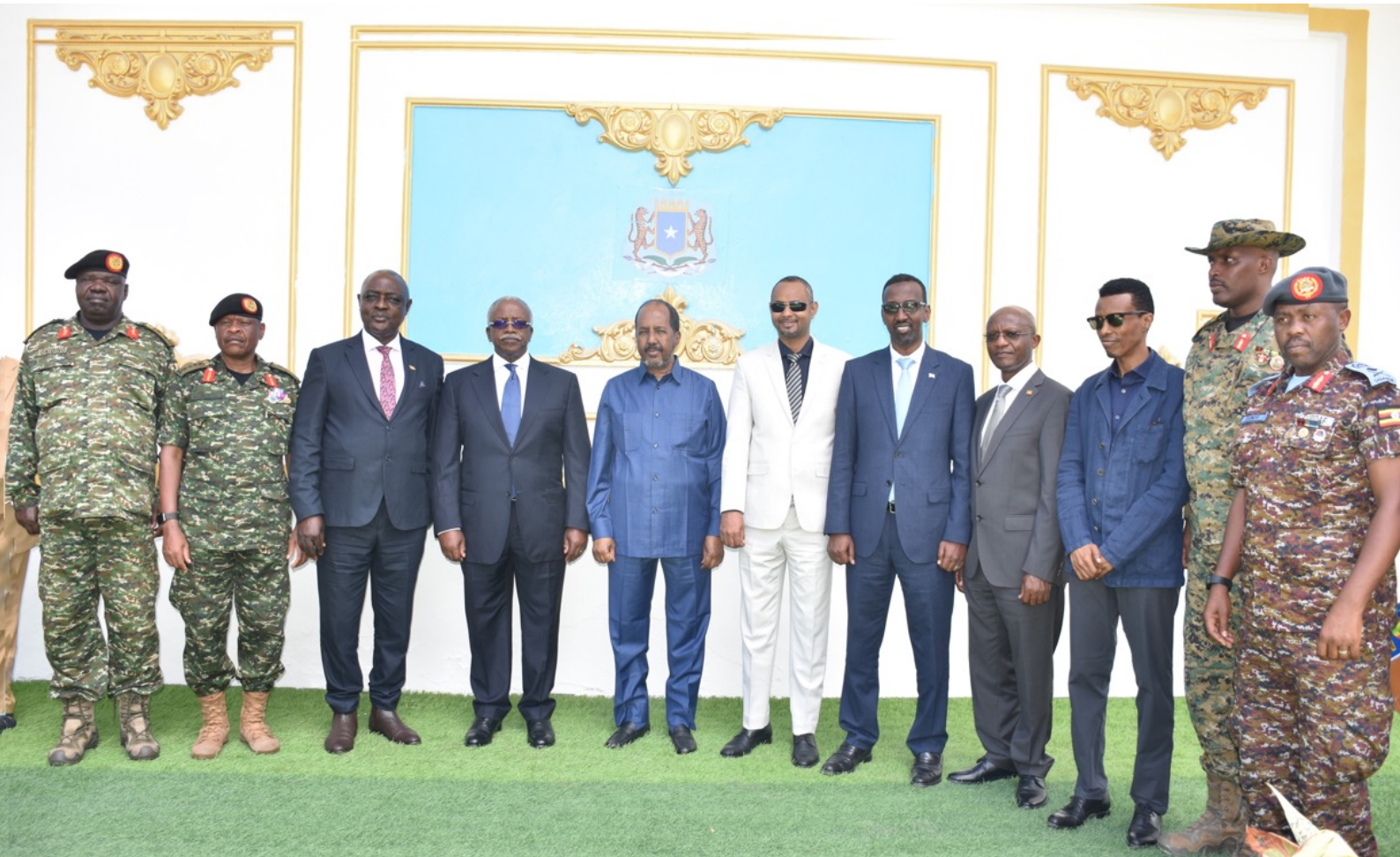


# THE PEACEMAKER

UGANDA CONTINGENT MAGAZINE



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Continued Friendship and Sympathetic Interests



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AFRICAN UNION TRANSITION MISSION IN SOMALIA





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**COVER PHOTO**

H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud meets the Ugandan Delegation headed by Hon. Amama Mbabazi Ugandan Special envoy(fourth from left , Deputy head of mission in Somalia H.E. Rtd Maj Gen. Nathan Mugisha, Minister of Defence & Veteran Affairs Hon. Vincent .B. Ssempijja, CDF UPDF Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi, Deputy CLF UPDF Maj Gen. Sam Okiding deputy CLF UPDF, sector one commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi and Brig Gen. David Gony COS -AF UPDF among others at State House Villa Mogadishu Somalia after his inauguration on 10th June 2022.



## Message From Sector One Commander



**Brig Gen. Keith Katungi**  
Sector 1 Commander

**I welcome our readers to the 8th edition of the 'Peace Maker' magazine, the annual Uganda Contingent magazine that gives salient highlights of the events of the year in the sector one area of responsibility (AOR).**

It has been a busy, strenuous, but also worthwhile and successful year. I sincerely thank ATMIS leadership in Mogadishu and the Force Commanders on call support that has especially helped us immensely achieve our set goals.

The period under review had several critical events and activities which had direct and indirect implications to the future of Somalia. Obviously, these events which were mainly political, military, and social in nature affected ATMIS operations too.

Politically, the protracted election process that lasted a span of two years nearly dragged the nascent political recovery of Somalia to the abyss. We thank all stake holders whose vigorous efforts put Somalia's political process back on truck.

The political season that started in 2021 with the election of members of parliament, climaxed in May 2022 with the election of the President of the Federal Government of Somalia HE Hassan Sheikh Muhamud. It was

not just a success for the people of Somalia for having a fourth peaceful transfer of authority but also a success on the side of the security agencies that were in charge of elections security.

I take this honor to thank the Somalia Security Forces (SSF) for the cooperation. The delivery of the peaceful elections could be looked at as a small feat, especially by outsiders. To us, however, it is a stark and glaring reminder that solutions to Africa's challenges lie with us.

The year saw the transformation of the African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM) into a new mission, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) operationalized on the 1st of April. This also changed the concept of operation of the mission. The concept requires, a mobile, flexible, agile, and offensive force. As a head of sector one command, my forces are ready, capable, and willing to adopt to the new concept of operation. After all, as sector one, we have all along been maintaining offensive action with in a defensive posture.

That said, I am aware of the ATMIS timelines and drawdown. Realistic or not, is not for me to determine. What I can determine, however, is that our Somali brothers need peace and stability, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Pegging the same

on time is common in the world of academia. Pragmatism works differently. In the spirit of pan-Africanism, the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in support of the FGS bring that much required pragmatism.

I take the opportunity to thank H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda for his strategic foresight that led to the decision to deploy in Somalia in 2007. The progress we pride in today could not be possible without him setting the pace that the rest of the world followed.

I also would like to thank the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), the Commander Land Forces (CLF) and the entire UPDF leadership for their continuous guidance, support, and sustaining the vision of a peaceful region.

I finally thank UPDF troops under my command for their resoluteness, professionalism, determination, and courage exhibited during the execution of the mandate. I can't thank them enough. However, it's at this critical moment of this Peace Support Operation that we must triple our efforts in supporting a Somali-led peace and security process.

# EDITORIAL



**Maj. Bilal Katamba**  
Uganda Contingent Public Information Officer

**I welcome our esteemed readers to the 8th Edition of The Peace Maker Magazine 2022. This edition covers a great part of information and activities in sector one for the period from October 2021 to October 2022. A busy term it has been.**

Perhaps what took the center stage and rightly so during the period under review was the successful presidential and parliamentary elections. The elections of the speaker and subsequent election of President Hassan Sheikh Muhamud on the 15th may 2022 was a cornerstone in political stabilization of Somalia. The subsequent magnificent inauguration of the president on the 19th June 22 was a marvel Sector one was actively involved in all the procedures and process security. We bring you in pictures what transpired during this historical events.

The period in review saw the change of the Uganda Military Contingent leadership from Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa to Brig Gen. Keith Katungi. The battle groups' leadership followed suit in earnest. BGXXXIII, BGXXXIV and BG XXXV are within the period reviewed.

Away from the military element, the ATMIS mission depends greatly on the diplomatic component. This edition is pleased to bring you a one on one interview with Uganda's deputy head of mission to Somalia H.E Maj Gen. (Rtd) Nathan Mugisha who shares a wide range of views from cooperation and cordial relations between the two sisterly nations and what the future holds for the duo. It is a must read for all.

The ideological direction of the UPDF is grounded and highly premised on the relations with the people it serves, it is therefore not by coincidence that the force's operations have a big element of civil military activities. From medical Camps in Jalan- Albiska, to opening water wells for the communities, our Public Information Officers were on ground to bring you the moments of joy these activities brought to the communities.

The world environment day was marked in a special way by the Ugandan troops in the mission. What transpired on the day is documented here.

In respect of the faith, culture, values and norms of the host nation. The Sector one commander Brig Gen Keith Katungi joined the

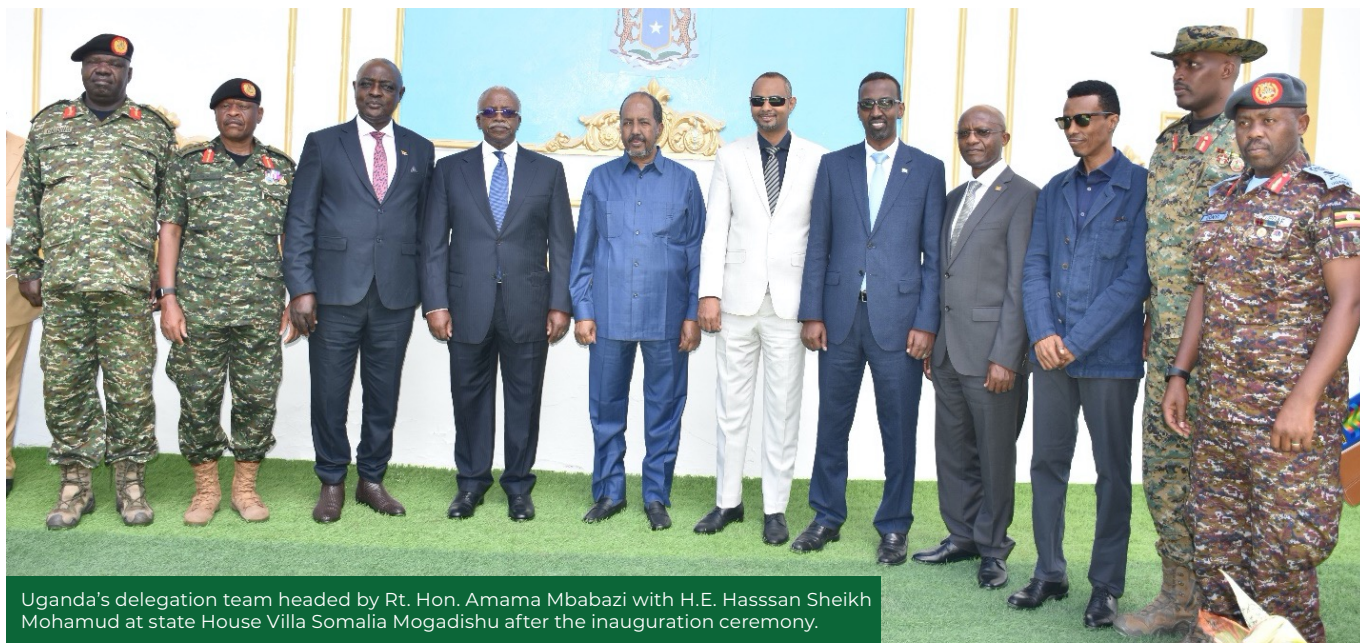
Somalia community around his headquarters to celebrate Idd El-Fitri. He also organized an 'IDD Special' for officers and men under his command. What the faithful said in reaction to the General's gesture? 'Peace maker' brings you these special moments.

The edition helps the reader get a 360-View on AMISOM activities in Somalia and hopefully understands and appreciates the great work being done.

Enjoy your read.



# President Museveni Reaffirms Continued Friendship and Sympathetic Interests With Somalia



Uganda's delegation team headed by Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi with H.E. Hasssan Sheikh Mohamud at state House Villa Somalia Mogadishu after the inauguration ceremony.

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Mogadishu** - President Museveni has conveyed his best wishes to President Hassan Sheik Mohamud, the 10th President of Somalia for his success as he prepares to take up the responsibilities and challenges of presidency of the Federal Government of Somalia.

“As you embark on the new responsibilities, President Museveni wishes to assure you and the people of Somalia of continued friendship and sympathetic interests of the Uganda government. He looks forward to working with you not only to develop closer relations between our two countries but also to unite our efforts in the cause of peace and brotherhood of all peoples.”

This message was delivered yesterday 9 May 2022 by Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi, Presidential Special Envoy who represented Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and led Uganda's delegation at the inauguration Ceremony of President Sheik Hassan Mohamud who was elected into office on May 15, 2022.

In his Inauguration speech, President Hassan Sheik Mohamud re-echoed his slogan; “Somali at peace with itself and with the world.” He promised true and wide reconciliation among Somalis, co-operation with the international community on security, democratic system that allows universal suffrage, fair and independent judiciary and appealed for support in response to drought to avoid famine among others.

