



# EASF AMANI MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - APRIL 2020

*Because the people of Eastern Africa Matter!*

**The Current Situation  
Needs our Commitment  
and Solidarity.** | Stay Home!  
Stay Healthy!

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## *EASF Receives Prestigious Peace Award*



In January, a delegation from the United Religions Initiative (URI) Africa visited the EASF secretariat based in Nairobi.

It was during that visit that the URI bestowed the EASF with the

prestigious Africa Peace award, an initiative to promote peace in Africa. This was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations.

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## *Culmination of Extra-Ordinary Policy Meeting*

The EASF's 17<sup>th</sup> Extra-Ordinary Policy Organs Meetings came to a successful conclusion on 5th March 2020 in Moroni, Comoros.

The EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh thanked the Government and the people of the Union of Comoros for hosting the Policy Organs meetings. Dr. Bouh outlined the key achievements EASF has made during his tenure over the last three years. Some of these include the ratification of the Agreement on Establishment of EASF, the growth of the EASF Peace Fund, capacity building initiatives to enhance and maintain the Full



Operational Capability gained in 2014, building partnerships with various organizations in peace and security areas among others.

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## Strategic Planning Process on the Drawing Board

A three-day training workshop was held in January 2020 with the finalization of the first draft of the EASF Strategic Planning Process (SPP) which will later go through a rigorous testing phase in time for the expected Command Post Exercise (CPX) due later this year.



the first parts of the CRM in terms of internal structural functions, procedural steps, tools and products associated with the internal process of developing strategic direction for mission-level planning. Hence, the reason for the development of this workshop was the distinct purpose of drafting a Strategic Planning Process to complement the EASF CRM and Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP) and to be tested in the final part of the internal course, due to take place later this year.

According to the EASF's Senior Civilian Advisor, Mr. Peter Zartsdahl, the SPP is an important document for the EASF especially in preparation for this year's CPX and as a consequence of operationalizing the CRM policy,

The Strategic Planning Process (SPP) is a pivotal document which is to be used at the strategic level before the deployment of any possible mission of the EASF. The SPP is to be aligned with the recently approved EASF Crisis Response Mechanism Guidelines (CRM) and the planning processes.

minor consequential adjustments have become relevant to the CRM.

It was discovered that in order to comply with the CRM, EASF was in need of an SPP operationalizing

The training workshop was funded by Denmark through the support of the International Advisory & Coordination staff (IACS) and attended by 15 participants from both the EASF Secretariat and Logistics Base.

## Danish National Police Calls on EASF Secretariat



A delegation from the Danish National Police visited the EASF Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi in February. The visit was aimed at evaluating the status of Danish ongoing missions in Kenya, progress made, expected work-plans and outcomes. Further, the delegation sought to check up on the deployed Danish Police officers in regard to their conditions, work relations, safety and security.

The Danish National Police delegation consisted of; Head of the delegation, CSP Erik Johansen, Special consultant, Poul Bejer

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Since 2007, URI's Africa Peace Award has recognized exceptional leaders and organizations in sustainable peace, development, environmental protection, democracy, reconciliation, inter-religious and inter-cultural harmony, and peaceful co-existence. URI presented the Africa Peace Award in recognizing the outstanding work of EASF in terms of peace support activities since it was established as a regional mechanism. The Peace Award is a symbol to compliment the remarkable commitment and great efforts of the EASF to enhance peace, security and stability in its region and beyond.

During the ceremony, the Director of EASF Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh underscored the importance of URI in bridging religious and cultural differences

as a means to eradicating violence. The Eastern Africa region is relatively volatile, whereby it continues to experience some form of violent conflict in Africa. These conflicts have led to loss of lives and property thereby violating basic human rights.

To solve this kind of problem, it needs working through grassroots interfaith cooperation, bridging religious and cultural differences, ending religiously and culturally motivated violence and creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing and working together for the good of the communities and the region. "I find cooperation with the United Religions Initiative being quite important in achieving these goals", Dr. Bouh added.

The Director of URI- Africa, Ambassador Mussie Hailu noted that, signing the MoU with EASF to work in partnership to enhance peace and security and move forward the effort of the Africa Union in Silencing the Guns. URI-Africa is very well aware that EASF has been at the forefront in advancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa Region.

