



ATMIS

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Message from the SRCC and Head of ATMIS

I am grateful for the continued support of all partners and stakeholders. ATMIS continues to make significant progress and achieve milestones in our mandate to support the government and people of Somalia in ensuring a secure, stable, and progressive nation.

This progress would not have been possible without your collective and individual efforts and the close collaboration of our partners.

ATMIS handed over Six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to the Somali Security Forces and reduced its troop numbers in Somalia by 2,000 as part of the UN and African Union-approved phased approach to the phase three drawdown. The FOBs included Bariire, Jowhar Town, Ceel Eglow, Abdalla Birolle, Orahsan and Kuday, marking a significant step toward transferring full security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces by end of December 2024.

ATMIS commends the commitment, wisdom, and achievements of the former distinguished Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, who left the mission to serve as the Deputy Chief of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF).

I'd like to welcome the new ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, who officially assumed his duties in July. Lt. Gen. Kavuma

brings a wealth of experience to the mission, having served in various capacities in an illustrious military career, including as the commander of Ugandan troops under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

I also welcome the communiqué of the 1225th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the adoption of the Concept of Operations (CONOPs) for the new AU-led Mission in Somalia, the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), the successor mission to ATMIS. Notably, the adoption of the CONOPs will facilitate a smooth transition, build capacity for Somali security forces, and ensure robust force protection measures.

We continue to implement policing activities as part of our mandate. In the area of capacity building, I'm pleased to inform you that we have conducted training programmes such as community policing, child protection, station management, fingerprint techniques and training of trainers (ToT). Our police officers continue to co-locate with their Somali counterparts as part of ongoing mentorship duties.

ATMIS Formed Police Units (FPUs) have been supporting their Somali counterparts in conducting day and night patrols in Mogadishu and the federal state capitals of Kismayo and Baidoa. Additionally, our FPUs also provide VIP escorts, guard and other special duties within our police mandate.

Furthermore, in preparation for the new mission, a joint AU-UN delegation visited Somalia in September and held extensive and productive discussions with

representatives from the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and international partners on the transition and financing of the mission to succeed ATMIS. The discussions focused on preparing a comprehensive report on the overall mission design and financing options for the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2748 (2024).

Also, in October, alongside the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General (ASRSG) for Somalia, James Swan, I briefed the UN Security Council on the security situation in Somalia, status of the transition and preparations for the follow-on mission to ATMIS.

Within our broader responsibility of supporting the local population, ATMIS has implemented several Quick Impact Projects (QUIPs). These projects have been instrumental in improving the livelihood of the population living next to our camps. Some of the projects implemented in the last few months include the recently launched solar-powered water projects in Kismayo and Baidoa by ATMIS Police component in support of the Somali Police Force with funding from the Government of Kazakhstan.

ATMIS will continue to collaborate with the Federal Government and other partners to protect the gains made in restoring peace and stability in Somalia.

Thank you.

Amb. Mohamed El-Amine Souef

The African Union Special Representative for Somalia

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS

APRIL



15 April 2024 – Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef met with Swedish Ambassador to Somalia Joachim Waern. They discussed the ATMIS Phase Three drawdown and the security and political situation in Somalia.



16 April 2024 – Ambassador Souef with the Danish Ambassador to Somalia, Steen Sonne Andersen at the Mission Headquarters.



19 April 2024 – Ambassador Souef met with the UK Deputy Ambassador to Somalia, Sam Thomas.



22 April 2024 – Representatives from ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and ATMIS senior leadership met to discuss the Phase Three troop drawdown and post-ATMIS security arrangements.



24 April 2024 – Ambassador Souef met with Swiss Ambassador to Somalia, Valentin Zellweger, to discuss the ATMIS mandate, Phase Three of the ATMIS troop drawdown, and post-ATMIS security arrangements.

MAY



02 May 2024 – Ambassador Souef hosted a farewell dinner for outgoing UN Secretary-General's Special Representative to Somalia, Catriona Laing at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu.



12 May 2024 – Senior Djibouti military officers, led by Col. Abourahman Abdi Dembil, met with ATMIS leadership to discuss the troop drawdown.



15 May 2024 – The Deputy President of Hirshabelle State, Yussuf Ahmed Hagar, and local administration officials hosted Ambassador Souef during his visit to Beletweyne, where he also met with ATMIS commanders led by Djibouti contingent commander, Col. Said Waberi.



21 May 2024 – Russian Ambassador to Djibouti and Somalia, Mikhail Golovanov met with Ambassador Souef at the Mission Headquarters. They discussed Somalia's security, ATMIS drawdown, post-ATMIS security arrangements, and the deliberations from the National Consultative Council (NCC) forum.



30 May 2024 – Acting UN Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan met with Ambassador Souef. They discussed ATMIS transition process and AU-UN partnership in support of Somalia's state-building and peace-building efforts.



31 May 2024 – Ahead of the handover of Ceel Jaale Forward Operating Base in Lower Shabelle, Ambassador Souef visited to assess the security situation and operational readiness of ATMIS troops.

JUNE



2 June 2024 – Ambassador Souef hosted a welcome dinner for the newly appointed Acting UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan.



12 June 2024 – Ambassador Souef and ATMIS Deputy Head, Siyuvile Bam, met with British Ambassador to Somalia Michael Nithavrianakis to discuss security and political developments in Somalia.



13 June 2024 – Ambassador Souef visited Xawaadley and Horseed Forward Operating Bases in Hirshabelle State to assess the operational readiness and welfare of ATMIS troops.



13 June 2024 – During a visit to Jowhar, Ambassador Souef met with Hirshabelle State President Gudlawe Hussein, local administration officials, and representatives from civil society and youth groups. They discussed the Phase Three ATMIS drawdown, post-ATMIS security plans, stabilization, humanitarian support, and the role of youth in peacebuilding.



16 June 2024 – Ambassador Souef joined ATMIS Muslim peacekeepers and the global community for Eid al-Adha prayers at the Mosque in Force Headquarters. He praised the peacekeepers for their tireless service and sacrifices for Somalia's peace and stability.



20 June 2024 – German Ambassador to Kenya and Somalia, Sebastian Groth met with Ambassador Souef at the Mission Headquarters.



21 June 2024 – Ambassador Souef welcomed newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Richard H. Riley at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu.



24 June 2024 – In an address to the UN Security Council, Ambassador Souef briefed members on Somalia's security situation and the progress of security transfers from ATMIS to Somali Security Forces.

JULY



29 July 2024 – Kenya Ambassador to Somalia, Cyprian Kubai Iringo, hosted Ambassador Souef at the Kenya Embassy in Somalia.



29 July 2024 – Ambassador Souef met with WFP Deputy Executive Director, Carl Skau, to discuss humanitarian operations during the ATMIS drawdown and transition to the post-ATMIS mission.



30 July 2024 – Shortly after arriving in Somalia to assume command, the new ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, met with Ambassador Souef.



30 July 2024 – New UNHCR Representative, Charles Mbilla, met with ATMIS leadership. Ambassador Souef reaffirmed ATMIS's commitment to supporting humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations.

AUGUST



05 August 2024 – Ambassador Souef, accompanied by ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma and Sector One Commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony Lukwago Mbuusi, visited Baraawe Forward Operating Base in Lower Shabelle to assess troop welfare and preparedness.



07 August 2024 – Ambassador Souef and ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, visited ATMIS personnel receiving specialized treatment at hospitals in Nairobi.



12 August 2024 – UN Security Council Affairs Division delegation led by Sana Khan, met with Ambassador Souef to discuss improving Somalia's arms and ammunition management through enhanced ATMIS-SNA cooperation.