In an interview with the Ugandan Defence Minister, Hon. Vincent Ssempijja while in Mogadishu he said that Uganda's Defence sector, is very proud that the people of Somalia and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) have been able to have a peaceful transfer of power from President Farmaajo to President Hassan Sheik Mohamud.

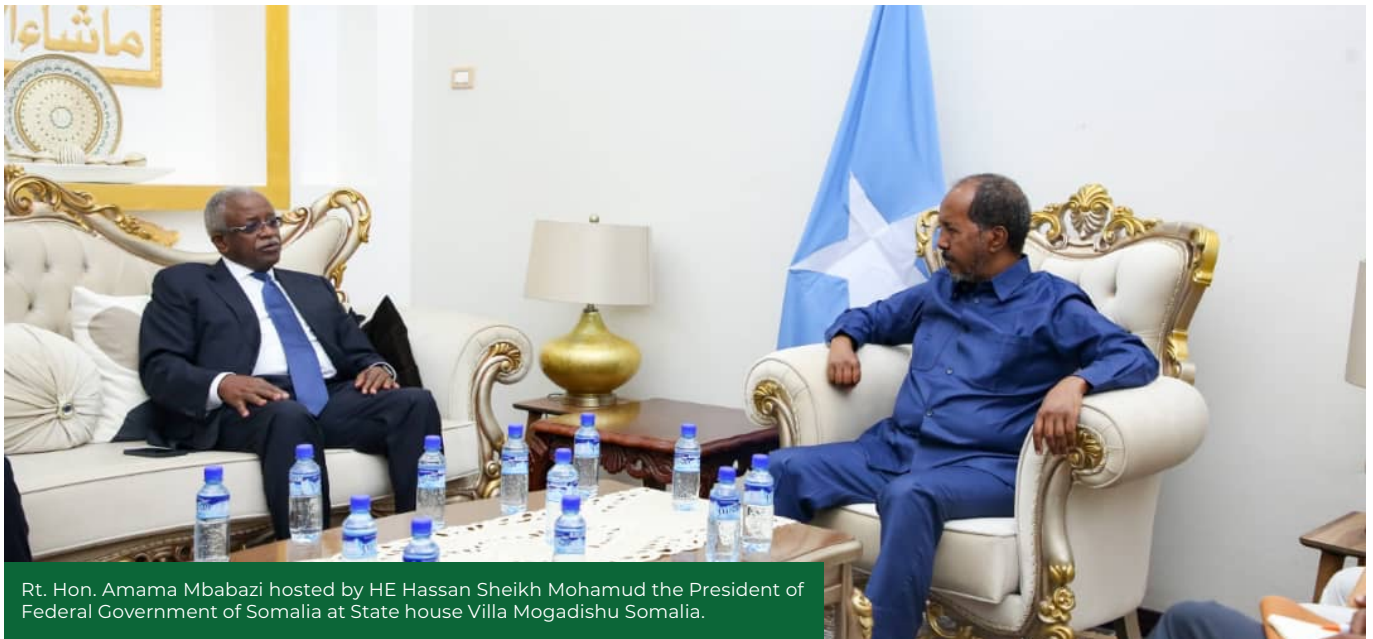
“In the spirit of Pan-Africanism, Uganda deployed her troops in Somalia and together with other partners and the FGS, we have been able to pacify large parts of

Somalia. Our efforts have yielded a new era where the Somali people are at a level where they are able to have an elected government.” Hon Ssempijja observed.

Hon Ssempijja underscored that it was the wise decision of the Commander-in-Chief to deploy in Somalia in support of fellow Africans. Adding that the efforts of Uganda's sons and daughters have been able to achieve the situation that is pertaining today which has seen peace and stability, an indication that Uganda's efforts in Somalia have not been in vain.

“The peaceful transfer of power from President Farmaajo to President Hassan is really a testimony that we have not wasted our time in this place. We pray that the stability continues and as a country Uganda, we are always ready to come in where our support is required.” Hon Ssempijja emphasized

Uganda's Deputy Ambassador to Somalia, Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Nathan Mugisha, stated that the



Inauguration of Hassan Sheikh Muhamud is a sign of hope, a vote of confidence, a plus to ATMIS and a good step as far as democracy is concerned.

He mentioned that FGS with support from AMISOM/ATMIS has successfully and peacefully conducted Somali elections four times; 2008, 2012, 2017 and 2022. He added that without the 2022 Somali elections being successful, it would have threatened to reverse the AMISOM/ATMIS gains.

“We are looking forward to supporting the FGS to make sure that they sustain the gains and the victory we have already achieved in averting al-shabaab and other insurgents”. Amb Mugisha noted.

Amb Mugisha commended the Somali Government for generating its own security forces and observed that there is still need for more troop generation. For them to succeed in this, he called on the international community to support the SSF further to make sure that they can be able to timely take over the responsibilities that ATMIS has been performing.

“ATMIS has been a successful campaign and we want it to be sustained up to the end so that the Somalis can be able to join the international community to participate in their rightful duties in

the international community.” Amb. Mugisha emphasized.

Brig Gen Keith Katungi, Ugandan Contingent Commander in Somalia, stated in an interview that, ATMIS’s involvement in the Somali elections is a security operation not an offensive action against the enemy but part of stabilization efforts in Somalia.

“All ATMIS sectors were involved in the last concluded elections but Sector 1 being in control of the city and the center where the FGS sits, took the lion’s share of what needed to be done.” Brig Katungi noted.

Asked about the experiences and the lessons learnt during the last concluded Somali elections, Brig Katungi observed that,

“Somali is a fractured society recovering from war and thus you do not expect Somali brothers to be at the same footing with you. You have to be very sensitive, impartial, know your brothers and sisters that you are helping so that you can offer your all. You must be conscious to know that they need a brother to lean on, create harmonious relations with the leaders and SSF and keep revising your mandate and keep on track.”

He further applauded the resoluteness of the UPDF soldiers who have been serving in Somalia

unreservedly. He added that, “Above all, we had good relations with the people of Somalia. At times leaders think of engaging those in higher echelons but the common man matters a lot. The common Somali knows what UPDF has done in this country. We are always working together with Somalis and that was very important,” noted Brig Katungi

Brig Katungi underscored that the inauguration of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, is a new chapter not only for Somalia but also for ATMIS and the international community that has been supporting Somalia.

“As FGS, ATMIS and SSF, I think we won and Somalia has not fallen back into a civil war. Together with our Somali brothers, we have won together and together we can.”

Uganda was the first country to deploy troops to Somalia in March 2007 and remains the leading Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to AMISOM, now transformed into African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) with effect from April 1, 2022.

ATMIS has brought relative peace and stability in Somalia, leading to some noticeable economic recovery, coupled with a boom in trade and reconstruction.



## Deputy head of Ugandan mission in Somalia HE Amb Maj Gen ( Rtd) Nathan K Mugisha during a media interview at the Uganda embassy in Mogadishu.



**Rtd Maj. Gen Nathan Mugisha**  
Deputy Ambassador of Uganda To Somalia

**Deputy Head of Mission HE Deputy Amb. Maj Gen. (Rtd) Nathan Mugisha the Uganda Deputy Head of mission Somalia shares his view in an interaction with the Uganda Contingent Public Information Officer Maj. Bilal Katamba and Ms. Esther Nishaba about the inauguration of president Hassan Sheik Mohamud and the future of Somalia and African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).**

**Qn. What does the inauguration of President Hassan Sheik Mohamud mean to Somalia and Uganda?**

**Ans.** The inauguration of president elect marks a major milestone in the democratic process of Somalia. Both the presidential and parliamentary elections were delayed for 14 months in the political calendar schedule causing a lot of anxiety among the Somalis

and threatening national security especially during April 2021 when various politically orientated factions converged in Mogadishu. Those trends of events clearly illustrated the fact that the challenges facing Somalia are largely political in nature and would require a comprehensive approach that focuses on putting in place effective governance structures and delivery of social services to local communities to win their “hearts and minds.”

President Hassan Sheik Mohamud has been given a fresh mandate and consequently the Somalis and the international community have a lot of hope and expectations that his Federal Government will coherently work with the Federal member states to address the security threats and finalize their constitutional review process and judicial reforms.

His government is further anticipated to focus on reconciliation, revival of the national security Architecture and the Somali transition plan and the ATMIS concept of operation implementation.

The new Federal government will be faced with quite a number of challenges ranging from famine and increased Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as a result of severe drought due to global warming, impact of COVID 19, price increases of essential commodities due to the war between Russia vs Ukraine and donor fatigue.

There is a challenge of lack of predictable sustainable and adequate financing for Somali Security Forces (SSF) and ATMIS. Therefore, there is urgent requirement for partners to prioritize the requisite funding to address ATMIS and SSF

funding deficit in order to implement the Somali transitional plan.

The federal government and its partners have to timely mobilize the requisite of a zonal force to hold areas and take part in targeted mobile operations in order to allow troops by December 2022 as outlined in the CANOPS and UNSC resolution 2628(2022).

The new government has to grapple with the challenges of job creation and participation of youth and women in the peace process for national economic development.

I wish to congratulate H.E President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the FGS and the Somali people upon their successful electoral process, and to our partners for their cooperation in our joint efforts to stabilize Somalia.

**Qn. How does Uganda feel for being part and partial in the peaceful transition of power in Somalia in providing election security and given the fact that Uganda was the first troop contributing country to deploy in Somalia in March 2007?**

**Ans.** It is a plus because, this is the 4th election to be conducted since 2008, 2012, 2017 and now 2022. Those are the 04 (four) elections being conducted successfully. We expect the next election might be a universal suffrage, allowing all the people to vote. This time around it was not, but we are very optimistic that as stabilization continues, the people will have a chance to exercise their right to vote. But there are some areas which are already peaceful and universal suffrage could take place, though this time around this was not possible, however, the election was equally free, fair and representative.

**Qn. What areas of cooperation that Uganda and Somalia need to strengthen to move forward?**

**Ans.** We are looking at other bilateral areas of cooperation for mutual benefits of Ugandans and Somalis. Such areas include among others, trade and tourism. For instance between 8th and 9th August 2022, we are planning for a Uganda - Somali business summit and exhibition which will be graced by both heads of states, ministers and business entities.

The business summit will be a hybrid event with over 250 delegates in Kampala, with a focus among others;

- a. Promoting Uganda - Somali partnership through investment, trade and tourism.
- b. Discussing the existing opportunities and challenges to trade and investment.
- c. To show case capabilities through the business exhibition and
- d. To develop business partnerships.

The business summit will be a hybrid event with over 250 delegates in Kampala with live stream to the rest of Africa and the world at large. The business summit will be preceded by a joint permanent commission where several Memorandum of understandings (MoU) will be signed by MDAs.

**Qn. Any further comment or message you would like to share?**

**Ans.** We should be optimistic. We have come from far, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) has always been successful but it takes a lot of work. This election we have delivered has not been easy, it was tough, because it was challenged by Alshabaab right from the start. Shelling electoral areas! But we managed to deliver with minimum casualties and I think that was a plus to UPDF.

We are also looking forward to help the Somali Transition Plan to be successful so that this mission meets its objectives. You know that initially it was presumed as "Dead on arrival" but it is no longer the story, AMISOM has been a victorious campaign and we want it to be sustained up to the end so that the Somalis can be able to join the international community and participate in their rightful place in the international community arena.





# ATMIS Hands Over Captured Weapons To Somali Gov't



ATMIS- Arms officer Maj.MN Kwoba describes the type and capabilities of the captured weapons to the D/SRCC (in black) while the D/FC, SNA LFC and CONTICO look on before the handover at sector one basecamp Mogadishu

## Mogadishu - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The Deputy Special Representative of the Chairman of the African Union Commission (DSRCC), Ms. Fiona Lortan on 30th April 2022 handed over weapons captured from Al-Shabaab and other illegal armed groups in Somalia to the Federal Government of Somalia. The weapons were handed over at the Ugandan Sector One Headquarters at Base camp Halane, Mogadishu Somalia.

The weapons that were captured by the Ugandan Troops under ATMIS since November 2021 to April 2022 included 14 Sub Machine Guns (SMG), 01 Semi-Automatic Rifle (SAR), 03 G3 guns, 03 Multi-Purpose Machine guns (PKM type), 816 rounds of ammunition of different gun types and calibers and other military accessories including

magazines, pouches and gun spare parts.

Speaking at the handover of the weapons, Ms. Fiona Lortan thanked the Ugandan troops operating in Sector 1 i.e. Lower Shebelle and Benadir region for the sacrifice made to achieve the ATMIS mandate. "I take this opportunity, on behalf of ATMIS and on my own behalf to congratulate Sector one personnel for sacrificing themselves to achieve our mandate in peace building and stability of Somalia," she said.

While receiving the weapons on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Commander Land Forces of the Somalia National Army (SNA) Gen Mohammad Tahlil Bihi appreciated the cooperation between SNA and the Ugandan

troops in particular and ATMIS in general. He prayed for continued cooperation to defeat all the insurgents. I pledge on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia in general and SNA in particular to work together to liberate all regions of Somalia from the insurgency," he emphasized

The acting ATMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. William Kitsao Shume applauded the Sector One Commander Brig Gen Keith Katungi for the achievement. "Your efforts are not in vain, the weapons are now in safe hands" he said. He pledged more support and encouraged Sector One to carry out more Joint Operations with the Somali security forces (SSF) and Somali National Army (SNA)





Gen. Mohammad Tahilil Bihi SNA CLF with ATIMS D/FC inspecting weapons captured from Alishabab from various operations before handing over.