"URI Africa presents today the Africa Peace Award to EASF in appreciation, acknowledgment, and recognition of the organization's excellent work to build a peaceful and stable region. The Award is also in recognition of EASF's effort as one of the five regional multidimensional Forces consisting of Military, Police and Civilian components to provide a capability for rapid deployment of Forces to carry out preventive deployment", Amb. Hailu said.

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During his speech, the Guest of Honor, Hon. Moustadrane Abdou, who is the Minister for Environment and Agriculture of the Union of Comoros expressed his belief that the Policy Organs meetings would deliberate on the necessary steps aimed at translating the vision and mission of the Eastern African Standby Force into action.

He expressed his confidence that EASF has the capacities necessary to address the complex and changing peace and security challenges confronting the region and the continent at large. He thanked the Secretariat under the leadership of Dr. Bouh for having steered the organization in the right direction over the last three years.

The Chairperson of the Council of the Ministers for Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa region who is the Minister for Defence of the Union of Comoros Hon. Youssoufa Mohamed Ali thanked those present for attending the meeting. He paid a tribute to personnel deployed in peacekeeping in the region and beyond. Hon. Ali remained optimistic that the new members of staff being interviewed to take up positions within EASF in accordance with the Rotation Matrix would do their best to realize the organisation's vision in the long run.

from the International Police Deployment Section, Psychologist Julie Hjort Olsen and D/CSP Flemming Olsen from Danish Police Union.



Other officers based in Nairobi who accompanied the delegation were, the Danish Defence Attache, who is also the Chairperson of the Friends of

EASF Colonel Jørn Rasmussen, EASF Police Adviser D/CSP Bjarne Askholm, and D/CSP Preben Hilliger from the UNODC.

The EASF team hosting the delegation included the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, the Joint Chief of Staff Major General (Dr.) Charles Rudakabana, Head of Police Component Colonel Ali Mohamed Robleh and Police Personnel Planner Cdr. Teshale Aloto.

The preliminary outcome of the visit was very positive. The delegation was very pleased with the updates on the current status of EASF, the Police Component and its achieved milestones, the upcoming activities and the very satisfactory cooperation that EASF has with the Danish Police Adviser, the Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi and the Danish National Police.

## *EASF at AU Summit*

The Eastern Africa Standby Force took part in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual African Union Summit from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual African Union Summit themed “Silencing the Guns on the Continent” sought to discuss ways of addressing anomalies such as terrorism, inter-community conflicts, pre, and post-electoral crises, through acting concretely on the root causes of these issues through political, military and diplomatic channels.

The EASF Team, led by the Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh comprised, Head of Peace Operations Department Brig. Gen. Henry Isoke, Chief of Staff, Logistics Base Brig. Gen. Godwin Karugaba, Force Commander Brig. Gen. Alaadin O. Mirghani and EASF Liaison Officer to AU Col. John N. Njoroge.

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## *EASF Leadership Calls on New Ethiopian CDF*

A team from EASF Management paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed Ethiopian Chief of Defence Forces, General Adem Mohammed on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The delegation, led by EASF Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, sought to introduce some of EASF's Senior officers to General Mohammed and update him on the progress the Standby Force has been making over the last couple of years. The General was also informed of various staff changes currently taking place in line with the approved Staff Rotational Matrix.

Two of EASF's main structures, i.e. the Force Headquarters and Logistics Base are located in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, while the Secretariat and the Planning Element are based in Nairobi, Kenya.

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## *Director Calls on Saudi's Ambassador*

An EASF Delegation, led by the Director Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, paid a courtesy call to Saudi's Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohammed A. Khayat in February at the Embassy premises at Muthaiga, Nairobi.



The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, collaboration and partnership in matters of peace and security in the region and beyond. The Director briefed the Ambassador on EASF's mission, mandate and aspirations. He thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continued support to EASF member states and emphasized the global role of Saudi in fighting extremisms as well as helping those affected by terrorism in the region and in the world.

Amb. Mohammed expressed his gratitude to the brotherly visit and his willingness to strengthen the profound partnership between EASF and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in enhancing peace and security. He reiterated the role and the wealthy experience of Saudi in counter-terrorism and in willingness to see a safe and secure world. Amb. Mohammed mentioned the importance of EASF partnering with newly created Red Sea Alliance that includes some of EASF Member states, especially on Maritime issues. The leaders vowed to work together in the interest of the region and beyond.



