to carry out in a timely manner the functions of maintenance of peace and security, through a regional conflict prevention, management and

*continued on page 4*

## *EASF & NACS: Ten Years of Partnership*



**T**he Eastern Africa Standby Force has this year celebrated 10 Years of Partnership with the Nordic Advisory Coordination Staff (NACS). To mark the occasion a commemorative event was held at the EASF secretariat 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, in Nairobi.

Since 2009, the Nordic Countries, including Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have been supporting EASF in building institutional capacities in order to play its role in enhancing

*continued on page 4*

*EASF Wishes You a Festive Season Filled With Love & Peace.  
Merry Christmass & Happy New Year*



## *RECSA & EASF, Penning the Accord*



**A** memorandum of understanding between the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) and the Eastern Africa Standby force (EASF) was sealed on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

The signing of the MoU between RECSA and EASF follows a previous meeting held in September 2019 between LT.Gen Badreldin Elamin Abdegadir Executive Secretary of RECSA and Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, director of the EASF.

During the signing the two institutions reiterated their desirability of cooperation within the fields of their respective competence of enhancing peace and security in the east African member states including among other things prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons.

There was a previous MoU between RECSA and EASF signed in January 2014 but the implementation was not extensively monitored. In the 2019 MoU

there is a provision for focal persons from each of the entity with the role of ensuring effective implementation of the MoU. Some important areas of cooperation will include; efforts to achieve the best use of all available information relevant to the fight against illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons in a peace support set up. To cooperate in areas such as demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and other relevant fields with the specific modalities of which will be agreed upon depending on the nature of the mission.

Both LT. Gen Badreldin Elamin Abdegadir Executive Secretary of RECSA and Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, director of the EASF applauded the spirit and revived commitment between the two parties and are hopeful that the new MoU will further strengthen the collaboration between RECSA and the EASF.



## New Faces at EASF



new head of this department in August.

Col. John Njenga from Kenya took up the position of EASF-African Union Liaison Officer August 2019. This was followed by the appointment of Col. Abdallah Rafick from Comoros as the new Chief Staff and Mr. Dawit Assefa from Ethiopia as the new head of civilian component.

The EASF Rotational Matrix is a platform which ensures that professional and management staff positions are held by personnel from all EASF Member states on an equal basis.

In accordance with its Rotational Matrix, five new candidates joined the EASF during the last quarter of the year. Ms. Lina Hoareau from Seychelles took over the leadership of Administration and Finance Department from Colonel Letebrahan Kahsay. Following the departure of Maj. Gen. Ablert Kendagor, a new Head of Peace Operations Department, Brig. Gen. Henry ISOke from Uganda clocked in as the

Prospective candidates, usually seconded by relevant Member States, undergo a rigorous vetting process in order to ascertain that they are capable of handling complex Peace Support Operations' responsibilities as may be required in the multinational and multidimensional working environment.

### EASF Experts Working Group Meeting



The Eastern Africa Standby Force held two Experts Working Group Meetings in 2019, the first one at its Force Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the other one at the EASF Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

The aim of the Experts Working Meetings was to discuss on development of the HR policy for Civilians to EASF Peace Support Operations, Duty of Care Policy for EASF Peace Support Missions, Review of the 2014 EASF Service Regulations, the draft annual

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continued from page 1

resolution capability to respond effectively to crisis within Eastern Africa region and across the African continent as may be mandated by the AU Peace and Security Council.

### Bidding Farewell 2019, Greeting 2020

The 2019 has been an exciting one for the EASF and for sure 2020 looks promising and challenging taking into account the dynamics of peace and security in our region and EASF's continued commitment in promoting peace.

In July this year EASF clocked 15 years, a call for us to recommit 'Kujitolea upya' to the vision of the organization in contributing to regional and continental peace, security and stability.

We are still on standby as the AU continental force until the last day of this year, at the dawn of the new year. EASF has been 'up and about' all through the 12 months of 2019, some milestone events such as the EASF election observer mission in Comoros, the first EASF regional press conference, the Director shaking hands with the Danish Ambassador after signing the peace and stabilization agreement, cutting of the 15<sup>th</sup> EASF anniversary cake, the cheery faces of the very first cohort of regional facilitators and many other events including many farewell and 'au revior' ceremonies we have attended are all vivid images of 2019.