While handing over the weapons, the Sector One Commander Brig Gen Keith Katungi said the exercise was an achievement of the Troops continued efforts to degrade and deny the Al-Shabaab freedom of movement and freedom of action. He pledged for more joint operations with Somali security forces as per the ATMIS mandate.

Brig Gen Katungi added that, due to sustained offensive operations, Al-Shabaab had resorted to the non-conventional tactics of use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as a predominant weapon of choice.

Brig Gen. Katungi handed over the weapons to the DSRCC, who handed over the same to Gen Mohammad Tahilil Bihi.

Handing over of captured weapons is in line with ATMIS SOPs on the management of recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and is also a requirement from actors under ATMIS as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2444(2018) to document and register all military equipment captured in the course of carrying out their mandate.



Sector one Uganda contingent commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi hands over an MPMG as part of the captured weapons to the deputy SRCC Ms. Fiona Lortan who later handed it to the SNA commander Landforces Gen. Mohammad Tahilil Bihi at sector one headquarters basecamp Mogadishu



# Defence Minister Visits Uganda Contingent ATMIS Troops' Level II Hospital In Mogadishu

Mogadishu - 08th Jun 2022



Ugandan minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MODVA) Hon. Vincent B. Ssempijja (in a light blue mask) is being briefed by CO of level ii hospital Lt Col. Ben Nsajju as the Deputy Ugandan Ambassador to Somalia Rtd Maj.Gen.N. Mugisha (in a grey Jacket) looks on.

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Vincent Ssempijja on 8th June 2022 visited sector one Level II hospital in base Camp Mogadishu Somalia.

The Minister's visit was aimed at taking stock of the operations of the hospital in order to enhance and formulate informed decisions and policies to improve the working and health needs of UPDF soldiers in Somalia.

"My aim of coming here was to know and see the services offered here and their effectiveness to the health needs of our soldiers. You have been at the frontline of ensuring that the health of our soldiers is well attended to. I applaud you on the good work done" Hon Minister remarked to the hospital staff.

The Defence Minister was accompanied by Uganda's acting Ambassador to Somalia, Maj Gen (rtd) Nathan

Mugisha. The duo were received by Sector one Contingent administrative officer (CAO) Col. Emmanuel Odong and Lt Col. Ben Nsajju the Commanding Officer (CO) of Level II Hospital in Mogadishu Somalia.

Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Nathan Mugisha pointed out to the Minister that the routine and urgent needs of the hospital should be prioritized. In response, Hon. Ssempijja underscored the need to improve health supplies for Uganda Contingent troops under the ATMIS umbrella in Somalia and pledged to rank it among the ministry's key areas of interest and focus moving forward.

Lt Col. Ben Nsajju assured the minister that, "We can do more if we have more support."

Uganda Contingent sector one Level II hospital treats troops deployed under African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Somali National Army (SNA), Somali National Police (SNP) and the civilian population from the neighboring communities in Mogadishu.

The Minister was in Mogadishu Somalia ahead of the Inauguration Ceremony of Somali's President-elect, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud that took place on the 9th June 2022 in Mogadishu Somalia.



MODVA Hon. Vincent B. Ssempijja inspecting the laboratory section of Level II hospital in base camp Mogadishu Somalia in presence of the hospital commanding officer Dr. Lt Col. Ben Nsajju.



# Gen Mbadi Visit UPDF Troops In Somalia

Lower Shabelle – 12th June 2022



ATMIS officers and militants at basecamp sector 1 Headquarters being addressed by the Commander Defence Forces Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi during his visit in the mission area.

The Chief of Defence forces (CDF) of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi has inspected Uganda troops in Somalia working under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

Gen. Mbadi who visited several forward operating bases (FOBs) including among others Aribaska, Baidogole and Mogadishu Base Camp also held meetings popularly known as Monday Baraza in UPDF with rank and file of the troops.

Gen Mbadi thanked the troops serving selflessly in Somalia and in other parts of Africa, "I am here to thank you for the work well done. You have served well and represented Uganda effectively. I thank you a lot, Asante Sana" Gen. Mbadi said as he addressed soldiers at Baidogole Military Air Base (BMA).

"I visited the President of the Federal Government of Somalia H.E

President Hassan Sheikh Muhammad yesterday and he appreciated the work you have been doing here since 2007 and you (UPDF troops) specifically for the election security provided during election and inauguration that led him to ascend to the Presidency" Gen Mbadi said to the troops at Baidogole 110km from Mogadishu town.

The CDF urged the troops in every FOB to continue exhibiting maximum discipline. "Before you do anything, first ask yourself if it is professionally, legally, spiritually and morally correct" he advised, further saying it was different for one to go wrong if they asked their inner selves before they act.

Gen. Mbadi further briefed troops on the security situation in Uganda and the region and told the troops that the region cannot achieve developments without peace and security.

"Money fears insecurity" he said. He therefore reminded them of their role in bringing about peace and security in country and the region at large.

The CDF further explained in detail to the troops what UPDF is doing to improve their welfare including accommodation, medical care, education of their children and salary enhancement among others.

The Chief of Staff Air Force (COS – AF) Brig Gen. David Gonyi thanked the Air Force Component for having an immediate positive impact in the ATMIS operations in Somalia.

The Deputy Commander UPDF Land Forces Maj Gen. Sam Okiding thanked the troops for serving diligently, "we are proud of you for making Uganda shine, we walk with our heads high wherever we go and you have done a tremendous job."



The Ugandan Contingent Commander in Somalia Brig Gen Keith Katungi thanked the CDF for making time off his busy schedule to talk to the troops. He said that soldiers in operation areas gain morale when commanders from strategic leadership talk to them.

“We are grateful for your coming here and we will do the same to the troops”.

Uganda was the 1st Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to deploy in Somalia in March 2007 and was later on joined by Burundi, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti all working under African Union with support from European Union.



The CDF of UPDF addressing ATIMS soldiers of Uganda contingent at Air Force FOB Baledogle on Operational matters.



The chief of Defence Forces UPDF Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi listening to a militant at Baledogole Military Airbase (BMA) on 12th June 2022”



The CDF of UPDF, Gen. Mbasu Mbadi addressing ATIMS solders at FOB Aribiska BCXXXIII headquarters during his visit in the mission area on 12th June 2022.

“

***We are proud of you for making Uganda shine, we walk with our heads high wherever we go and you have done a tremendous job.***

”



# Brig Gen. Keith Katungi Assumes Command of AMISOM Uganda Contingent In Somalia

Sgt. Bagoole Faisal



Brig Gen. Keith Katungi (Left) takes over office of CONTICO from the outgoing Brig Gen. Don Nabasa (right) as D/CLF Maj Gen. Sam Okiding (middle) presides over.

The Deputy Commander Land Forces (D/CLF) of Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Maj Gen. Sam Okiding, on 17th Dec 2021, presided over the hand/ takeover of the Uganda Contingent Commander (CONTICO) Sector one Mogadishu capital from outgoing Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa and incoming Brig Gen. Keith Katungi at a function held in sector one headquarters in base camp conference Hall.

The D/CLF started his remarks with a quote from the bible, Proverbs 4:23, “Be carefully how you think and your life is shaped by your thoughts” and Proverbs 3:6 “Remember the Lord in everything you do and he will show you the right way”. He reminded soldiers therefore that their lives or stay in Somalia are shaped in that before doing anything, we must have thought on how to do it but

not thinking after doing it.

Maj Gen. Okiding congratulated the incoming CONTICO Brig Keith Katungi for the newly embraced appointment by encouraging him to be strong and make strong decisions in line with the AU mandate to save the personnel, institution and make the Uganda flag remain high. He thanked the outgoing CONTICO Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa for the wonderful job done as a part of pacifying Somalia under the AMISOM umbrella.

In his conclusive remarks, the D/CLF addressed the fact that Uganda as a country can only handle the military challenges faced in the Operation area like training of the IED Personnel and unbalanced deployment of the troops and promised to handle some of the

challenges that were pointed out by the outgoing contingent commander Maj. Gen Don Nabaasa.

Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa, the outgoing contingent commander attributed his contingent victory over the Al-Shaabab to the team work amongst his troops, the Somali population, friendly forces such as Somali National Army (SNA), Somali National Police (SNP) and NISA amongst others.

He emphasized that despite the challenges following the COVID 19 pandemic and Al-Shaabab attacks mostly in the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), the Ugandan contingent under AMISOM has played a key role in fulfilling the AMISOM mandate.

He proudly gave a brief to the UPDF D/CLF Maj Gen Sam Okiding of his



achievements in his tour of duty “we have degraded Al-Shaabab for example the clearing operation in Basra, handed over Mariangway FOB to the community among other including CIMIC operations” he said.

The incoming contingent commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi thanked the outgoing commander sector one commander for the excellent work done and finishing well. “I want these commanders to know that you can perform at 99% but the remaining 1% can end up spoiling the 99%. Therefore we give a hand clap of applause to Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa and his team for concluding his tour of duty in the

mission area well” Brig Gen. Keith emphasized.

He urged the Battle Group commanders to constantly remain conscious, evaluate themselves and know that Alshabaab tactics keep changing in line with the incoming political contestations.

In his conclusive remarks, Brig Gen. Katungi thanked the Commander in Chief of the Uganda armed forces and UPDF strategic leadership for appointing him to command Uganda UPDF Contingent in Somalia. He promised to keep the Uganda flag high and command in line with the ATMIS mandate with the African Union motto which

aims at integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

He further pledged cooperation with all Somali security forces (SSF) and the people of Somalia for peace and security in the country.

In attendance was the Ugandan Defence Attaché to Somalia Maj Gen. Lucky Kidega, D/CONTICO Col. David Opeera, Contingent Asset Commanders, Battle Group Commanders, Senior Officers, and Junior Officers of the Ugandan Contingent amongst others.



## Brace Yourself For The Task Ahead- D/Contico To UPDF Commanders

The Deputy Contingent Commander of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces in Somalia (D/CONTICO) Col. David Opeero has urged his commanders to prepare themselves and their troops psychologically, physically and otherwise for the tasks ahead of them.

Tasks like preparing and overseeing rotation of troops in and out of the mission area between Battle Group 32 and 35 respectively and at the same time to be able to secure elections of the President of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The call was made on 13th April 2022 as he presided over of the handover/ takeover of the office of Commander of Anti Air Craft (AAC) assets which took place at the Contingent Headquarters at Halane Base camp Mogadishu- Somalia. "You are taking over office at a very critical period with critical activities, prepare for them," Col Opeero emphasized.

He further assured the commanders that although the task was critical it would be easy if there was cooperation amongst all the command and staff elements involved. "We have handled similar tasks before, this shouldn't be difficult for us. Cooperate, communicate, and coordinate," he urged.

The D/ CONTICO further urged the incoming commander to brief his troops about the new tasks under the new arrangement of Africa Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) It is your responsibility to orient your personnel to the new tasks under ATMIS" he said.

He thanked the outgoing commander Col. Samuel Mwesigwa for the job well done. "Col Sam has had an exemplary performance. He is a leader, Commander and very focused, no doubt about that" he appreciated.

In his hand over report, Col. Samuel Mwesigwa thanked the UPDF leadership for entrusting him with such a critical responsibility, which he said was a sign of confidence in him.

The Air Defence element is crucial in protection of troops against air attacks, during convoy operations and provides direct fire support to troops, including enhancing their fire power.