## *KDF and EASF, Reinforcing Collaboration*

A delegation from Kenya's Ministry of Defence led by Chief Administrative Secretary Hon. Peter O. Odoyo paid a visit to the EASF Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



Hosting the defence officials at the Secretariat were EASF Senior Management officials led by the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, the Head of Administration and Finance Ms. Lina Peggy Hoareau, and the Head of Peace Operations Department Brig. Gen. Henry Isoke, among others.

The delegation sought to inform itself on the progress the Standby Force has been making ever since its inception in 2004. Kenya, which is one of EASF's Member States, is the home to the Secretariat and the Planning Element (PlanElm), while Ethiopia hosts the Force Headquarters and Logistics' Base.

The defence officials were also informed of how EASF successfully executed its mandate of playing the role of Continental Standby Force from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31st December 2019 as required by the African Union. This was the second time that the regional peace-keeper had been tasked to play this role ensuring that the capacities it has built and enhanced over the years could be efficiently deployed to address any conflicts should any have arisen anywhere on the continent over that period.



## *EASF Delegation Concludes Official Visit to Somalia*

An EASF delegation of three, headed by the Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, concluded an official three-day visit to the Republic of Somalia in March 2020.



The aim of the visit was to conduct a field trip in one of the on-going mission areas in order to enhance the understanding of the conduct of a mission. This exercise, in line with EASF's responsibility of enhancing and maintaining its capabilities, would inform future police mission capacity-building efforts, force generation, and bench-marking the practical dynamics of a police component deployed in a mission.



During the first day, Dr. Bouh's team held extensive discussions with the African Union's Mission in Somalia's (AMISOM) Head of Police, Assistant Inspector General Augustine Magnus Kailie from Sierra Leone. These talks were guided by a detailed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis using actual data and experiences from the ongoing mission. Also present during this meeting were General Mohamed Mahamoud Garaar from Somalia Police and Colonel Muhdine Osman, who until recently, was serving as a seconded officer at the Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi.

The Director and his team held further talks with the First Deputy of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Somalia Hon. Abdullahi Olaf Roble in Mogadishu, Somalia. Further official engagements included a meeting with Major General Abdi Mohamed Hassan, who is the Somali Police Commissioner and General Zakia Hussein, the Deputy Police Commissioner.

Accompanying the Director from EASF's Planning Element were the Head of Police Component, Colonel Ali Mohamed Robleh and the Police Personnel and Administration Officer, Commandant Teshale Mikore.

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## *EASF in Solidarity with Member States Affected by COVID-19*



New cases of the novel coronavirus that emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late December 2019, is being reported daily around the world. Sadly, most of the Eastern African countries have not been spared from this infectious disease.

The recent update has confirmed that nine of the EASF Member States have confirmed cases of COVID-19 namely: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

According to the EASF Situation Room April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, a total of 2,880 have been reported in the region, which makes up 7.6% of the 37,713 total continents infection. The most affected countries in the EASF Region are Djibouti with 1,077 total cases, Somalia (582), Sudan (775) and Kenya (384).

The Union of Comoros has yet to record any cases of infection while Seychelles has recorded no new cases of Corona virus since the last report. Since the first case in the Eastern Africa region was reported in Kenya on 14<sup>th</sup> march, 2020, 77 deaths have been reported in the region.

The COVID- 19 outbreak will affect the whole world, particularly for the under developed countries, it has a negative impact such as; the poverty level will be increase, instability and economic crisis which might then lid to conflict. Currently, the Eastern Africa countries are already dealing with desert locus swarms, that will cause food insecurity for the affected populations of the region.

The current situation needs our commitment, solidarity and cooperation to bring the right strategy to prevent and control as well as to minimize the negative impact of the world wide pandemic. The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) would like to express its unflinching support and sincere solidarity with the countries affected until now. EASF commends the timely measures taken by our Member States to control and contain the spread of this infection notably the introduction of social distancing, restrictions on travel and ban on public gatherings. The EASF fraternity stands in unity with all the affected countries.



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