13 August 2024 – Ambassador Souef and ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Samuel Kavuma visited Sector 5 Headquarters in Jowhar and Mahaday Forward Operating Base.



19 August 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, along with ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, visited Sector 3 Headquarters in Baidoa and the Diinsoor Forward Operating Base (FOB) to assess troop readiness and welfare.



20 August 2024 – UN Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management, AnneMarie van den Berg, met with ATMIS senior leadership at the Mission Headquarters.



21 August 2024 – Somalia's Ambassador to the EU, Khadija Osoble Ali called on Ambassador Souef at the Mission Headquarters.

SEPTEMBER



08 September 2024 – Ambassador Souef met with UN Director of Field Operations Kelvin Ong to discuss ATMIS's mandate and Somalia's transition process. The meeting was attended by UNSOS Head Aisa Kacyira and UNSOS Director Quratul-Ain Sadozai.



25 September 2024 – Ambassador Souef paid condolences to the family of prominent traditional leader, Ugaas Cabdullaahi Ugaas Xaashi Ugaas Faracadda and praised his contributions to community peace and reconciliation. Senior Federal Government of Somalia officials and family members were at the gathering.

OCTOBER



3 October 2024 – Ambassador Souef briefed the UN Security Council on Somalia. With him is the Deputy Head of ATMIS, Siyuwile Bam.



5 October 2024 – The Director of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Secretariat, Brig. Paul Kahuria Njema, met with Ambassador Souef at Mission Headquarters to discuss Somalia's security developments and ATMIS-EASF cooperation.



18 October 2024 – UN Under-Secretary-General, Rosemary Di Carlo and UN Envoy to Somalia, James Swan, met with Ambassador Souef at the Mission Headquarters to discuss Somalia's political developments and the post-ATMIS security arrangements.



23 October 2024 – Ambassador Souef, ATMIS Deputy Head of Mission, Siyuville Bam and Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma meet with UN Under-Secretary-General, Atul Khare and Head of UNSOS, Aisa Kacyira at the Mission Headquarters to discuss ATMIS-UNSOS cooperation, drawdown operations, and preparations for the follow-on mission.



24 October 2024 – Ambassador Souef attended the second AU-UN Special Representatives' retreat in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, focusing on strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

Donations for Eid

On 8 April, ATMIS donated assorted food items to vulnerable families and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living near the ATMIS Al-Jazeera II base in Mogadishu.



ATMIS officials in a group photo with members of the local community living near Al-Jazeera base.

peace and stability in the country.

“ATMIS will continue to support Somalia to combat Al-Shabaab, restore peace and stability, and provide services so that the Somali people can coexist in harmony and celebrate Eid in a peaceful environment,” he added.

According to ATMIS Senior Humanitarian Officer Abdul Diabagate, in addition to security, ATMIS also provides relief to communities to alleviate human suffering.

“ATMIS supports local communities by providing relief items, water, security escorts to the local community and humanitarian agencies assisting vulnerable communities in south-central Somalia,” said Mr. Diabagate.

To celebrate Eid-UI-Fitr, 30 families received rice, wheat flour, sugar, powdered milk, and spaghetti.

“It’s in the spirit of solidarity that ATMIS staff made individual monetary contributions to support the most vulnerable people, particularly IDPs whose livelihoods have been disrupted,” said Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka, the acting ATMIS Force Commander.

Khadija Ali, a community representative, thanked ATMIS for their support.

Maj. Gen Ngendabanka reaffirmed ATMIS’ commitment to assisting the Federal Government of Somalia in battling Al-Shabaab and ensuring

“This is a good gesture. Ramadan calls for charity. We are grateful that ATMIS remembers us in times of our need,” said Khadija.



ATMIS Provides Eid Support to Vulnerable Families

Celebrating Former Force Commander Lt. Gen. Okiding

At the beginning of April, ATMIS honoured outgoing Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding for his exemplary leadership and steering the mission to success during his tenure.

Lt. Gen. Okiding left ATMIS to become Uganda's Deputy Chief of Defence Forces.

At a farewell event held at the ATMIS Force Headquarters, the deputy Head of ATMIS, Siyuvile Bam, commended Lt. Gen. Okiding for his stewardship of the multinational African peace support operation.

"Uganda has gained from our loss. As you return to Kampala, we look forward to working with you wherever you are. And we promise to continue with your legacy and do the work expected of us," said Mr. Bam in his farewell remarks.

Senior ATMIS military officers led by the Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka and his counterpart in charge of Support and Logistics, Maj. Gen. Peter Muteti attended the event.

Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka praised Lt. Gen. Okiding for leading the ATMIS military component in implementing its mandate. This was amidst a troop reduction exercise and gradual transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces.

"We appreciate how he commanded the military,



Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding (2nd right) cuts a cake during a farewell dinner organised in his honour at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters.

his leadership. He promoted teamwork among Staff Officers at Force Headquarters and across all sectors," said Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka.



ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka (left) receives a handover report from outgoing Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding.

Lt. Gen. Okiding expressed confidence in the ATMIS military's ability to successfully implement the mission's mandate during the transition phase. He pledged that ATMIS would continue to benefit from his support as Uganda's Deputy Chief of Defence Forces.

"My voice will now be heard about the Somalia operations. We will fight for this operation especially in the area of force enablers where we are still lagging behind. And as we continue to draw down, and the force shrinks, we need alternatives. I will be in a better position to advocate for our operations," said Lt. Gen. Okiding.

Lt. Gen. Okiding took the helm of the ATMIS military in May 2023. He presided over the successful hand over of 13 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces during the first and second phases of ATMIS drawdown concluded in June and December 2023.

Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka took over interim responsibilities of the ATMIS military component ahead of the substantive Force Commander's arrival.

ATMIS Sierra Leone Contingent Celebrate Independence Day

On 27 April, ATMIS commended Sierra Leone for its valuable contribution to peace efforts in Somalia and Africa.



ATMIS and UN officials cut a cake during Sierra Leone's 63rd independence anniversary celebrations.

The commendations were made during the country's 63rd Independence Day celebrations in Mogadishu. Sierra Leone attained independence from Britain on 27 April 1961.

The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef, acknowledged Sierra Leoneans' selfless commitment to Somalia's peacebuilding process.

"I thank the contingent of Sierra Leone in the mission, for its engagement and commitment to peace and security in Somalia," said Ambassador Souef at the event attended by Sierra Leonean peacekeepers and compatriots working in Somalia with other agencies.

He described Sierra Leone as a country full of hope and resilience. He noted that after overcoming a brutal civil war and a deadly Ebola epidemic, Sierra Leone has become a key player in international peacekeeping.

"The Sierra Leone contingent has played a crucial role in maintaining peace and security on the African continent," noted Ambassador

Souef.

The Head of the AU Peace Support Operations Division, Gen. Cheick Dembele, who also graced the occasion, praised Sierra Leoneans for their tenacity and positive attitude despite the country's challenges.

ATMIS Chief Logistics Officer, Col. Jean Bosco Sibondavyi, hailed Sierra Leone for its support and peace initiatives in Africa. He also highlighted the country's sacrifices in promoting peace and stability in Somalia.

"On this special day and on behalf of the ATMIS military component I extend best wishes to Sierra Leoneans serving with ATMIS on their 63rd independence anniversary. I also wish them to chart a path towards greater peace, security and prosperity," said Col. Sibondavyi who represented the Acting Force Commander.