With zeal, determination, optimism and in peace and harmony, the EASF fraternity is prepared to embrace 2020.

continued from page 1

peace, security and stability in the Eastern Africa region and beyond.

The Ambassador of Sweden to Kenya H.E. Amb. Anna Jardfelt, who is also the Chairperson of the Nordic Defense Cooperation pointed out that the collaboration of the Nordic Countries with EASF during the last ten years was very successful and has been a very special partnership whereby five countries came together and contributed in the military spirit.

Ambassador Jardfelt highlighted the fact that the ten years of fruitful partnership have seen a strong collaboration, results on regional integration, improvement of information sharing, capability development and an increase in force professionalism.

EASF is working closely with various partners and Stockholders towards the realization of its mandate at regional, continental and international levels

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budget of 2020, Crisis Response and Mandating Process Operating Guidelines, Individual and Force Activation Policy and Movement Coordination Policy documents of the EASF.

The Director of EASF Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh highlighted the significant role played by Experts in the decision making processes of EASF and noted that the Experts constitute the foundation

stone for all major undertakings throughout the history of the Organization.

EASF has had an excellent performance in the year 2019, with respect to implementation of the approved activity plan of 2019, EASF also has developed a proposal for 2020 Activity Plan for your discussion and recommendation for the Policy Organs Meeting scheduled for December

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2019, in Kampala, Uganda, says the Director of EASF.

The Chairperson of the Experts Working Group Meeting Brig. Gen. Nduwayo Venuste who is the Chief of Training of Burundi National Defence Force, expressed his appreciation to all EASF Member States for sending the Experts to participate in the meeting also thanked the EASF Secretariat for organizing the meeting to discuss on the issues of the organization for better

support and seek the right guidance from the higher leader of the region.

### UN and AU visits EASF

Among the many organizations which visited EASF this year, a delegation from the United Nations Office in African Union (UNOAU) and the African Union Peace Support Operations Division (AU PSOD) visited EASF in September 2019.

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## Certified Trainers of the IMPP, another Milestone for EASF



Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP) is the integration of the three components namely the military, police and civilian in planning for a mission in line with the African Union mandating process. For the first time, the EASF conducted a Training of Trainers

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During the visit there were discussions on modalities of collaboration on high level of partnership between UNOAU, AU and EASF.

The Director of EASF Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh applauded the visit terming it as significant for EASF since this partnership would provide an avenue to address the challenges that the Standby Force faces as a regional organization. He informed the delegates that EASF is on the right track with the potential to deploy in the region and beyond when crisis arise at any time. Dr. Bouh reinstated that all the necessary processes of employment and sustainment of the force in

an AU/EASF mandated mission, with additional capability of relieving the deployed force in the mandated time lines, are in place.

The Head of Delegation Colonel (rtd) Azeez Nurudeen expressed his optimism that EASF is the right tool to enhance peace and security not only in its region but also in the whole continent. For this reason, it has become important to look through the strengths and gaps of the organization and, consequently, optimize any processes requiring revision in order to acquire the desired the people of the Eastern Africa Region.

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course (ToT), whereby 21 trainers were certified after completion of the course including the final examinations. The course and exams were conducted in the Seychelles and it was financed by the government of the United Kingdom.

In his address to the newly certified IMPP trainers, the course Director who is also the Civilian Advisor at the EASF, Mr. Peter Zartsdahl highlighted the importance of the IMPP course and how the course content has been updated making it more relevant and comprehensive.

According to two participants of the course, Mr. Fred Bamboche and Mr. Steve Lalande, they are now confident and deeply acquainted with the IMPP content and mandating process and more importantly, they are ready to impart their knowledge, skills and competencies to fellow participants from EASF Member States.

Peace Academy in Khartoum, Sudan starting from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

The Guest of Honour General (Navy) Majdi Said Omar who is the Sudan Navy's Chief of Staff maintained that Sudan, as a Member State of EASF, is strategically located in the region and is committed to work with EASF and other regional and international partners in order to promote peace, security and stability in the Eastern Africa region and beyond. The IMPC training is important to EASF to have well trained and ready staff officers who can tackle any future threats and challenges effectively On his part, Director of EASF Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh noted that the significance of the training was to have qualified and competent regional facilitators conducting the course.