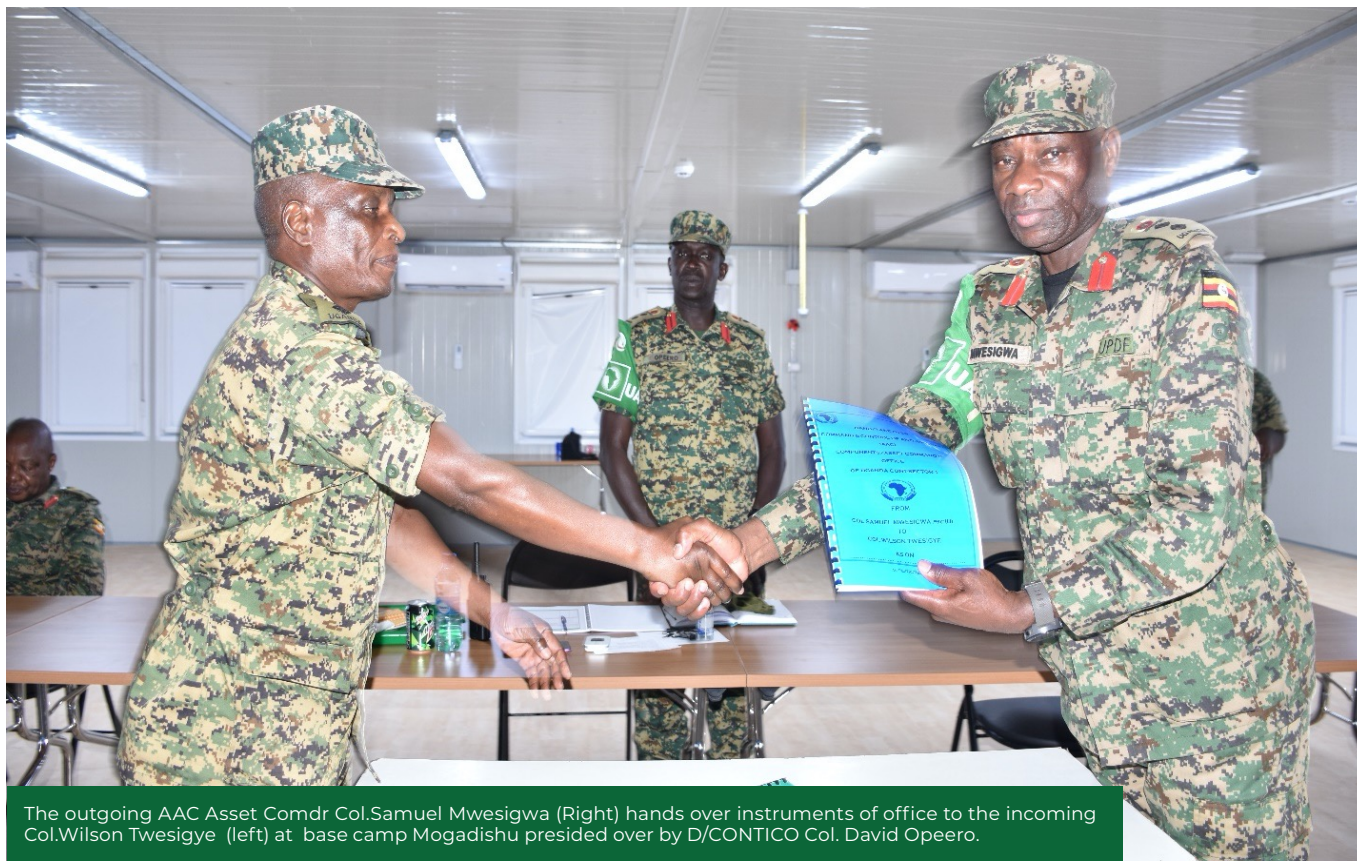
Earlier on, the Contingent administrative officer Col. Emmanuel Odong presided over the hand over/ takeover of the office of the Contingent communications officer between Lt Col Godfrey Mugarura and Lt Col. Rashid Matovu.

Both functions were attended by key commanders and staff officers at the Contingent.



The incoming Ant Aircraft asset commander (AAC) Col. Wilson Twesigye (Left) receives office documents from the outgoing AAC Asset Commander Col. Samuel Mwesigwa (Right) during the hand/ Takeover at Base camp Conference hall Mogadishu.





The outgoing AAC Asset Comdr Col.Samuel Mwesigwa (Right) hands over instruments of office to the incoming Col.Wilson Twesigye (left) at base camp Mogadishu presided over by D/CONTICO Col. David Opeero.



Signing of the Handover and takeover Report by the Incoming and the Outgoing AAC Asset commanders.



# Uganda's Ambassador To Somalia Urges Ugandan In Diaspora To Invest Home

Uganda's deputy ambassador in Somalia Maj Gen (RTD) Nathan Mugisha has urged Ugandans working in Somalia not to only work hard, but to also save and invest in their home country.

This was at a meeting on 25th May 2022 aimed at consulting the diaspora on the Uganda government draft diaspora engagement framework proposal and has their input on the same, held at the embassy headquarters in Mogadishu.

The ambassador further encouraged Ugandans working in Somalia to work hard, save and invest in the country. "We want

you to live a fulfilling and dignified life, but don't forget to save for investment in your country, you will certainly go back to Uganda at one time" Gen. Mugisha counseled.

The Ambassador asked them to unite and organize themselves for better services. "When you are organized, it's easy to protect your rights. The embassy is open to you and ready to give you the services that you may need".

More than 50 Ugandans working in Somalia attended the consultative meeting. Speaker after speaker, thanked the embassy for always being available to them whenever a Ugandan has an issue. One

Kisakye, who said he was trafficked from Kampala in 2019, without his full knowledge gave a testimony on how he was trafficked and his passport taken away from him, only to be saved by the embassy working together with the Ugandan UPDF Contingent in Somalia.

The Minister Counselor at the embassy Sheikh Alamin Umar Muhindo reminded those that attended of the importance of registering with the embassy for proper service delivery. "We have free consular services which are your entitlement and we encourage everybody to register before they go to their respective places of work".

More than two thousand Ugandans are estimated to be working in Somalia, including a substantial number in the teaching profession.

Uganda's diaspora contributes \$1.5 billion to the country (BoU 2018) which amounts to 5.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) it's also Uganda's second foreign exchange earner.

The meeting was also attended by Uganda's defense advisor at the embassy Maj Gen. Lucky Kidega, and UPDF Contingent Public Information Officer Maj. Bilal Katamba among others.



# AU ATMIS Force Commander Applauds UPDF In Somalia

The Africa Transition Mission in Somalia/ (ATMIS) Force Commander Lt Gen Diomedede Ndegeya applauded the Ugandan Contingent in Somalia for the job well done since their deployment in the mission area. Gen Ndegeya thanked the UPDF not only for its professional conduct but also for being the lead force in advancing the African ATMIS mandate in Somalia.

Gen. Ndegeya who is the overall military head of the five troop contributing countries (TCCs) in Somalia; Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Burundi made the remarks on 14th April 2022 at a function to award medals and certificates to the Ugandan Battle group XXXII that has just completed its tour of duty after one year in the mission area.

Gen. Ndegeya who was the Chief Guest at the function moved senior UPDF officers who attended the ceremony when he frankly said “I thank the Government of Uganda that allowed you to come here and have a contribution to the stabilization of our sister nation

Somalia. Your Soldiers are not only committed, they are doing their role as mandated and we are very proud of you,” he remarked. “I’m not trying to use diplomatic language, I’m saying this sincerely from the bottom of my heart,” he emphasized.

Gen Ndegeya also took the opportunity to guide the incoming Battle Group XXXV Commander to adapt to the new ATMIS arrangement as opposed to AMISOM that has operated since 2007.

The UPDF forces are currently in charge of Benadir region, which comprises the Capital Mogadishu and are also in charge of the security of the base camp that has several international partners’ offices and residences.

The symbolic function saw 24 officers and militants decorated with the African Union medals for the job well done. For operational, engagement, the rest of the troops medals in the battle groups will be delivered in their respective areas of deployment.

In his remarks, the Ugandan Contingent commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi thanked BG XXXII for securing the important town of Barawe that has a seaport and airport that serve a vast area of lower Shabelle region and beyond. “You have done a great job, including securing the elections of the members of Parliament of lower Shabelle that were held in Barawe,” he commended them.

Later in the day, Brig Gen Keith Katungi presided over the hand over and takeover of Battle Group command between the outgoing Battle Group (BG) Commander XXXII Col. Charles Odong and the incoming Commander BG XXXV Col. Benard Kashemeza.

During his remarks, Brig Gen. Katungi thanked the UPDF forces in Somalia for providing security that led to the successful swearing in of the members of Parliament elected from the different regions of the country.



ATMIS Force Commander Lt Gen. Diomedede Ndegeya decorates Col. Samuel Mwesigwa of Asset commander AAC BG XXXII with Amisom medal at the end of his tour of duty in the mission area.



The ATIMS FC thanks the outgoing BG XXXII for the Job Well done while at the Medal awarding Ceremony at Base Camp Mogadishu.



# One on one with the in Charge Women's affairs Capt. Damali Kayongo on some of the roles of female troops in ATMIS Uganda Contingent.

Mogadishu: 8th Aug 22



Capt Damalie Kayongo in charge women's affair ATMIS Uganda Contingent

## QN. Why are you here in the mission area as a female combatant?

**Ans.** Among the core values of UPDF is pan Africanism. Under the arrangements of Uganda government, female combatants are brought in the mission area to psychologically and physically participate in restoration of peace to a host country Somalia. We achieve this through rendering social services e.g. medication, Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities and security.

## QN. Why is it important for female combatants to take part in African Union peace keeping in Somalia?

**Ans.** The need for respect for values and customs of a host nation. I.e UPDF renders social services to Somalia citizens. However, routine checks ups for both genders is paramount. Female citizens are checked

by female soldiers as a sign of respect for culture and beliefs of Somalia.

## QN. What are the challenges encountered in mission areas as female combatants and if any how you encounter them?

**Ans.** UPDF introduced a structure, headed by in charge women affairs of which all challenges are discussed and reported to the higher authority.

This has empowered the female soldiers and gives them a sense of protection from relevant details.

## QN. What have noticed from the female combatants in mission area compared to the female combatants at your home country?

**Ans.** The major challenges I have noticed so far is stress caused by factors related to family issues of which upon the completion of the three mandatory months in the mission area, they are eligible for compassionate leave and 14days are awarded to them so that they can go home and settle.

## QN. What have you done to add on the roles of a peace keeper in the African transition mission in Somalia (ATMIS)?

**Ans.** Basically, I have emphasized on fastening harmony and understanding between the civilians and

military forces and generated a sense of brother hood.

## QN. What does it mean to be in such a position as women in charge?

**Ans.** It is such a wonderful experience where command and administration is exercised to maintain the morale of female combatants amidst challenges. This is achieved through engagements in meetings, counselling and tasking.

## QN. What is your final message to the female troops in mission area and back home?

**Ans.** Life is a precious thing to serve that must be protected jealously. To serve well we need to leave responsibly and protect our sovereignty.



# UPDF Peace Keepers In Somalia Acquire More Skills On Child Protection

Mogadishu - 02 July 2022



A group photo of Officers and militants of ATMIS and UNGU VIII joined by tutors from save the children after a seven days training on child protection in conflict areas at base camp sector1 Hqs Mogadishu Somalia

More than 5000 UPDF peace keepers serving under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia on 02 July 2022 received refresher training on children protection, most especially in conflict areas.

The one - week training which run from 25th June to 2nd July, 2022 was organized by Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) Directorate of Human Rights in conjunction with Save the Children, a Non-Governmental Organization. The course benefitted officers and militants from different Forward Operation Bases (FOBs).

The Director of Human Rights in the UPDF and leader of the training team Col. Deo Karikona visited troops as far as Barawe which is 209 Km South West of the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

This is among the furthest point where UPDF has deployed; the others being Ceelejale, Aribiska,

Seaport, and Base Camp -Mogadishu.

According to Col. Karikona, the refresher training was aimed at re-equipping commanders and militants on the need to protect children, especially in military operational areas.

The training also bridged the gap between theory and practice in a military theatre.

"The available protocols and laws, both international and domestic, make child protection training in the military, mandatory. We are currently going further, to have the same 'in- theatre'," Col Karikona explained.

The Deputy Head of the training team Col. Ssozi Ssesanga who is also the Chief Instructor at the Singo - based Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSO - TC), in Nakaseke district, applauded

the UPDF leadership for putting emphasis on the protection of children during military operations.

"UPDF has the highest number of personnel trained in child protection and human rights in Africa, and we can't take that for granted," he said.

The Public Information Officer of the UPDF Contingent in Somalia, Maj. Bilal Katamba appreciated the training and averred that protection of children is embedded in the UPDF ideology.

"Historically, protection of children is part of NRA/ UPDF ideology. Indeed not only children, but all vulnerable groups, including women, the elderly, disabled and even Prisoners Of War," he noted.

Maj Katamba concluded by emphasizing that UPDF remains committed to the protection of vulnerable groups in all military operations.



The head of Save the Child in the training team Mr. Njoroge Anthony applauded UPDF for their impeccable record in protecting Somali children and in many other operational areas.

"We have never received any case of child abuse, neglect or exploitation by the Ugandan security forces working under African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)," Njoroge told officers and militants at base camp Mogadishu, urging them to keep the record up.

The one - week training had officers and militants retrained on the six

grave children violations, reporting mechanism, available international and domestic legal frame work on children protection and the history of children protection in UPDF, among others.