The Deputy ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Martin Amoru, highlighted Sierra Leone's pan-African spirit and urged others to emulate the West African country.

"I recognise your dedicated work to the Somali peace process," noted CP Amoru.

Other speakers including top UN representatives recognised the diligent work and dedication of Sierra Leoneans serving in Somalia across different organisations and missions.

Sierra Leone is a Police Contributing Country (PCC) to ATMIS and has a contingent of Formed Police Unit personnel in Somalia.



UN Special Representative for Somalia, Catriona Laing, Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef and UNSOS Director Qurat ul-Ain Sadozai attended Sierra Leone's 63rd independence anniversary celebrations.

ATMIS and Somali Medics complete Battlefield Emergency Care Training

On 16 May, medical officers from ATMIS, the Somali Security Forces (SSF) and the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), completed a three-day training programme on providing emergency care to battlefield casualties.



ATMIS, Somali military and police medics in a practical session during the training on pre-hospital trauma life support.

The training, organised by UNSOS and facilitated by instructors from the Nairobi-based Kenya Red Cross Training Institute, aimed to enhance ATMIS and SSF medical personnel's capacity to provide robust pre-hospital medical support during joint military operations.

"This training is critical in reducing the risk of losing our brave soldiers due to improper management of injuries sustained on the frontline," said the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef.

Ambassador Souef further emphasised that the training would not only improve emergency treatment for soldiers but also benefit local communities.

"The skills and knowledge gained during this training will enable our medical personnel to provide critical assistance to civilians. This will strengthen the bond between security forces and communities," noted Ambassador Souef.

The Head of UNSOS, Assistant Secretary-General, Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, said the training was an important contribution to ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and capabilities of SSF and ATMIS personnel in order to facilitate a smooth and sustainable transfer of security responsibilities.

"Capacity building is one of the key cornerstones of ensuring a successful security transition from the African Union mission to the Somali Security Forces. By equipping our medical personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge, we are not only supporting the safety and well-being of our troops but also contributing to the broader goal of enabling Somalia to take its rightful position in maintaining peace and stability within its borders," said Kacyira.

The 53 participants expressed their gratitude

and pledged to share the acquired knowledge with their counterparts.

"We have acquired critical skills that will save lives on the battlefield," said Chief Adjutant Melchiade Marisasi, an anaesthesiologist from the ATMIS Burundi contingent based in Jowhar.

Osman Abdi Osman, a medic from the Somali National Army (SNA) Hospital in Mogadishu, pledged to apply his newly acquired skills to save more military and civilian lives.

"This training is timely and enhances our skills. It will leave a lasting impact on our clinical practice and patient care," said Dr. Capt. Patrick Otim from ATMIS Level II Hospital in Mogadishu.

The comprehensive course covered essential topics such as Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Basic Life Support (BLS), and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), equipping participants with a wide range of skills to effectively manage medical emergencies in both military and civilian settings.



ATMIS Military medical officer receives a certificate at the end of the training.

Somali and ATMIS personnel take on IED threats



ATMIS, SNA and UNMAS officials in a group photo

At least 80 officers from ATMIS and the Somali Security Forces (SSF) in May completed a three-day training on countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) used by armed opposition groups, including Al-Shabaab.

The training, facilitated by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the United Kingdom Mission Support Team (UK-MST), aimed to enhance SSF operational efficiency in dealing with IED risks in the Federal Member States.

The programme covered various aspects of IED detection, disposal, and post-blast investigation techniques.

“This training was pivotal in the actualisation of the ATMIS mandate to degrade Al-Shabaab in support of the Somali-led peace and security process,” said ATMIS military Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Kindu Gezu.

Brig. Gen. Gezu stressed the importance of continued vigilance in countering IED threats, which are Al-Shabaab’s primary weapon of choice.

UNMAS Chief Justin Smith highlighted the successful collaboration between ATMIS, SSF, and UNMAS over the years. This has allowed troops to detect and neutralise a lot of IEDs planted by Al-Shabaab militants.

ATMIS counter-IED teams have discovered and safely detonated 439 devices since 2017, preventing 1,756 potential casualties.

“In 2023 alone, ATMIS Search and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams found and cleared 74 percent of devices assessed as targeting ATMIS troops, preventing 150 potential ATMIS

casualties,” said Justin.

ATMIS military Chief Engineer, Col. Suleiman Ibrahim, urged partners to effectively tackle the IED menace to reduce threats to livelihoods, infrastructure, and humanitarian efforts.

“Effective counter-IED efforts require ingenuity, adaptability, and the application of basic tenets. The fight against the IED menace is not easy and requires concerted efforts by all stakeholders,” Col. Suleiman observed.

Somalia National Army’s Chief Engineer, Col. Adan Abdullahi Ali, thanked ATMIS, UNMAS, and UK-MST for providing relevant skills and equipment to Somali soldiers to maintain peace and stability.

During the training, participants discussed Somalia’s IED threats, the Somali National Army’s threat assessment, and ongoing counter-IED operations.

UNMAS and ATMIS work jointly to improve the capacity of SSF personnel by equipping them with skills and facilities to detect and destroy IEDs that pose a threat to civilian safety.



Participants at the training

SPF detectives train on Fingerprint Analysis

On 23 May, Somali Police Force (SPF) detectives in Hirshabelle State completed a five-day intensive training on fingerprint investigation and evidence gathering.



ATMIS Police trainers and Somali Police Force personnel

ATMIS Police personnel conducted the training to equip Somali police officers with the skills and knowledge to investigate and handle complex crimes.

The detectives were instructed in topics such as collecting fingerprints at crime scenes, analysing fingerprints and matching them with databases,

crucial to identifying and arresting suspects.

Lt. Ahmed Abdulle Madoobe, deputy commander of Jowhar airfield police station thanked ATMIS for organising the training. He noted that the training would enable the SPF to conduct thorough and professional investigations.

The ATMIS Police lead trainer in Jowhar, ASP Earnest Agbo, emphasised that the training would enhance police investigative skills using modern scientific methods.

“We are happy to have imparted law enforcement skills to our Somali counterparts. This will help them identify suspects, solve crimes, and support Somalia’s quest for peace and stability,” said ASP Agbo at the end of the training.

Abdullahi Mohamed Osman, a participant in the training, thanked ATMIS and called for more capacity building initiatives to assist the Somali Police Force.

ATMIS has conducted similar capacity building trainings for the Somali Police Force in federal member states of Southwest, Jubaland State and Benadir.



ATMIS Police facilitators with Somali Police Force (SPF) during practical sessions.

Combating terrorism financing

At the end of May, ATMIS Police trained criminal investigation officers from Hirshabelle State Police on how to detect and combat financial crimes.



ATMIS Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Christopher Aria presents a certificate to a Hirshabelle State Police officer at the end of the training.

The training covered theoretical and practical aspects of financial intelligence, money laundering detection, investigating corruption and fraud, and understanding investigative methods.

“With the ever-growing incidents of financial crimes and terrorism financing in Africa and globally, ATMIS recognises the need to build our Somali police counterparts’ capacity to respond to these threats,” said ASP Ernest Agbo, the ATMIS Police lead trainer in Jowhar.

According to ASP Agbo, the Somali police personnel who participated in the training, were now well-prepared to detect and stop illegal financial dealings and fight terrorism financing.

The Hirshabelle State police traffic commander Col. Hassan Daud thanked ATMIS for its continued support and mentorship of the Somali Police Force. He requested further training sessions from ATMIS.