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Just a few weeks after regional facilitators were certified it was time for them to 'face the music' and put into practice what they learnt in through a two-week Integrated Mission Planning Course (IMPC) which took place at the Sudan





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It is expected that this training will contribute to increasing the number of individuals held on the Deployment and Readiness Roster (D&RR) and who are competent in Integrated Mission Planning Process, thus enhancing the operational effectiveness of EASF.

### Preparing civilians

Civilian staff members perform many of the mandated tasks of peacekeeping operations: promoting and protecting human rights, helping strengthen the rule of law, fostering political and reconciliations processes, promoting mine-awareness, and serving as public information officers who explain and build support for the peace processes and help to build the credibility of any peace support mission. EASF pays particular attention to the civilian component and the role of civilians in peace support missions is paramount.

Civilians also serve in many support capacities in the areas of finance, logistics, communication and

technology (ICT), human resources and general administration to help missions promote peace and security. A group of excited and motivated civilians from EASF member states arrived at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport in November this year, eager and ready to participate in the third and last Civilian Foundation Course for 2019.

The Civilian Foundation Course is a mandatory training considered a prerequisite for deployment of civilians in any Peace Support Operations rolled out by either EASF or the African Union. It also examines structural and specific functional units in peace operations, mission mandates and lessons learned from previous missions.

The Civilian Foundation course had twenty-six participants from nine countries of EASF Member States including Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan and Uganda.

## *EASF Maritime Cell Search and Rescue Course*



**T**he year 2019 was very successful EASF Maritime cell with numerous courses and training sessions organised.

One of the recent training courses was a two week Maritime Search and Rescue course (SAR) held in September in Entebbe, Uganda.

The aim of the course was to train and equip naval, coastguard officers and maritime rescue coordination centers (MRCC) Staff with skills and competencies needed to respond to any emergency at sea.

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The overall efforts of EASF is to maintain the readiness of the Eastern Africa Standby Force and enhance peace, security and stability of the region. In addition, the maritime courses have a main impact to improve the regional coordination of maritime operations from shore-based centers (MRRC) or (MCC) to other government agencies who deal with maritime safety and security in order to respond to the accidents in the regional maritime zones, also it assures the overall capability and readiness of the Regional Force.

EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, appreciated the commitment and support of the Member States to have well trained and ready multidimensional regional force which can deploy under any condition at any time if needs come.

The course was composed of 24 participants from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and EASF Maritime Cell as well.

## *Emma Ng'ang East Africa's Youth Ambassador*

**T**he African Youth Ambassador Programme (AYAP) is a pivotal element of the peace and security department under the AU. Following the call for application for youth ambassadors for the continent over 1700 applications were received out of which 15 candidates were shortlisted, three from each region. For the East Africa three youth candidates were contesting for the position namely; Emma Ng'ang from Kenya, Cristopher Morris from Tanzania and Ifrah Farah from Somalia.

After intensive assessment and interviewing process Ms. Emma Ng'ang from Kenya was nominated as the Youth ambassador for the eastern region and together with the youth

A m b a s s a d o r Ng'ang is very passionate about sexual and gender based violence, she is equally interested in the areas of youth, peace



EASF youth focal person with East Africa Youth Ambassador

and security. Her wish is to implement her project to help the street children with social rehabilitation and advocate for youth to be given space for meaningful engagement at national and continental level in areas of peace and security.

The appointment of African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) is in line with the decision of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) via the communiqué of its 807<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 on Youth, Peace and Security. The Council requested the AU Commission to appoint the AYAP to work with the AU Youth Envoy in championing the promotion of peace and security across the continent.

The EASF would like to congratulate Ms. Emma on her appointment as the region's youth ambassador and offers its full support to Emma in the promotion of youth, peace and security in Africa.



African Youth Ambassadors for Peace

ambassadors from the other four regions they were instituted by the PSC at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa. EASF was represented at the event by its youth focal person to AU, Mr. Jules Hoareau.



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