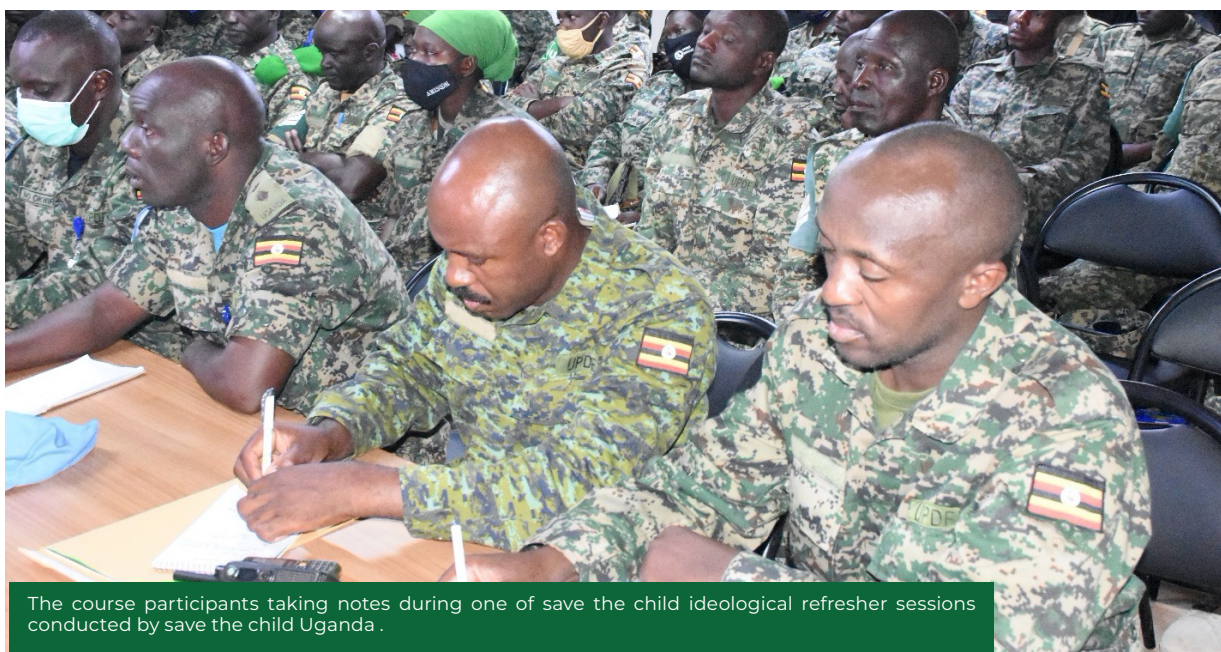
UPDF first deployed forces in Somalia under AMISOM in March 2007 following authorization by the African Union and the United Nations Security Council. The initial mandate of six months expired and was renewed to help stabilize the then war torn country and the mission has since been transformed into a stabilization one; ATMIS.

The Government in Mogadishu has since recovered a greater part of the country from the terrorist Al - Shabaab group that were in control of the capital Mogadishu before AMISOM deployment. Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya, later deployed too.

The mission has since transformed from African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the current African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), a move aimed at building the capacities of the Somali Security Forces to safeguard their own country.



The Director of Human Rights in UPDF Col. Deo Karikona leading a discussion with ATMIS/UNGU officers and militants on ideological part of save the children during the training held at sector one Hqs in Mogadishu Somalia.



The course participants taking notes during one of save the child ideological refresher sessions conducted by save the child Uganda .



# Over 200 Trees Planted In ATMIS Sector One To Mark The World Environment Day

Mogadishu- 06th Jun 2022



Deputy sector 1 Commander Col .David Opeero leads ATMIS UPDF officers in planting trees marking the World Environment Day in base camp sector 1 Headquarters Mogadishu.

Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) troops serving under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) on 6th Jun 2022 joined the rest of the world to mark the World Environment Day.

The day was marked with the planting of over 200 trees in the Mogadishu, Base Camp, where UPDF is headquartered.

While presiding over the activities, the Deputy Commander Sector One Col David Opeero urged troops to draw lessons from this year's theme; "Only One Earth" that carried a lot of significance including, but not limited to the fact that this is the only planet where mankind can live comfortably, thus calling for its care since we don't have any alternative planet.

"On account of caring and giving back to Mother Nature, we are planting 200 trees as a symbol of fighting environmental degradation," Col. Opeero said in his remarks before kicking off the tree planting exercise.

He cited an example of the years 2014 / 2015 where temperatures were so high in India to the extent that some people lost their lives due to the effects of high temperatures caused by environmental degradation.

He called upon everyone to take responsibility of the environment and further implored all Troop Contributing Countries in Somalia, and Somali nationals to have discipline on garbage and waste disposal by avoiding throwing items like empty water bottles and

polythene bags among others.

He cautioned everybody to carry the awareness message on the need to protect the environment. "We have to sensitize the public and the communities we live in about the dangers of environmental degradation by projecting ourselves as responsible citizens on the tasks of environmental protection," Col. Opeero said.

The Contingent Administrative Officer (CAO) Sector One Col. Emmanuel Odongo noted that the degraded environment has caused a lot of changes, citing an example of his childhood where parents used to plant trees that would bear fruits and were accessible to every member of the community including voyagers.



Col. Odong noted that these trees no longer exist in his home area as a result of the degraded environment. He called upon stakeholders involved in the social economic transformation of Somalia to continue with their agenda to avoid the degradation of the past achievements.

The commemoration function started with cleaning the shores of the Indian Ocean by officers and men under Sector One the previous day, where garbage and waste mostly plastics and polythene materials were collected.

Several Senior and Junior Officers under Sector One participated in the exercise.



Maj. Doreen Nandase Byakika head PSY- OPS ATMIS Uganda Contingent planting a tree in basecamp sector one headquarters Mogadishu during the world environment day



Pte. Hassan Ali of the Somali National Army (SNA) joined UPDF/ATMIS in Basecamp marking The World Environment Day by planting a tree.



Uganda Contingent Administrative Officer (CAO) Sector One Col. Emmanuel Odongo plants a tree at base Camp during the world environmental day

“

*The day was marked with the planting of over 200 trees in the Mogadishu, Base Camp, where UPDF is headquartered.*

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## Plan and Coordinate Clearly – Deputy Contico

### Mogadishu- 06th Jul 2022

Lt Col Dr. Ben Nsajju handed over the Office of the Commanding officer (CO) of Level II Hospital sector one Mogadishu to Capt Dr. George Ochaya of Battle group XXXIII as the Acting Commanding officer.

Presiding over the Handover/ Takeover ceremony on 06th July 2022 in Base camp Sector one Headquarters in Mogadishu, the Deputy Contingent Commander (D/CONTICO) Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Col. David Opeero commended Lt Col. Ben Nsajju for a job well done. He said that he has left a clean account as a commanding officer of the Hospital and challenged the incoming to pick up from where he has left off, and even improve the department and image of the hospital and UPDF to greater heights.

He observed that the appointment of a commanding officer of level II hospital as a big task which requires a clear plan and coordination and operations by providing medical support to the African Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in carrying out the

mandate, a job that is not light for it requires, to be proactive, teamwork, Cooperation with other agencies and a good sense of public relations with the locals.

He promised continuous support of the Strategic leadership of sector one administration when there is need of any guidance which can make to the office to be of greater positive impact for the safety of the personnel.

In his remarks, the outgoing commanding officer, Lt Col Dr. Ben Nsajju thanked the D/CONTICO for the support rendered to him during his tenure.

He much-admired his unrelenting staff for the support and team spirit and expressed confidence in the competence of the incoming Capt Dr. George Ochaya and urged the staffs of the hospital to stay cooperating with the incoming and to professionally guide in any adjustment.

Dr.Nsajju requested sector one leadership to put in place the

measures of preventing the dust within the hospital compound by tarmacking it if possible to reduce the too much dust.

In his remarks, Capt Dr. George Ochaya thanked the leadership for the confidence bestowed onto him to hold the position, he thanked the outgoing Commanding officer for the opportunities accorded to him to execute given tasks. He also promised to work to the best of his ability in execution of the office mandate and cooperation with all other stakeholders and actors in the fulfilling of ATMIS mandated.

Level II Hospital is a medical facility fully supported by United Nations under ATMIS umbrella and it is managed by UPDF/ CONTICO to provide medical support to the ATMIS troops primarily, Somali national Army and the nearby civilian community among others.

The function was attended by Heads of Departments within base camp and Staffs of Level II Hospital Mogadishu.



Outgoing commanding officer (CO).Level II hospital Dr. Lt Col. Ben Nsajju handing over office documents to the incoming acting commanding officer Dr. Capt. George Ochaya at base camp conference hall being presided over by the Deputy Sector one commander Col. David Opeero



The incoming Dr. Capt. George Ochaya and outgoing Lt Col. Ben Nsajju signing hand/takeover report during the handover ceremony..



# AMISOM Forces Liberate Basra

## BASRA - 21st Oct 2022

AMISOM forces have concluded a five day military operation that has resulted in the liberation of Basra that has hitherto been dominated by the Al-Shabaab.

The joint operation started on the 17th October 2021 and was concluded on the 21st October with the dismantling of all targeted Al-Shaabab targets. It was headed by then Uganda Peoples Defence forces (UPDF) sector one commander Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa involved the Burundi National Army forces (BNF) under sector five and the Somalia National Army's (SNA) Eagle battalion.

The successful operation was aimed at clearing the general area of BASRA of Al-Shabaab terrorists that have for long maintained it as their stronghold from where they have been launching terror and mayhem to the innocent Somali people.

Using artillery and motorized

infantry vehicles, the sector one forces were able to storm Baghdad BASRA to Baghdad having flooded Basra with water.

The Eagle battalion and SNA recee team were able to block the running Al-Shaabab as earlier planned and six of them were put out of action at Bandar Salam 1.5km south of Basra, while BNF and SNA successfully blocked Buulo Barwaarok 7.5km north east of Basra.

According to the sector one commander Brig Gen. Don Nabaasa, Al-Shabaab's loss of BASRA is a big blow to them as it was their source of income through extortion from farmers and traders in general areas. 'Since the area is forested, Al-Shabaab was also using it as a hideout, as well as a place for assembling of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which they cowardly emplace in Mogadishu' the Gen

added.

The General further clarified that it is within the AMISOM mandate and responsibility to conduct targeted offensive operations against Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups including joint operations with Somali security forces to create a conducive and enabling environment for Somalia Security Forces (SSF) to take up security responsibility of their country. "We hope now that Basra is liberated, SNA and the Somalia National police (SNP) will take charge of this town" The Gen said.

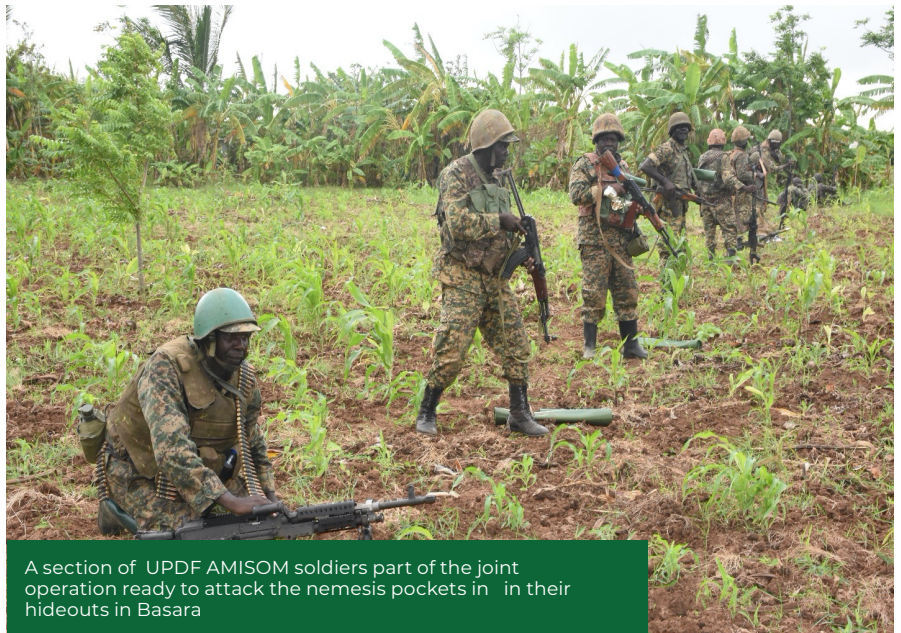
The dominance of the general area of Basra by Al-Shabaab has always been a thorn in AMISOM's shoes for not only it's close proximity to the Somali capital Mogadishu, but also for its hub role between Torotoro, middle and lower Shebelle which Al Shabaab has always used to transact and execute it's evil plans.



A convoy of military vehicles heading towards the enemy positions in Basra to disrupt the Alshabaab militants from their hideouts.



The then sector one Military Information Officer (MIO) Lt Col. Erias Byamukama who also participated in the operation confirmed that, the loss of the town and the general area of Basra by Al-Shaabab will greatly weaken the armed group as its tax base has been taken over. 'Other than the area being economically important to Al-Shabaab, it also acted as it's food basket to sustain their fighters, so it's a big loss for them and a big victory for the people of Somalia'.



A section of UPDF AMISOM soldiers part of the joint operation ready to attack the nemesis pockets in their hideouts in Basra



From (Right – Left) is Battle group commander BGXXII Col. Francis Aragamo, Contingent Military officer Lt Col. Erias Byamukama, Sector one commander Brig Gen. Don Nabasa in the middle, Aide- de- Camp Capt. Martin Kuteesa Nsamba and Maj. Bilal Katamba Uganda contingent Public information officer before the joint attack on the targeted area.



# Sector One Commander Donates IDD Items To Somali Community

Mogadishu - 1st May 2022

The sector one commander of the Uganda military Contingent Brig Gen. Keith Katungi on 1st May 2022 donated an assortment of food items to the Muslim community in the neighborhood of his headquarters at Mogadishu base camp Somalia.

The presents given to ten needy families were in commemoration of the completion of the holy month of Ramadhan that is marked world over by Muslims with Eid Elftir after 30 or 29 days of fasting by the Muslim faithful.

While handing over the presents which included 200kgs of rice, 40 litres of cooking oil, four goats, 20kgs of salt, 25kgs of powdered milk and 20kgs of onions, Brig Gen Keith Katungi appreciated the good working relationship between his

forces and the Somali community. He thanked them for loving and always welcoming the Uganda People's Defense Forces personnel.