“I want to express my gratitude to ATMIS for the capacity building training they offered to the Hirshabelle State Police. I urge the officers to make efficient use of the skills they have acquired and request ATMIS to conduct more training and mentorship programmes for us,” said Col. Hassan at the end of the training.



A Hirshabelle State police officer (right) receives a certificate at the end of the training.

AU, UN promote environment conservation in Somalia

At the commemoration of World Environment Day in Somalia on 5 June, ATMIS and the UN pledged to promote sustainable environmental conservation to combat climate change and its effects on the country.



Acting ATMIS Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka plants a tree during an event to mark World Environment Day in Mogadishu.

The ATMIS deputy Head of Mission, Siyuville Bam, the deputy Head of the UN Assistance Mission, Raisedon Zenenga, and the Director of UNSOS, Qurat Ul-Ain Sadozai, led an event to mark the day in Mogadishu.

In his address, Mr. Bam emphasised the importance of protecting the environment in Somalia as ATMIS prepares to leave the country.

“As we handover key locations to the Federal Government of Somalia and drawdown, we must continue to initiate environmental restoration efforts in our Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and communities,” he said.

ATMIS pledged to plant 30,000 trees at 58 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) by 2024 in support of President Hassan Sheikh Mahamud’s “Regreening Somalia” initiative, which aims to plant 10 million trees to enhance the country’s climate resilience and combat droughts.

Mr. Zenenga, the UN deputy special representative commended Somalia’s commitment to conservation through the African Union-led Great Green Wall Initiative, which aims to increase arable land in the Sahel.

“The successful community-led initiatives in Somalia, such as participation in the Great Green Wall Initiative to address desertification, climate change, and biodiversity loss are evidence of the commitment to preserving the environment,” he noted.

He reiterated ATMIS and the UN’s commitment to continue supporting Somalia in developing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

As part of the commemoration, UNSOS donated fruit seedlings to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for forest regeneration programmes.

“We mark this occasion by donating fruit tree seedlings to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for planting to contribute to reforestation efforts in Somalia,” said UNSOS Director,

Ms. Qurat.

The day’s events included a beach clean-up, tree planting and a tour of a wastewater management plant in Mogadishu.

Similar events were organised by ATMIS and the UN in Jowhar (Hirshabelle State) and Baidoa (South West State).

Designated by the UN General Assembly in 1972, World Environment Day is celebrated every 5th June to raise awareness about the environment and inspire solutions to pressing challenges. This year’s celebration focuses on the theme ‘land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.’



ATMIS Deputy Head of Mission, Siyuville Bam plants a tree during an event organised by ATMIS and the UN to mark World Environment Day.

ATMIS secures national examination materials

On 21 June, just days before the weeklong National High School Examinations were scheduled to begin, ATMIS airlifted vital examination materials to more than 21 locations in south-central Somalia.



The timely operation ensured that all eligible candidates in Somalia, even in hard-to-reach areas, fully participated in the national exams.

The airlift of examinations by ATMIS followed a request from Somalia's federal Ministry of Education.

The ATMIS Uganda and Burundi utility helicopters transported the exam materials from Mogadishu to the federal member states of Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland – as well as the Banadir region.

The African Union Special Representative for Somalia and Head of ATMIS Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef emphasised ATMIS' multifaceted role.

“While our primary mandate is maintaining security, we acknowledge that true peace and stability are built on education and human development. This support ensures that approximately 37,200 students

across Somalia have equal access to education, regardless of their location. They will be prepared for future challenges and opportunities,” said Ambassador Souef.



ATMIS Police launch water projects in Federal Member States

In August, ATMIS Police Commissioner toured Jubaland, South West and Hirshabelle states to launch water projects to benefit Somali Police officers and local communities.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, Hillary Sao Kanu, lays the foundation stone for a solar-powered water project at Jowhar Airport Police Station

Police Commissioner of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Hillary Sao Kanu toured Jubaland, South West and Hirshabelle states in August to launch water projects for police officers and local communities.

AIGP Kanu's tour began with key visits to Jubaland Police Headquarters in Kismayo and Baidoa, South West's administrative capital, where she launched the solar-powered water project at Bakiin Police Post.

"The construction of these boreholes will meet the water needs of the Somali Police Force (SPF) and the local community. The project aims to create a healthy environment for the SPF to efficiently perform their duties," AIGP Kanu said in Baidoa.

She stressed that the projects are crucial for strengthening police-community partnerships, critical in the peacebuilding process.

"There is a need for effective communication and shared intelligence between the police and community. I believe this project will enhance the much-needed collaboration," she added.

Acknowledging the significance of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in empowering SPF officers to effectively perform their duties, AIGP Kanu underscored ATMIS's commitment to improving the lives of Somalis.

"These projects are crucial in improving the lives of the host nation. ATMIS has previously undertaken Quick Impact Projects, including hospitals and schools. We have started with the water project because water is life," AIGP Kanu said.

The Kazakhstan Government is financing the Bakiin water project in the Bay region, scheduled for completion within 60 days.

The 10,000-liter facility will serve the Bakiin Police Station and the surrounding community, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in neighbouring Hannan and Towfiq IDP camps.

“It is important that the water project also serves the community, as this will help create a strong bond between the police and the civilian population,” AIGP Kanu said.

During the tour, the ATMIS Police Commissioner met Jubaland Police Commissioner, Col. Sadiq Mohamed Dhogor, and Bay Regional Police Commander, Col. Amin Mohamed Osman, to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between ATMIS and the Somali Security Forces.

Col. Dhogor thanked AIGP Kanu for supporting the capacity building of the Somali Police Force (SPF), through training and mentorship programmes. “With the increasing needs, particularly in newly liberated areas such as Buula Haji, where

approximately 5,000 families reside, the demand for police services is significant,” said Col. Dhogor. Col. Osman commended ATMIS for increasing access to water in the region.

“We are grateful to ATMIS for this project and for always coming to the aid of the Somali people. The water will benefit all of us, including our livestock. We also commit to taking care of it once the project is complete,” said Col. Osman.

AIGP Kanu later proceeded to Jowhar, the administrative capital of Hirshabelle State, where she launched a similar project for Somali Police officers and local communities.

The ceremony in Jowhar was attended by the Hirshabelle State Deputy Police Commissioner, Col. Hassan Kaafi, and the Coordinator of the ATMIS Police Reform, Restructuring and Development (RR&D) unit, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) John Simons.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, AIGP Hillary Sao Kanu and senior ATMIS and Somali Police officers inspect a water project site at Bakiin Police Post in Baidoa, South West State.

Force Commander visits troops in the sectors

In August, African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) Force Commander, Lt Gen Sam Kavuma visited Hirshabelle, Jubaland, South West and Galmudug states to assess the security situation and troop welfare.



ATMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, inspects a guard of honor mounted by ATMIS Djibouti National Defence Forces (DNDF) troops on arrival at Dhusamareb Airport, Galmudug State, Somalia on 28 August 2024.

Lt Gen Kavuma's maiden tour of the Federal Member States began with a visit to Jowhar and Baidoa, the administrative capitals of Hirshabelle and South West states respectively.

The Special Representative of the African Union Commission Chairperson (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, and other top ATMIS officials were part of the delegation.

Ambassador Souef and Lt Gen Kavuma pledged to enhance the capacity of the Somali Security Forces and intensify military offensives against Al-Shabaab.

"The African Union will never abandon Somalia and its people in their quest for peace and stability," said Ambassador Souef, during a meeting with local leaders in Dinsoor district, Bay region.

He commended ATMIS troops for their contributions to peace and security in Somalia and urged continued collaboration with the

Somali Security Forces (SSF).

Lt Gen Kavuma promised sustained operations against Al-Shabaab to restore security and protect ATMIS positions from attacks.

"We need to support the Federal Member States and the Federal Government to build the capacity of the Somali Security Forces to secure the country," he added.

In Baidoa and Jowhar, the SRCC and ATMIS Force Commander met the contingent commanders, Col. Oscar Hatungimana of Burundi and Brig. Gen. Besfat Fente Tegegn of Ethiopia, who briefed them on the prevailing security situation.

They also engaged with the local authorities, the Somali Security Forces and civil society members. Later, Lt Gen Kavuma visited Kismayo, the administrative capital of Jubaland State, where he praised ATMIS Kenya troops for their significant contributions to peace and stability in southern Somalia.

"I want to thank the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) for their excellent work in improving peace and security in the area. Their efforts have made a big difference. For example, the seaport and airport are operational and there is a lot of development taking place in the region," he said.

Lt Gen Kavuma also held a closed-door meeting with the ATMIS Kenya Contingent Commander, Brigadier Seif Salim Rashid, and senior ATMIS military and police officers.

Brig Rashid briefed Lt Gen Kavuma on the security situation in the region, ongoing peace support operations and humanitarian initiatives.

Kenya, alongside Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Uganda, is one of the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to ATMIS. The Kenya Defence Force (KDF) is responsible for securing the Lower Juba region of southern Somalia.

Brig Rashid thanked Lt Gen Kavuma for visiting the region and offering valuable advice to guide operations, as ATMIS concludes its mission in December.

He highlighted the ongoing drawdown of ATMIS troops in Jubaland State, assuring KDF's commitment to peace and stability.

In Beletweyne, Hirshabelle State and Dhusamareb, Galmudug State, Lt Gen Kavuma affirmed ATMIS' commitment to security and stability in Somalia.

“Somalia has made significant progress, and together with Somali Security Forces, we are committed to supporting our brothers and sisters in their pursuit for security, stability and peace,” he said.

Lt Gen Kavuma commended ATMIS Djibouti and Ethiopia troops for their dedication and commitment to security and stability in their Areas of Operations.

During the visit to Beletweyne, the Force Commander, who was also accompanied by Brig Gen Kindu Gezu, met ATMIS Sector Four Commander Colonel

Said Waberi, Deputy Sector Commander, Colonel Shumet Telelew Endeshaw, and other senior officials.

He was briefed on the security situation in the region, ongoing operations, achievements made and challenges faced by ATMIS forces.

Lt Gen Kavuma thanked the Djibouti and Ethiopian troops for their contributions to ATMIS’ security gains in Somalia.

“Sector Four, which consists of troops from Ethiopia and Djibouti, has strategically located basecamps that enable forces

to monitor enemy movements and ensure the safety of the population,” Lt Gen Kavuma said.

The Force Commander also visited the Dhusamareb Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Galmudug State to assess the welfare and combat readiness of the troops, including the status of ATMIS’s Civil-Military-Cooperation (CIMIC) activities to support local communities.

The military base, manned by ATMIS Djibouti troops, safeguards the Ugaas Nuur Airport and other key government installations, including the Presidential palace.



ATMIS Kenya Contingent Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid addressing the Force Commander and the troops.



ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen Sam Kavuma toured Diinsoor Forward Operating Base in South West State.

AU, UN, FGS and international partners discuss post-ATMIS

In September, representatives from the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Troop Contributing Countries and international partners engaged in extensive discussions on the transition and financing of the mission to succeed the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).



ATMIS Deputy Head of Mission, Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam (2nd Right) and other senior ATMIS officials in a meeting with a delegation from the AU Peace Support Operations Division led by Gen. Cheick Dembele (Right) in Mogadishu.

The engagements focused on preparing a comprehensive report on the overall mission design and financing options for the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), as requested by UN Security Council Resolution 2748 (2024).

The delegation held meetings with stakeholders, including the FGS's National Security Advisor, Hussein Sheikh-Ali, FGS Ministry of Defence, ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries, and international partners such as the US, UK, Qatar, China, and Türkiye.

AUSSOM is scheduled to commence on 1 January 2025, immediately after ATMIS mandate ends on 31 December 2024. This transition follows the adoption of the Concept of Operations (CONOPs) for AUSSOM by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 1225th meeting on 1st August 2024.

The African Union delegation was led by the Head of Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), Directorate of Conflict Management, Gen. Cheick Dembele, while the United Nations team was headed by the Director for Eastern Africa Division, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Operations, Ambassador Graham Maitland.

To meet the November 2024 deadline for reporting back to the UN Security Council, the joint delegation organized its work into various streams, with representation from the AU, FGS, and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), the logistical support partner for both ATMIS and the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF).

"The engagements have been very productive and have provided clarity and a sense of ownership

for the successor mission. We have been discussing the details for the follow-on mission because the FGS, AMISOM, and ATMIS have achieved tremendous success, and we need to reduce ATMIS's footprint to fit the requirements of the new mission" Gen. Dembele said.

He added that the involvement of international partners underscored the global commitment to Somalia's stability and security, with their input on transition strategies and potential financing models being key to AUSSOM's successful implementation.

Echoing Gen. Dembele's sentiments, Ambassador Graham Maitland elaborated that the delegation had initiated a collaborative process to discuss and analyse all aspects for the new mission.

"We are doing a lot of discussions, including designing the mission structure, the transition planning, and the critical issue of financing. We hope to meet the timelines," he added.

The insights gained from the comprehensive discussions will inform the final report to be presented to the UN Security Council, shaping the future of international support for Somalia's peace and security efforts.

Phase Three troop drawdown

ATMIS handed over seven Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and pulled out 4000 troops in Phase Three drawdown conducted between June and September as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2741 (2024).

Handover of FOBs

Bariire FOB



ATMIS Commander Maj. Bruhan Nsamba, hands over Bariire Forward Operating Base to SNA Capt. Abdisalam Jama in South West State, Somalia.



ATMIS and SNA officials at the handover of Bariire Forward Operating Base (FOB).



ATMIS troops packing out of Bariire Forward Operating Base



Senior ATMIS officials led by ATMIS Sector One Commander, Brig Anthony Lukwago, on a guided tour at the Bariire bridge.

Jowhar Town FOB



ATMIS and SNA toured Horseed Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Hirshabelle State.



ATMIS and SNA officials inspected a borehole at Horseed Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Hirshabelle State



ATMIS Sector Five Commander, Col. Oscar Hatungimana (left) and SNA Commander, Middle Shabelle region, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Yusuf Nuur sign documents for the handover of Horseed Forward Operating Base (FOB)



ATMIS Sector Five Commander Col. Oscar Hatungimana (left) exchanges handover documents with the SNA Commander, Middle Shabelle region Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Yusuf Nuur.