"Thank you for loving us. This is what I can afford, I would have wished to give everyone around us, but please accept this little token". Gen Katungi said as he handed over the presents to the eldest of the ten families in accordance to the Somali customs.

"Islam teaches us that Charity does not decrease wealth, it rather grows it, purifies it, and increases individual blessings' he said to the amused beneficiaries. This is little, but it's from the bottom of my heart" he concluded as elders nodded in acceptance of the presents.

While accepting the gifts in presence of all the ten beneficiaries,

Mzee Mohammad Omar thanked Brig Gen Keith Katungi for the good gesture and for always giving them priority as his neighbors. "We thank you for the Idd gifts. You say it's little, but we see it as too much because you have given us with true love" he emotionally said.

Similar presents were given to the Somali community working as support staff under UPDF's sector one and we're received by Abdul Gadel on behalf of the community.

The sector one commander was accompanied by the Contingent administrative officer Col. Emmanuel Odong, the Civil-Military Information Officer, Lt Col. Alex Habyona and members of the Muslim community working under sector one.



Uganda Contingent Commander Sector One Brig Gen. Keith Katungi Handing over Idd Donations To the head of Somali Community Who Neighbors Sector1 Hqs.



Miss. Khadijja Muhamadi Abdil thanking the Uganda contingent commander sector one Brig Gen. Keith Katungi on the behalf of the community for the received assorted items of idd donations at marine check point in Mogadishu.

# Battle Group XXXIV Deploys Under ATMIS

Writer Lt. Justus S  
Bisegerwa PIO BGXXXIV



The outgoing BG XXXI Comdr Col. Francis Aragamoï hands over instruments of office to the incoming BGXXXIV Comdr Col. David M. Byaruhanga at base camp Mogadishu on 29th Nov 2021 as Brig. Gen Keith Katungi presides over.

African Union (AU) has played a vital role in pacifying Somalia commonly known as the Horn of Africa. Uganda was the first country to deploy troops in Somalia in 2007 under African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) which later transformed into African Union Transition Mission in Somali (ATMIS) on 1st April 2022.

Other troop contributing countries include Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia. Since March 2007 to date, 35 Battle groups under different BG Commanders under African Union have been deployed in the mission area and 32 out of the 35 Battle groups have successfully accomplished the mission and rotated out of the Mission area.

Battle Group XXXIV, whose headquarters are located at Ceeljaale, is among the many which have deployed in AU under the command of Col. David M Byaruhanga. BGXXXIV comprises of two battalions 117 under the command of Lt Col. Ebong with its headquarters at Sharamboti

and 119 BN under the Command Lt Col. Edison Kwesiga with its Headquarters at Buufow. The Battle group tactical headquarters at Janaale under the command of Lt Col. Douglas N Katondwaki who is also the second in command.

On 15 Dec 2021 BGXXXIV deployed after a seven-month pre-mission training at Peace Support Training Center Singo (PSO-TC Singo) replacing BGXXXI whose tour of duty had ended. This area is located in sector 1 Lower Shabelle region in the districts of Marka and Qoryooley with Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) of Shalamboti, Marka, Buufow, Janaale, KM67, KM50 and Qoryooley. The BG has BGXXXIII in the North East with its headquarters in Arabiska, BGXXXV in the South West with the Headquarters in Barawe, Indian Ocean in the south and River Shabelle in the North.

Col. David M Byaruhanga received office instruments from Col. Francis Aragamoï the Commander BGXXXI on 29th Dec 2021 at Sector 1 HQs

in Mogadishu. The hand/takeover was presided over by Brig Keith Katungi the Sector 1 Commander Uganda contingent. The outgoing commander briefed his counterpart about the general security situation and some challenges in the area of responsibility.

He noted that the security situation was calm though volatile, Al-Shabaab activities remain viable in the unliberated areas, activities like probe attacks, IED along the Main Supply Routes (MSR), ambushes are common. He further sited limited political activities in the area as a challenge.

BGXXXIV is tasked to conduct joint operations with SNA to degrade Al-Shabaab and deny him freedom of action, secure key population centers and main supply routes thus enhancing freedom of movement and action, conduct Civil Military cooperation (CIMIC) activities, provide protection to ATMIS and UN humanitarian agencies, receive and hand over defectors to appropriate



authorities, protect key leaders during political dialogues and reconciliation, assist in capacity building of the Somali Special Forces and to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In his acceptance speech, Col. Byaruhanga thanked the army leadership for selecting him to Command BGXXXIV and promised full devotion and dedication to the work he was selected for. He further told the members that this is not the first time he is coming to Mogadishu although it is his first time to come as a BG commander. He thanked Col. Aragamoi for ending his tour of duty successfully and he vowed to perform as expected.

Brig Gen Keith Katungi decorated the outgoing Commander with an African Union Medal and a certificate

and thanked Col Aragamoi and told them that what is going on is called Relief in Place. This means Col. Aragamoi's troops moving out while Col. Byaruhanga's troops coming in, which is a process that takes quite some time from when the first flight jets to the last flight jetting out.

He said this period is very dangerous because Al-Shabaab would want to strike to check your readiness during that period. Gen. Katungi said he has worked with both Commanders before and he emphasized discipline from the incoming to avoid tarnishing the name of UPDF and Uganda as a country. He told Col. Byaruhanga this is a test to stand and prove but he has no doubt he will perform.

"Lower Shabelle is the area with the greatest number of Al-Shabaab, it's

an area which impedes movement due to sand dews and floods, so it's the area where we should be more active" says Gen. Katungi.

Brig Gen Katungi told the incoming to master the enemy strength and advised him to work with others as a family. He told him to talk to his men internally and exhaust the revolutionary methods of work and also make use of the committees.

He told the incoming to work with SNA and also create a strong friendship with Somalis because it is a very important tool UPDF uses in order to win the hearts and the minds of the people.

He closed the function by thanking all heads of department for the attendance and asked for continued cooperation in the mission area.



Maj. Bilal Katamba receives the advance party of Uganda Battle group XXXIV on their arrival at Aden Adde International Airport Mogadishu.



Part of BGXXXIV advance party arrives at Aden Adde International Air Port Mogadishu Somalia.

## ATMIS Commended For Pacifying Somalia.

UPDF-BGXXXV serving under African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has been commended for securing Barawe Sector during the recent concluded fasting period of Ramadhan.

The remarks were made by the District Commissioner (DC) Barawe Dr Libar Asukar Osman at the end of the 06 additional days of fasting after Ramadhan (Sitat) in Barawe town about 250km south of the capital Mogadishu.

“During the Ramadhan period, Al-shabab normally intensifies operations by attacking ATMIS forces, Somali National Army (SNA), and the local population, I’m glad that this time you were able to counter them and we had a peaceful fasting period and Idd-el-Fitr celebrations”. Said Dr. Sukar Osman.

He further noted that, despite being newly deployed in the mission area, he is impressed by BGXXXV method of work and their good relationship with the local people of Barawe. He

pledged full support to ATMIS in a bid to pacify Somalia.

According to the Islamic faith, the ATMIS BGXXXV commander Col Bernard Kashemeza congratulated the people of Barawe upon successful completion of the fasting period and Iddi-el-Fitr festival. Iddi-el-Fitr is one of the two festivals marked by Muslim faithful to mark the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadhan.

He said ATMIS is here to ensure peace prevails in Somalia and promote the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

“We cannot sit down and watch as if things are ok yet our brothers in Somalia are suffering, we have to step up and offer the support that is this within our means to ensure peace”. Said Col Kashemeza.

He advised Al-shabab to stop fighting such a destructive war but join hands with government in the development of Somalia.

“We should live in harmony and develop our country Somalia and Africa at large, let’s stop fighting and live in peace “. Kashemeza concluded.

In a related development, a section of residents of Embresso donated a bull to BGXXXV as an appreciation for safeguarding them during the holy month of Ramadhan.

The bull was delivered to BGXXXV Hqs Embresso by the former deputy DC Barawe Mr. Bashir Mohammed Yusuf and SNA commander for Barawe battalion Col. Abdulrahman.

BGXXXV commander Col Bernard Kashemeza flanked by his key staffs received and appreciated the donation.

Embresso is a suburb of Barawe town BGXXXV Hqs is located.

Both occasions were blessed by the local elders.



DC Barawe Dr. Liber Asukar Osman (4th Right) SNA Col. Abdalhamn (3rd left) and Somali elders during Eid celebrations in Barawe.





Former DC Barawe Mr. Bashir Mohamed Yusuf hands over a bull to BGXXXV Comdr Col. Benard Kashemeza in the presence of BGXXXV ATMIS key staffs in Barawe .



Former deputy DC Barawe District Mr Bashir Mohamed Yusuf shake hand with Col. Bernard Kashemeza after donating a bull to BGXXXV ATMIS troops.



# ATMIS & SNP Conducts A Medical Outreach At Jalan In Arabiska

**ARABISKA -  
01<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

Uganda peoples defense forces Battle group XXXIII recce team operating under the African transition in Somalia (ATMIS) together with Somalia national police (SNP) have carried out a one-day medical outreach to the locals of Jalan village 4km from Arabiska forward operating base (FOB) in Afogooye district as part of Civil military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities.

In a way of giving back to the community, ATMIS troop's medical team of battle group XXXIII headed by Lt. Andrew Tumwine and SNP troops treated different kinds of disease which included sexually transmitted diseases, skin fungal infections, worms, dehydration, ear and nose treatment (ENT), peptic ulcers, pregnancy related illness and malaria amongst others.

Lt. Dr. Andrew Tumwine who headed the team categorized activity that;

“Over the 100 patients treated, 35 were female, 28 were men and 37 were children under the age 15 years. The common diseases treated were the sexually transmitted diseases in adults and malaria among the children respectively”.

Dr. Andrew further says that, there are some chronic diseases found on ground like hypertension, diabetes, mental illness among others which could not be manageable at the field level but required a better-established hospital to be managed medically.

Dr. Andrew advised the locals of Jalan and the nearby communities to seek medical attentions before the health situation worsens and to take their lives as a first priority.

The battle group commander of BGXXXIII Col. Ezra Byaruhanga acknowledged the local community who have come for the medical outreach for the continued support

rendered to ATMIS and the Uganda contingent /UPDF in particular.

Col. Byaruhanga noted that Cimic activities is basically giving back to the community, “I take this opportunity to thank you for the love and support you have showed to us that is why we share the little we have because you are a great pillar for our success in this mission, Asantee Saana.” He spoke.

In his conclusive remarks urged the locals to remain vigilant and cooperative with ATMIS troops, SNP, Somali National Army (SNA) and other sister agencies to wipe out Al-shabab out of Somalia.

Mr. Madenah Ahmed Muhammed applauded ATMIS and UPDF at large for the good gesture shown to his community and he requested that such activities should not stop since it was the first of its kind to be conducted in their community.



Lt. Andrew Tumwine a UPDF Medical Staff of BANCROFT Mogadishu taking blood pressure readings from a local elder of Jalan -Arabiska during CIMIC medical outreach





Lt. J. Kageni the In-charge Clinicians level II hospital dispenses drugs to the sick locals of Jalan Aribaska as a Somali National Police Officer translates to the patients during CIMIC medical outreach campaign.



WOII. Tenywa Gadi a UPDF medical staff of Level II hospital Mogadishu giving out deworming tablets to children of Jalan and the neighboring communities during the medical outreach.



# Uganda Battle Group XXXIII Hands Over Two Bore Holes To Afogoye District As Quick Impact Projects

**AFOGOYE - 27TH DEC 2021**

52% of Somalia's population has no access to basic clean water supply and Afogoye district is no exception. This is due to limited regulations of private water supply that causes it to be expensive forcing families to fetch water from far off unsafe open wells.

The constant drought conditions in Somalia Afogoye district in particular have affected millions of people with women and girls continuing to bear the brunt of this crisis.

The few water sources are contaminated and have proved to be a constant threat to the population in Afogoye district and Somalia at large. A few people in the area have access to safe and clean water leaving the majority vulnerable to life threatening water borne diseases.

With the above in mind, on 27 December 2021, the Ugandan contingent under Battle group XXXIII through its quick impact projects contracted a local company AMECO to construct two bore halls in Afogoye town.

While handing over the wells, Battle Group XXXIII Commander Col. Ezra Byaruhanga said that UPDF is a people's army therefore they can not sit back and watch people dying due to lack of safe and clean water. They have to share the little resources they have with neighboring community as part of civil military activities.

The shallow wells were handed over to Mr. Umar who is the deputy District commissioner of Afogoye on behalf of the community who expressed his gratitude to AMISOM and the Battle group commander and said that his appeal made

was so grateful because it was the Somali people who were going to benefit from the safe and clean water.

He also requested for support of IDPs in Afogoye district with food, taplines, tents among others.

AMECO company representative on handover ceremony Mr. Faud was so grateful to AMISOM and UPDF for entrusting AMECO a local company which also through the project, provided job opportunities to the local youth.

In attendance were also Afogoye District police commander, Battle group Civil military officer Maj. Enoch Geoffrey and the SNA commander in Afogoye.



BGXXXIII Commander Col. Ezra Byaruhanga handing over two boreholes to Mr. Mohammad Umar the Deputy district commissioner of Afogoye (in right white kaunda suit) to provide clean water to the Somali community near Fob Aribksa the BGXXXIII hqs



The deputy District Commissioner Mohammad Umar signing a handover document after the boreholes construction Afogoye district.



## THE POWER OF POSITIVITY

By LT COL. JI IGULU



Positivity is a tendency of optimism rooted in self-knowledge and in believe in the Alpha and Omega with that said, Man ought not to worry and wear off self. Man ought to live worriless like birds yet they sow no seed, neither do they store grains for winter, why? Because they believe their God is in control and will cater for their needs. "If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden". By Frances Hodgson Burnet (The Secret Garden). A garden to be made good use of.

Comrades, join me as we share along this common path of life. First and far most, having vigor and successfully completed the Peace Support and Training Centre (PSO-TC) Singo course I must applaud all of you, thank you.

First for the love and commitment of service to your country and beyond.

Secondly I am grateful to say the vile spirit of distilled discipline and commitment for a just cause so far noticeable here in the Peace Keeping Mission, Somalia. Bravo Uganda Military Contingent and Battle Group XXXV in particular.

May Somalia reach her goals of peace and prosperity for all? Amen.

Listen to me my fellow combatants. As we are about to set out home, I know that you are weary and need healings and replenishments. Yet you must hear me out. Never you lose yourselves in insignificances but keep guard at all times. Consider the words of Gen Eric Shinseki; "Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures

don't matter. Don't stress on what was. Fight for what could be".

Always pray and fast often. Prayer is a threat at the entrance of God's reality. Like a shield, they are inevitable in man's life. It's through this that a man attains the light and favor.

You have unlimited potentials. You only limit is your mind through imaginations. Eternally we connect to an infinite universe, and when this realism is kindled, untold heights are attained. When hearkened to positively, man reaches wherever he wants to. It's through bits that great fortune is built over time.

Stop complaining, get to work and get going. One of the worst traits in man is complains, blame games and justification. These are never good for the soul and in the hood too. "You have to train your mind to be stronger than your feelings, or else you'll lose yourself". We must learn to take full responsibility and to accept our flaws as well. These negative traits taken into consideration is a veil which barricades you from dreams and from seeing opportunities.

We ought to learn the art of appreciation and the science of giving and receiving. When you freely give your love and compassion, you can freely obtain the same from others. It's a boomerang effect that relates to the law of attraction, Kharma and adharma.

Love and guard your family with all keen and might, just as in the commitment to the service to our dear country. A family is a divine unit instituted by the Almighty which must be upheld and fed in the direction of hope, love and forgiveness. Bear in mind, there is no readymade person for you. You just have to look the right way, everyone has got their own demons. Practice the power of forgiveness to gain clarity, compassion and godliness. Consider the words. "... to err is human, to forgive is divine". By Pope Alexander VI 1711.

Your attitude, is your crown. Life always

has many things to bring you down for. But what can really bring you down in this case is attitude. Never have you forgotten that it's your attitude towards life that determines life's attitude towards you. When shown remorse, life greets you with gratitude. Always meet the world with a sense of embrace, simplicity and flexibility. Ensure to break kindness, blessings and happiness that you may reap from the same. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade out of it.

Financial management.

Make good use of your money when you still got energy, time and resources. Put your finances into good use. Buy valuables, acquire land, start up a business, acquire stock, educate children, plant corn and gradually embrace tree planting.

Halt strong drinks for now, enjoyment don't finish, multiple affairs will only help take you to your early grave. They are never good for your health, energy and resources. Divert the time and the money to financial seminars, financial books and tapes to help tap into the minds of great businessmen and women.

Positivity is such a sweet path and when hearkened to produces forth untold joy, contentment and enthusiasm rivaling that of a young child.

My people, to achieve such bliss, good health is paramount, go for a little jogging, listen to inspiring music, find time to meditate and to heal from all negativities.

In conclusion, we ought to commit ourselves to always be in a balanced state of mind. Here the highest self-development reaches its greatest possibility.

Always commit to do duty to self, family, at work, to society and the world for the promotion of peace, health and harmony.

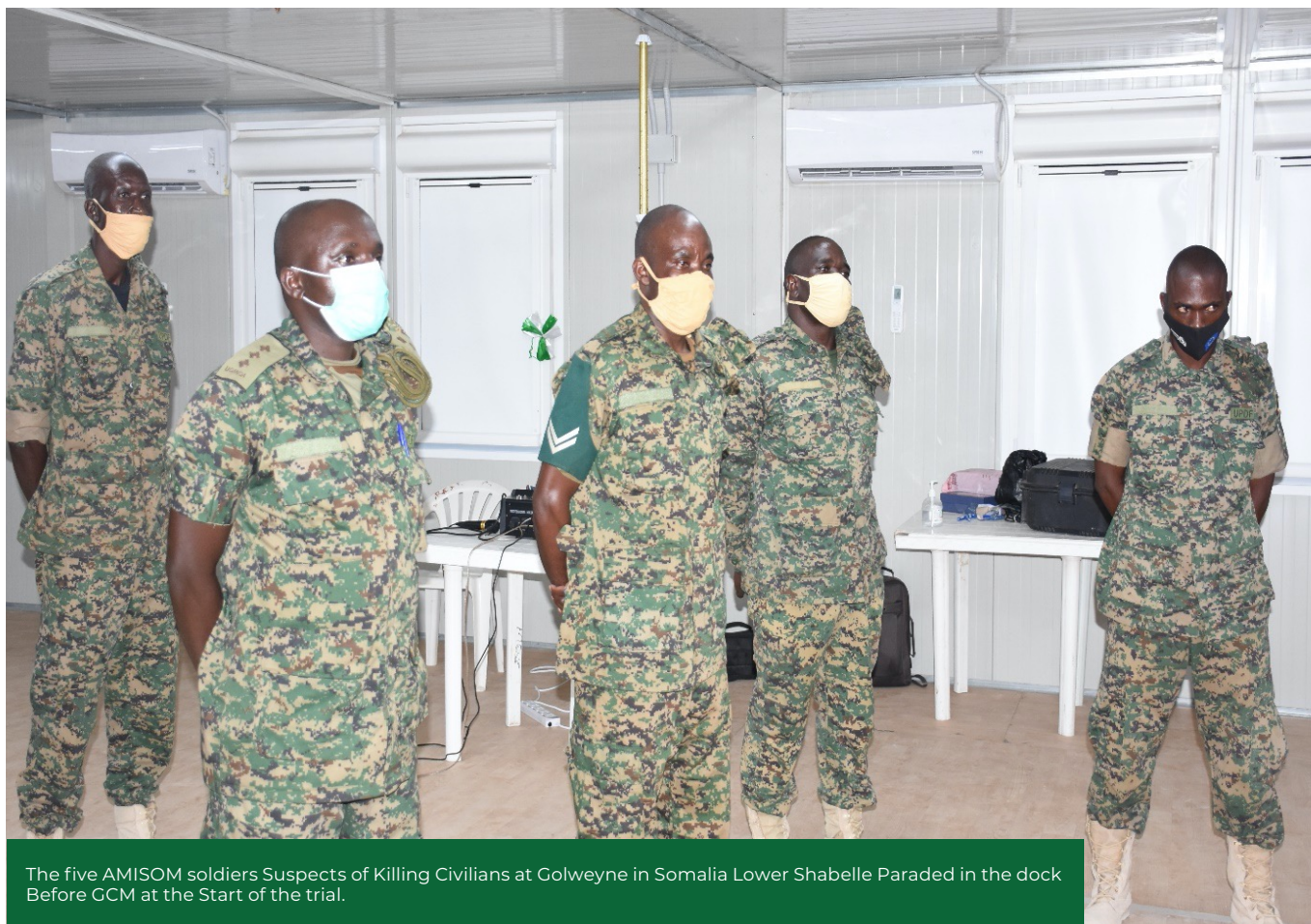
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**The writer is a Twice Uganda Battle Group Commander BGXXXV.**



# Two UPDF Soldiers Sentenced To Death In Somalia

Mogadishu – 13th Nov 2021



The five AMISOM soldiers Suspects of Killing Civilians at Golweyne in Somalia Lower Shabelle Paraded in the dock Before GCM at the Start of the trial.

Two Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) soldiers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have been sentenced to death while three others to 39 years each in jail after being found guilty by the General court martial (GCM) for killing civilians.

GCM sitting in base camp chaired by Lt Gen. Andrew Gutti on the 2nd Nov 2021 found the two officers guilty of intentionally killing civilians near Golweyne in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region in August 2021.

The court heard that on the 10th Aug 21 UPDF forces patrolling the main supply route between Beldamin and Golweyn villages opened fire and killed seven people for being

in possession of fire arms and at the time it is reported that UPDF AMISOM forces were dislodging an impending Al-Shaabab ambush in a farm about 120 kilometers southwest of Mogadishu town.

The court reviewed all the facts including witness statements and found the soldiers guilty of killing the civilians and agreed that despite the victims being in possession of weapons, their killing by the accused was neither warranted legal or necessary since the accused did not have an immediate threat from the victims.

The three weeks period of trial was attended by relatives of the victims from lower Shabelle and

the family lawyer Mr. Muhammed Hassan Muhammed who expressed gratitude to the Republic of Uganda for instituting the GCM and conducting the trials in Somalia said that; "I'm satisfied with the outcome of the trial, the transparency of the honorable Court and the way it conducted itself."

"As soldiers, we have a responsibility to protect lives and property. Our mission in Somalia is to degrade Al-Shaabab and other armed groups. In doing so, we absolutely have every responsibility to protect the civilian population, and this is very clear in our Rules of Engagement," Uganda Peoples Defense Force Contingent and AMISOM Sector 1 Commander, Brig Gen. Don Nabasa said.



AMISOM Force Commander Lt Gen. Diomedee Ndegeya said the AU mission will continue to ensure strict compliance with obligations as they carry on with the task of pursuing and degrading al-Shabab and other armed groups, as well as protecting population centers and securing critical infrastructure and sensitive sites in Somalia.

Francisco Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of AMISOM, deeply regretted the killing of the civilians and extended condolences to the bereaved families for the tragic incident.

Mr. Muhammed Hassan Muhammed the family lawyer who expressed gratitude to the Republic of Uganda for instituting the GCM and conducting the trials in Somalia said that; "I'm satisfied with the outcome of the trial, the transparency of the honorable Court and the way it conducted itself."

The court proceedings had been running since 5th October 2021 at the heavily guarded Halane camp near Mogadishu's main airport, where the United Nation (UN) and Amisom headquarters in Somalia are located.

After the court ruling, the convicts were repatriated back to Uganda to start serving their sentences.



One of the convicts of the civilians killing at Golweyne being handcuffed after the court sentenced him to death.



Chairman General Court Martial Lt Gen. Andrew Gutti reading the court ruling to the convicts at the last session as his deputy Brig.Gen Rubahika looks on



Part of the trial court members in Court room as proceedings of Civilians killing at Golweyne is Conducted



## The Somali Federal Government Has Commended Uganda 9th October 2022

The Somali Government has commended Uganda's President, Yoweri Museveni, for standing with the people of Somalia during their period of need. Through the Somali Minister of Defense, Abdulkadir Muhamed Noor Jamah, the Somali Government congratulated the people of Uganda upon reaching the 60th anniversary of their self-rule. Jamah said there was so much to celebrate, especially on how far Uganda has moved on the path of peace, stability and development.

Presiding as the chief guest at the independence celebrations held at the Ugandan embassy in Mogadishu, Jamah said; "Somalia has partnered Ugandans in Somalia celebrate independence with very many African countries, including Uganda, and it is a good gesture that Uganda is still standing with the people of Somalia."

The deputy head of Uganda's Mission in Somalia, Maj. Gen. (rtd) Nathan Mugisha, in his remarks delivered by the charge d'Affairs

at the embassy, Robert Mugimba, reiterated Uganda's commitment to fortify regional and sub-regional organizations. Ambassador Mugisha said the organizations would serve as hubs for promoting peace, security, economic development, regional integration, good governance, social and humanitarian aspects.

Mugisha said Uganda's position is stirred by Africa's ideals of interdependence, which include, among others, a shared sense of destiny, justice, freedom, security, prosperity, pluralism, hardwork, resilience and peace. He affirmed Uganda's commitment to supporting the Federal Government of Somalia in fighting insurgents.

James Swan, the United Nations Special Representative in Somalia, acknowledged President Museveni for his role in ensuring peace and stability not only through the military sphere, but also through diplomatic means, management and providing leadership in Somalia and the entire region. Swan

specifically pointed out the year 2011, when Museveni spearheaded and brought the Somalia talks to a harmonious conclusion after the expiry of the Transitional Federal Government's term.

Brig. Gen. Keith Katungi, Uganda's military contingent commander in Somalia, took the celebrants through Uganda's history since 1894, when the British declared Uganda a protectorate, through independence to date.

Others present at the function were: the Somali Deputy Minister of Defense, Abdul Fatah Khasim Muhamad; the Chief of Defense Forces of the Somalia National Army, Gen. Yusuf Rageeh Adowa; the African Transition Mission Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Diomede Ndegeya and the director United Nations Support Office in Somalia, Harjit Dhindsa, among other dignitaries. Uganda celebrated independence on October 9 at Kololo ceremonial grounds.