Ceel Eglow FOB



ATMIS Burundi National Defence Forces (BNDF) officers welcome SNA officials for the handover of Ceel Eglow Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Hirshabelle State



ATMIS BDNF and SNA officials inspected facilities as part of the handover for Ceel Eglow Forward Operating Base



ATMIS BDNF and SNA troops in a group photo after the handover of Ceel Eglow Forward Operating Base



ATMIS BDNF and SNA commanders with the handover certificates for land and equipment for Ceel Eglow Forward Operating Base

Abdalla Birolle



African Union Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Siyuville Bam, being briefed by Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and SNA officials during a pre-inspection tour of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base in Jubaland State



ATMIS, UNSOS and SNA officers inspected the water storage facility during the handover of Abdalla Birolle Forward Operating Base



ATMIS Sector Two Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid, together with SNA officials signed the documents for the handover of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base



African Union Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Siyuville Bam presented the signed document to the SNA official to complete the handover of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base

Orahsan FOB



ATMIS BDNF and SNA troops in a group photo after the handover of Orahsan Forward Operating Base



ATMIS BDNF and SNA commanders with the handover certificates for land and equipment for Orahsan Forward Operating Base



African Union Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Siyuville Bam, being briefed by Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and SNA officials during a pre-inspection tour of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base in Jubaland State



ATMIS, UNSOS and SNA officers inspected the water storage facility during the handover of Abdalla Birolle Forward Operating Base

Kuday FOB



ATMIS Sector Two Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid, together with SNA officials signed the documents for the handover of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base



African Union Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Siyuville Bam presented the signed document to the SNA official to complete the handover of Abdalle Birolle Forward Operating Base

Burgavo FOB



SNA and community leaders with ATMIS officials at Burgavo FOB



Senior ATMIS and SNA officials signed the transfer documents for the handover of Burgavo FOB - 13 November 2024.

ATMIS honours Uganda soldiers

At the beginning of May, ATMIS recognised the contribution and exemplary service of the Uganda contingent to Somalia’s stability and security.



Acting ATMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka pins a medal on Col. Christopher Berochan, the commander of the outgoing Battle Group 38.

At a ceremony held at the ATMIS Uganda contingent headquarters in Mogadishu, the Acting ATMIS Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka, commended soldiers from Uganda Battle Group 38 for their key role in fostering peace and stability.

Certificates of recognition and African Union medals were awarded to 33 distinguished soldiers for their exceptional service.

“The mission in Somalia remains complex and challenging, and Battle Group 38 has contributed significantly to civilian safety and the promotion of peace and development,” stated Maj. Gen Ngendabanka.

The Force Commander commended the soldiers for their dedication and tireless efforts in securing communities within the Banadir and Lower Shabelle regions.

He emphasised that the medals and certificates they received were well-deserved, reflecting their bravery, commitment, and willingness to go beyond the call of duty.

ATMIS Uganda contingent commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony Lukwago Mbuusi, also commended Battle Group 38 for their critical support and contributions to Somalia’s state-building and development efforts, in line with the ATMIS Mandate.

“Their critical role in collaborative offensive operations with the Somali Security Forces, safeguarding vital infrastructure, and weakening Al-Shabab’s influence has contributed to regional stability,” said Brig. Gen. Mbuusi.

He encouraged the incoming battle group to leverage the valuable lessons learned from Battle Group 38 to ensure a smooth transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces.

Deployed to Somalia in April 2022, Battle Group 38 conducted joint operations with the Somali Security Forces to degrade Al-Shabab, secured main supply routes leading to Mogadishu, and offered protection to key population centres and installations.



Acting ATMIS Force Commander Maj Gen Marius Ngendabanka and ATMIS Uganda Military officers in a group photo during a medal award ceremony.

Top ATMIS officials visit Ceel Jaale

On 31 May, the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, visited Ceel Jaale Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the Lower Shabelle region to assess the security situation and operational readiness of AU troops.



Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef at Ceel Jaale in Lower Shabelle.

Accompanied by the ATMIS military Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Kindu Gezu and other senior ATMIS officials, Ambassador Souef met with ATMIS soldiers, commanders, and local community members.

He also opened a free medical camp organised by ATMIS Uganda troops in partnership with Bancroft Global Development.

In his remarks, Ambassador Souef thanked local residents for supporting ATMIS and the Somali National Army (SNA) and encouraged them to cooperate with security personnel to ensure stability in the area.

“I urge you to continue supporting ATMIS troops and working closely with security agencies. This will enable us to secure and protect you,” said Ambassador Souef.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Lukwago Mbuusi, commander of the ATMIS Uganda contingent, appreciated the cordial relations between the troops and the community. This

has contributed to peace and security.

SNA commander in Ceel Jaale, Capt. Osman Ibrahim, appealed for continued ATMIS support in providing basic amenities to displaced communities.

“Among the community’s problems is access to quality healthcare, especially for pregnant women. They cannot travel to access healthcare in Mogadishu, due to security challenges. It is risky. We need help to airlift the sick and injured,” said the SNA commander.

Residents who accessed the free medical camp thanked ATMIS for the support through Civil-Military-Cooperation initiatives. The medical camp offered treatment for a range of conditions including malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory and throat infections, and skin ailments.

“We have a cordial and professional relationship with ATMIS. They provide medical support, education, and other services whenever possible. Ceel Jaale is safe because of the cooperation between the Somali Security Forces and ATMIS,” said the Chief of Ceel Jaale, Sheikh Yusuf Osman Ali.



ATMIS officials with children from the IDP Camp in Ceel Jaale

ATMIS KDF trained on civilian protection

On 8 June, thirty ATMIS Kenya contingent officers concluded an intense five-day training on civilian protection in armed conflict situations.



ATMIS Senior Protection Officer, Gloria Jaase at the opening of the training.

The training in Dhobley, Jubaland State, covered a variety of topics critical to civilian protection efforts in peacekeeping missions.

Topics covered included protection of vulnerable groups (women and children), International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

“The main goal of the training was to improve civilian protection efforts in peacekeeping missions,” said Ms. Gloria Jaase, ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer.

“We aim to equip peacekeepers with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond effectively to situations that affect civilian safety and well-being,” she added.

The training is part of ongoing efforts to prioritise civilian protection during conflicts, as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2628 (2022).

In addition, under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), armed combatants are obligated to protect civilians from dangers arising from military operations and ensure that those with specific needs receive the protection and

care they require.

ATMIS Kenya contingent Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid emphasised the importance of the training in protecting local communities and supporting Somalia’s National Stabilisation Strategy.

“As we work towards promoting peace in Somalia, it’s essential to prioritise civilian protection, human rights, and conflict prevention by fostering cordial relations with the local communities and our Somali counterparts,” observed Brig. Seif.

The participants appreciated the training and called for similar capacity building workshops.

“The course facilitators demonstrated mastery of content with a vast wealth of knowledge and real-life experiences, which bolstered my understanding of the concepts,” said Lt. Arnold Kiprono.

“I am now well placed to guard the safety of everyone, at all times, including the rights and dignity, particularly those of children and women,” noted Lt. Hannah Muthoni, the Officer in Charge of the Female Engagement Teams in Dhobley.



ATMIS Kenya Contingent Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid presenting certificates to participants.



Facilitators and senior ATMIS officials in a group photo.

ATMIS doctors in Dhobley mentor 15 Somali medics

Late September, 15 Somali medical personnel completed a seven-month medical mentorship training programme conducted by ATMIS, in Dhobley, Jubaland State.



ATMIS Deputy Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka and other senior ATMIS military officials in a group photo with graduands

Organised by the ATMIS Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) contingent, the training was to enhance the capacity of local medics and healthcare services in the region.

The ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka, underscored the program's importance to supporting local communities and the Somalia Security Forces (SSF) with essential medical skills. He commended the graduands for completing the training and encouraged them to diligently serve their communities.

"The commitment, dedication and discipline you exhibited during the entire mentorship programme is commendable. I urge you to practice within the confines of your training and adhere to the medical ethics and the applicable government regulations," said Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka at the graduation ceremony held at the ATMIS Level Two hospital in Dhobley.

ATMIS Sector Two Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid commended the graduands for their hard work and dedication.

Being integrated into KDF medics at the ATMIS Level Two hospital in Dhobley for the mentorship training programme, it covered courses on pharmacy, laboratory, dental technology, physiotherapy and orthopaedic technology, including midwifery, pre-operative nursing, and wound care.

"We first identified the gaps in the medical needs of the community based on which we offered the

training. Peace is not only the silencing of guns. This must be complemented by the availability of essential services. This engagement will ensure that there is ownership of services by the community" said the Commandant of the ATMIS Level Two Hospital, Lt. Col. Jared Kebaso.

"I'm excited to have graduated from this mentorship programme. I previously trained as a nurse, however now I have added on to be a certified orthopedic," said Lt. Abdiwahab Abdullahi, an SNA medic who graduated with a certificate in Physiotherapy and Orthopedics.

Abshiro Rashid from the Dhobley General Hospital said: "I'm happy to be graduating today. Previously I worked as an Assistant midwife, now I am taking on the role of a midwife. I will urge the ATMIS to continue with this training programme so we can support our communities"

Beyond mentorship, the ATMIS Level II hospital serves as a referral center for Dhobley General Hospital patients requiring specialised medical services and emergency surgical procedures.

Somali National Army Commander in Dhobley, Capt. Qorane Mohamed, Dhobley Deputy District Commissioner, Mukhtar Mohamed and other senior local administration officials attended the graduation ceremony.

A comprehensive medical training manual has been produced for the graduates to train future cohorts, ensuring programme long term sustainability for the programme.

Securing South West State for Ramadan

On 11 April, the South West State administration commended ATMIS Ethiopia troops for ensuring public safety and security during the holy month of Ramadan.



ATMIS Ethiopia Contingent at the joint post-Ramadan security briefing with South West security and political leaders in Baidoa.

At a joint post-Ramadan security assessment meeting in Baidoa, South West State Minister for Internal Security, Hassan Mohamed Abdiqadir, applauded the ATMIS troops for enabling a peaceful Ramadan in the region.

The ATMIS Ethiopia contingent Commander, Maj Gen Besfat Fente Tegegn, and senior ATMIS military and South West State security officials attended the meeting in Baidoa.

“We extend our sincere gratitude to ATMIS Ethiopian troops for their outstanding efforts in securing the region in collaboration with our regional security teams. They effectively conducted operations and patrols to counter Al-Shabaab threat and ensure public safety,” said Minister Hassan.

As part of regular joint engagements between ATMIS and regional security partners, the meeting evaluated the implementation of security integration, cooperation, and coordination during Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr.

Brig Gen Besfat highlighted the significance of the close collaboration between ATMIS, the South West State and the local community in achieving the mission’s objectives.

ATMIS Ethiopia and the South West regional troops – the Darawish - bolstered security on the outskirts of Baidoa and at the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). Police and intelligence agencies operated in the city to counter Al-Shabaab threats.

“We had a successful Ramadan thanks to ATMIS, SNA, NISA, South West Darawish, and police personnel. We commend ATMIS troops for maintaining security in Baidoa and the entire region,” said Abdullahi Ali Watin, Baidoa District Mayor.

Ethiopian troops provide security in the Gedo, Bay, and Bakool regions of the South West State of Somalia as part of the ATMIS peace support operation



Senior ATMIS Ethiopia and South West State officials in a group photo.

Ethiopian troops donate medical supplies to Bay regional hospital

In July, Ethiopia National Defence Forces (ENDF) troops serving with ATMIS donated medical supplies to Bay Regional Hospital in South West State to improve access to healthcare in the region.



The head of ATMIS Level II Hospital in Baidoa, Lt. Col. Dr Terefe Nigussie, presenting medicines to the Mayor of Baidoa, Abdullahi Watin in Baidoa, Southwest State, on 17th July 2024.

The donation, made in response to a request from the South West State administration, consisted of 73 different drugs and essential supplies including antibiotics such as amoxicillin, azithromycin, erythromycin, cetirizine, dextrose and insulin. Additionally, the troops provided surgical aids such as syringes, gloves, masks, bandages and catheters.

“We are hopeful that the assorted medical supplies donated today will significantly meet and improve the urgent medical needs of the local population,” said Lt.Col. Dr Terefe Nigussie, the head of the ATMIS Level Two hospital in Baidoa.

Dr Nigussie also highlighted ATMIS’ ongoing medical efforts stating that, “This donation compliments the weekly free medical treatment provided by our doctors at the ATMIS Level Two hospital to residents who seek further

medical attention or are referred for specialised treatment.”

Receiving the donation on behalf of the South West State administration, the Mayor of Baidoa, Abdullahi Watin, appreciated ATMIS’ support to the local community.

“We thank ATMIS troops for coming to the aid of our community. Every time we’ve called upon them, they’ve always responded to our pleas,” said Mayor Watin.

The Director General of the

hospital, Abdifatah Ibrahim Hashi, pledged to ensure the donation benefits the local community especially the vulnerable and less privileged.

“The response by ATMIS is commendable. This donation has come in at a time when the hospital is running out of essential medical provisions. You can imagine the impact it will have on our patients” said Abdifatah.

Established in 1936, Bay Regional Hospital is a public health facility in the heart of Baidoa town and serves residents of Bay and Bakool in South West State as well Gedo region of the neighboring Jubaland State.

The hospital offers free healthcare services including surgery, maternal care, pediatric healthcare, nutrition, outpatient treatment and laboratory services. Managed by the South West State administration with the support of international partners, the facility plays a crucial role in the region’s healthcare system.

ATMIS troops in South West State also provide food and non-food relief items to local communities during emergencies.



South West State administration officials reviewing the medical supplies donated by ATMIS ENDF

Djibouti troops mark Armed Forces Day

On 6 June, ATMIS Djibouti troops held a colourful ceremony in Beletweyne to mark the 47th anniversary of Djibouti Armed Forces Day.



ATMIS Sector Four Commander, Col. Said Waberi Harour, his Deputy Col. Telelew Endashaw, and the Deputy Governor of Hiran Region, Hassan Ibrahim Abdulle laid a wreath in remembrance of fallen soldiers to mark Djibouti Armed Forces Day.

The Armed Forces Day commemorates the Djiboutian military's founding on 6 June 1977.

The celebration included parades and displays by ATMIS Djibouti and Ethiopia troops alongside ATMIS Ghana Formed Police Unit (FPU) and the Somali Police Force (SPF).

A wreath-laying event was also held to honour fallen soldiers.

The ATMIS Sector Four Commander, Col. Said Waberi Harour presided over the event attended by senior officials including Deputy Sector Commander, Col. Shumet Telelew Endashaw; and Djibouti Armed Forces Battalion Commander, Col. Mohamed Hassan Abdallah.

Others included the Hiiraan region Deputy Governor, Hassan Ibrahim

Abdulle; the Beletweyne District Commissioner, Omar Osman Alasow and other senior UN and ATMIS officials.

“We reflect on our armed forces’ commitment to peace. For over a decade, our armed forces have been a pillar of stability, supporting our Somali brothers and sisters, and promoting regional peace and security,” said Col Waberi.

Col. Waberi emphasised their readiness for the smooth transition

process and participation in the follow-on mission.

“In accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 2628 (2022) and 2670 (2022), and in line with the Somalia Transition Plan, the Djibouti contingent will draw down its troops like other troop-contributing countries,” he explained.

Beletweyne District Commissioner, Omar Osman Alasow, commended the troops for their role in restoring peace and security in the region. He also praised them for fostering cordial relations with the local community.

“Since their deployment to Beletweyne, Djibouti troops have played a key role in our country’s path to peace and stability. They stood with us when we were hit by floods. We are forever grateful,” said the district commissioner.