The guest of honor SFG Defence minister Hon. Abdulkadir Muhamed Noor Jamah, the in charge d'affairs at Uganda embassy to Somalia Mr. Robert Mugimba and other dignitaries cut a cake to mark 60yrs of Uganda's independence on 09th October 2022.





SFG Defence minister Hon. Abdulkadir Muhamed Noor Jamah addressing dignitaries during the Uganda independence celebrations marking the 60yrs of independence – 09th October 2022.



Part of the UPDF team entertaining the guests with a traditional Acholi dance known as "Laka Laka dance" during the Uganda independence day celebrations at the Uganda embassy in Somalia on the 9th October 2022.



# Uganda Troops In Somalia Awarded AU Medals

27th Oct 2022  
Mogadishu - Somalia

The African union mission in Somalia (ATMIS) force commander Lt Gen Diomedede Ndegeya has applauded the Uganda military Contingent in Somalia for its role in pacification and stabilization of Somalia. Gen Ndegeya said, Ugandan troops had played a significant role in pacification of Mogadishu city and the areas of lower Shabelle where Uganda troops are deployed.

This was said in the remarks delivered for him by the the ATMIS deputy force commander in charge of operations Maj Gen. Williams Tshume during the medal award ceremony to the Uganda battle groups XXXIII During their conclusion of their tour of duty.

The ATMIS force commander particularly thanked the outgoing forces for securing the presidential and parliamentary elections, Mogadishu city and base camp during their tour of duty. 'We feel proud, and appreciate you for the job well done. You deserve

this Africa union medal, because you have earned it' said the force commander.

The Uganda military Contingent commander Brig Gen Keith Katungi thanked the battle group for what they were able to achieve including acting as a blocking force to deter Al Shabaab from infiltrating Mogadishu city by dominating all entry points to Mogadishu city. He further thanked the battle group for keeping a good civil military relationship with the population where they were deployed as per the UPDF tradition of being pro people.

The outgoing battle group commander

Col Ezra Mwinyi thanked the contingent commander for the unwavering support and continuous guidance during his tour of duty. This, he said, was very key for the success of the battle group.

The incoming battle group XXXVI Commander Col. John Musiitwa thanked his predecessor Col. Ezra Mwinyi Byaruhanga for prioritizing force and equipment protection. He pledged to build from the firm foundation he had laid and promised to emulate him.

Battle group XXXIII, which was 18 strong FOBS occupied areas of Mogadishu city, Albiska, Alboia, Lantabur and Beldogole with 08 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and was also key in providing security to the 12 internally displaced People's camps in the area. Battle group XXXVI will now take over responsibilities in the area.

The battle groups serve a one year tour of duty in the African union supported mission, dubbed the African union transition mission in Somalia (ATMIS). Battle XXXIII rotated in the mission in October 2021.



ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations Maj Gen. Williams Tshume decorates Col. Ezra Mwinyi Byaruhanga during the AU medal and certificate awarding ceremony to the Uganda Battle group XXXIII during their supposition tour of duty on 27th October 2022.





Sector one commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi decorating Maj. Bilal Katamba at the AU Medal and certificate awarding function of BGXXXIII at base camp Mogadishu on 27th October 2022.



Deputy Sector one Commander Col. David Opeero giving a certificate of recognition to WO2 Kansime Grace during the AU medal and certificate awarding ceremony to BG XXXIII.



# PICTORIAL



Sector 1 Commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi and his Deputy Col. David Opeero discussing operation matters while in operation meeting at base camp Mogadishu Somalia.



Uganda Contingent Administrative Officer (CAO) Col. Emmanuel Odongo planting a tree at sector one Hqs base camp marking the world environment day on the 6th June-2022



The Uganda contingent Sergeant major WO1. Sekiyivu Fred during the world environment day at Sector one hqrs base camp Mogadishu.



ATMIS officers and militants at the function before the tree planting kicks off during the world environment day event at sector one base camp mogadishu somalia.



Brig Gen. Keith Katungi Sector one Commander taking a lead in cleaning marine market along other officers and militants under sector one during 41st Tarehe Sita Anniversary on 6th February 2022 in Mogadishu Somalia.





Rocky Van de Clerk of BANCROFT hands over a new washing machine to Lt Col. Ben Nsajju the Commanding Officer of level ii hospital.



Chairman of UPDF General Court Martial (GCM) Lt Gen. Andrew Gutti shares a moment with the Somali lawyers during the trial of the suspects of the Golweyn killing incident at Base Camp Mogadishu on 5th November 2021.



The locals of marine market support AMISOM/ UPDF officers and militants under sector one marking the 41st Tarehe Sita Anniversary on 6th February 2022 in Mogadishu Somalia.



Brig Gen. Keith Katungi Sector one Commander in camouflage uniform briefing the head of security at Mission headquarters Mr. Lawrence Makaanya (in a checked shirt) at election venue in Mogadishu Somalia during the Presidential elections.



Deputy Special Representative of the Chairman African Union (D/SRCC) Dr. Fiona Lortan inspecting guard of honor on world woman's day as on 8th march 2022 at force headquarters in Mogadishu Somalia.



BG XXXIV Comdr Col.David M Byaruhanga (in the middle) showing commanding officer of the Combined Mobile Force (CMF) Lt Col. Kayemba and SNA, Comdr (in civilian) the objective while in operation Bariire.





Force Commander Lt Gen. Diomedes Ndegeya the sector one commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi interacting during the handover and takeover ceremony between the outgoing BG XXXII commander and incoming commander BG XXXV at sector one contingent Hqs base camp Mogadishu.



SGT. MUJUNI JOSEPH WHO SHOOT A SUSPECTED ALSHABAB DRONE HOVERING IN SECTOR I HQS AIR SPACE ON 15TH MAY 2022.



D/CONTICO COL. DAVID OPEERO GETTING HIS COVID 19 BOOSTER DOSE AT BASE CAMP SECTOR I HQS ON 22ND JAN 2022.



ATMIS CAO of Sector one Uganda contingent Col.Charles Odongo having Covid 19 booster Dose



The UPDF ATMIS soldier Muas Drone Operator explaining to the Guest of Honor (2nd from right) Deputy Sector one commander Col. David Opeero on how the machine operates before their pass out in base camp on the 25th Feb 2022.



D/SRCC Dr. Foina Lortan (seated between a man putting on a black cap and a brown woman) with other females and men on Women's day of 2022 in Mogadishu Somalia.





Group photo of participants and facilitators at the closure of one week orientation course of Joint Operations Center (JOC) held at IC camp Base camp Mogadishu Somalia.



H.E The President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guellen with H.E Sheik Hassan Mohamud the President elect of FGS at his Inauguration Ceremony in Somalia Mogadishu.



The president elect and the outgoing with the prime minister of Ethiopia in the middle at the inauguration ceremony in Mogadishu Somalia.



The heads of state at the inauguration ceremony of the president of FGS H.E Sheik Hassan Mohamud on 5th June 2022.





From (Right – Left) ATMIS Force commander Lt Gen. Diomedede Ndegeya, CDF of SNA Gen Yusuf Rageeh Adowa, FGS Defence minister Hon. Abdulkadir Muhamed Noor Jamah, Mr. Robert Mugimba and the UN Special Representative in Somalia H.E James Swan.



H.E James Swan the United Nations Special Representative in Somalia remarks on Uganda's 60yrs of independence at a function organized by the Uganda embassy in Somalia.



The in charge d'affairs at the Ugandan embassy in Somalia Mr. Robert Mugimba taking through the guests on the brief history of Uganda's independence during the function held at the Uganda embassy marking the 60yrs of independence.



ATMIS Force commander Lt Gen Diomedede Ndegeya giving his remarks to the celebrants of Uganda's independence marking 60yrs of Uganda's liberation at a function organized by Uganda embassy on 09 October 2022.



Some of the invited guests at the function of Uganda's independence celebrations held at the Ugandan embassy compound base camp Mogadishu Somalia.





Sector one commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi giving an AU certificate of recognition to Capt. Milliet Tugabirwe during the certificate and medal awarding function at sector one Hqs base camp Mogadishu.



ATMIS deputy force commander in charge of operations Maj Gen. Williams Tshume giving an AU certificate to Col. Mwigia CB Nelson during the medal and certificate awarding ceremony.



ATMIS deputy force commander in charge of operations Maj Gen. Williams Tshume giving an AU certificate to Capt. Kiwanuka Jane Kiwanuka during the medal awarding ceremony.



ATMIS deputy force commander in charge of Operations Maj Gen. Williams Tshume giving an AU certificate to Lt Col. Musenene Justus Kambale during the medal and certificate awarding ceremony.



ATMIS Commander BG XXXIII Col. Ezra Mwinyi Byaruhanga hands over office instruments to Col. John Musitwa the incoming ATMIS battle group commander BG XXXVI in presence of sector one commander Brig Gen. Keith Katungi.



Lt Col. Godfrey Isingoma (Left) hands over the responsibilities of ATMIS engineering component to Lt Col. Isabirye Sale (Right) presided over by Deputy Sector one Commander Col. David Opeero on 21st October 2022.





Lt Col. FK Byaruhanga Asset commander Amour BGXXXIII hands over to the incoming Lt Col. Felix Ayena presided over by Deputy Sector one Commander Col. David Opeero on 25th October 2022.



Lt Col. Justus Musenene Commanding officer 115bn BGXXXIII hands over to the incoming Commanding officer Lt Col. SM Kashagama of BGXXXVI in presence of BGXXXIII Commander Col. Ezra Byaruhanga on 25th October 2022.



Lt Col. Eliasson Kugumisiriza (left) the outgoing ATMIS Marine Component commander BGXXXIII handover the component responsibility to Maj. Mathew B Achiga (Right) the incoming BGXXXVI in presence of Deputy Sector one commander Col. David Opeero.





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## ABOUT US

DEEQA Construction & Water Well Drilling Co.Ltd (DEEQA) was established in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1979. Its operational Head Office is located within the African Union-ATMIS controlled territory, Aden Adde International Airport(AAIA). The company is based in Mogadishu operating throughout Somalia. Consequent of growth in workforce, the scope of operations and client projects, we now have operational SCM Support offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dubai, U.A.E. These support offices forms part of our strategic Supply Chain solution for keeping in pace with customer demands and outperforming competitors.

## What we do?

- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Water Well Drilling
- ✓ Facilities Maintenance
- ✓ Supply Chain
- ✓ Solar Systems
- ✓ Water Desalination
- ✓ Scrap Metal Recycling
- ✓ Geophysical consulting



### ELECTRICAL & SOLAR

DEEQA offers quality, safe, innovative, and flexible electrical and Solar services. The goal is realized by ensuring commitment to the implementation of supporting technical, managerial and business operational system and by offering high quality installation and maintenance



### CONSTRUCTION

Deeqa offers integrated and comprehensive construction solutions in Somalia. For four decades the company has offered satisfactory results to its customers. Deeqa's approach begins with pre-construction.

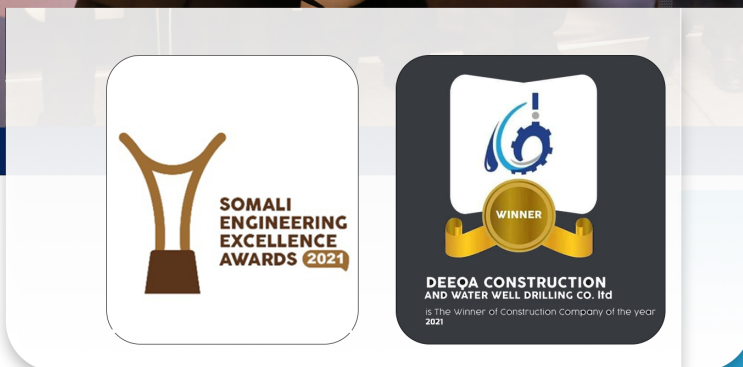


### SUPPLY SERVICES

DEEQA offers a wide array of supply services and solutions that are keenly tailored to meet our clients specific needs and demands. We pride ourselves in providing superior customer service to our customer .







The Somali engineering excellence Awards is an annual award ceremony honoring the Somali's top engineering companies, startups and individuals, inspires Somali engineering success stories and recognizes inspirational role from the engineering field. Somali Engineering Excellence Awards will provide a showcase and celebration of the most innovative design engineers in the Somalia. Hundreds of engineers, firms and individuals were recognized this year. This award recognizes engineering achievements demonstrating a high degree of client satisfaction through quality, cost-effective solutions. And Increases public knowledge and enhances the image of engineers. During the inaugural event Deeqa Construction & Water Well Drilling Co Ltd was feted The Construction Company of the Year Award 2021 an award that shows our values, experience, achievements and strength throughout the years.

### Our VISION

We aspire to be recognized as a Contractor of choice in Somalia and Africa, by maintaining the highest level of professionalism, integrity, honesty, and fairness in our relationship with our clients, suppliers, subcontractors, and partners

### DEEQA CSR Activities

DEEQA Sponsor Iman Primary & Secondary School for the provision of free education to over 1,000 Somali Girls and Seco Dary School with over a 1,000 pupils both Boys and Girls



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