The Djibouti Armed Forces has deployed a total of 11,000 military personnel to Somalia by since 2012.



ATMIS Djibouti troops marching as part of celebrations for the day in Beletweyne.

SRCC in Beletweyne to assess security

On 15 May, the Head of ATMIS Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, visited Beletweyne to assess the security situation in Hirshabelle State.

On his visit, Ambassador Souef was accompanied by ATMIS officials, including the military Chief of Staff, Brig. Kindu Gezu. The ATMIS officials met with Yussuf Ahmed Hagar, Vice President of Hirshabelle State, and other senior state officials.

Ambassador Souef also met with ATMIS Djibouti contingent Commander, Col. Said Waberi, and senior ATMIS military and police personnel who provided updates on the security situation in the Hiraan region.

At the end of the engagement, Ambassador Souef said, "It was a great opportunity for us to engage with the Vice President, the Hiraan governor, and local authorities. We encouraged them to prioritise national reconciliation and social cohesion. I assured them that ATMIS remains committed to fully supporting such efforts to the best of our ability. This is as we work together to promote peace, security, and stability in this region."

The delegation also toured the ATMIS Level II hospital in Beletweyne.



Ambassador Souef praised the ATMIS Djibouti and Ethiopian forces for their contribution and dedication to fighting terrorism.

He commended the close collaboration between ATMIS and the local population, highlighting the various Civil-Military-Cooperation (CIMIC) initiatives aimed at improving the residents' lives, particularly the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living near the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs).



Ambassador Souef and his entourage in a meeting with the Vice President of Hirshabelle State, Yussuf Ahmed Hagar

Burundi soldiers honoured for their courage, commitment

On 18 May, Burundi soldiers serving with ATMIS in Jowhar were honoured for contributing to Somalia’s peace and security in a colourful ceremony at the Jowhar Airfield Base in Hirshabelle State.



ATMIS and Somalia,” said Col. Hatungimana.

In his welcome message to the newly deployed troops, Col. Hatungimana urged them to keep up the legacy established by the outgoing contingent.

“We welcome and encourage those taking over to be diligent. “It is your responsibility to support Somali security forces to take full responsibility for their country,” said Col. Hatungimana.

The UNSOS Regional Administrative Officer, Gagan Banjara, commended the outgoing Burundi troops for their contributions to peace operations and humanitarian aid delivery.

“ATMIS Burundi troops have done a commendable job in their Area of Responsibility (AoR). We applaud them for their courage, dedication, and professionalism in carrying out their duties. The UN country team is grateful for the good work done in supporting UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations,” said Mr. Banjara.

ATMIS Burundi contingent Commander, Col. Oscar Hatungimana presided over the ceremony, which was attended by senior ATMIS and UN officials.

operations with Somali security forces to defeat Al-Shabaab and secure population centres and Main Supply Routes (MSRs) in the Middle Shabelle region.

During the ceremony, the ATMIS Burundi troops who completed one-year of service in Somalia were commended for their dedication and contribution to implementing the ATMIS mandate.

In his speech, Col. Hatungimana praised the troops’ dedication and commitment to peace and stability in Somalia.

While serving with ATMIS, the troops conducted joint

“These officers served courageously and discharged their duties diligently. I commend them for their bravery, discipline, and exemplary service to



Senior ATMIS and UN officials in a group photo with the outgoing troops after the medal award ceremony.

ATMIS Burundi Forces celebrate 62nd Independence Anniversary

In July, Burundi forces serving with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) celebrated their country's 62nd Independence Day with colourful events held in Mogadishu, and Jowhar town.



Acting UN Envoy, James Swan (middle), and ATMIS Deputy SRCC, Siyuvile Bam (Extreme left), and other senior officials from ATMIS, UN and diplomats accredited to Somalia at the Anniversary celebrations.

Burundi gained independence from Belgium on 1 July 1962 and is one of the five Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the African Union's peace support operations in Somalia.

Speaking at the event, the Acting United Nations Special Representative to Somalia, James Swan, highlighted Burundi's significant contribution to the African Union peace support operations in Somalia and across the continent.

"Burundi is not only a provider of peace support in Somalia but also in other countries across Africa. Burundi provides vital lessons, inspiration, and hope that even countries emerging from conflict, like Somalia, can, despite the challenges, rebound and become peaceful," he said.

The ATMIS Deputy Head of Mission, Siyuvile Bam, highlighted the shared ideals between Burundi and ATMIS and commended the Burundi contingent for their unwavering commitment to restoring peace and stability in Somalia.

"The bravery shown by the Burundi troops is commendable. They have paid the ultimate price in liberating Somalia from Al Shabaab. A particularly significant moment was the battle for Gaashaandhiga, which was one of those battles that led to the liberation of Mogadishu city," he stated.

The Acting ATMIS Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka, who hails from Burundi, reaffirmed his country's commitment to continue playing a significant role in Somalia's peacebuilding process.

"Currently, the Burundi contingent is deployed in Sector Five in the Middle Shabelle region and have made tremendous sacrifices in the African Union's peace and security operations. They have set an example for other African countries," said the Acting Force Commander.

In Jowhar town, the headquarters of the Burundi contingent, the celebration was led by ATMIS Sector Five Commander, Col. Oscar Hatungimana, who highlighted the troops' achievements in Somalia since their deployment in 2007.

"We encourage the Burundi troops currently serving in Somalia to continue carrying out the African Union mandate and adhere to international rules of engagement while respecting Somali culture and customs," said Col. Hatungimana.

The ceremony in Mogadishu was attended by high level officials including the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in Charge of Support and Logistics, Maj. Gen. Peter Muteti, diplomats accredited to Somalia, and representatives of international organisations.

Burundi troops train on civilian protection and international humanitarian law

Mid-September, thirty-eight Burundi military officers serving with ATMIS completed a comprehensive training on civilian protection and complying with human rights and International Humanitarian Law.



Trainers and participants in Jowhar.

The five-day training conducted in Jowhar, north of Mogadishu, was jointly organised by the ATMIS Protection, Human Rights and Gender (PHRG) Cluster and the Civilian Sector Coordination Unit.

The objective was to enhance the capacity of officers in protecting vulnerable groups, including women and children, during combat operations.

“When we have operations, it’s important that our troops protect civilians and their human rights and of course respect the principles of International Humanitarian Law,” ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer, Ms. Gloria Jaase, said.

“That way, we will achieve our goals for compliance and accountability to International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and protection of civilian frameworks.”

Ms. Jaase called on ATMIS troops to maintain the highest standards of conduct and discipline while protecting civilians.

ATMIS Burundi contingent commander, Col. Oscar Hatungimana, stressed the importance of capacity building of ATMIS personnel to protect local communities and supporting Somalia’s stabilisation.

“The training will have a positive impact on the execution of our mandate. It is crucial for every peacekeeper to engage in continuous training to ensure sound decision-making,” said Col. Hatungimana.

ATMIS Civil Affairs Officer, Fadil Karar, said the officers have acquired necessary skills and knowledge to protect and promote human rights in their Area of Responsibility (AoR).

“Our troops are also involved in mentoring the SNA and work jointly to enhance the capacity of Somali Security Forces. Additionally, we equip ATMIS troops with information and knowledge in mentoring their SNA counterparts,” added Fadil.

The training covered key areas such as International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and Protection of Civilians. Other topics included prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC) and standard operating procedures while handling detainees.

Participants thanked ATMIS for the training and requested additional capacity building workshops.

ATMIS reassures on a smooth transition

On 10 June, ATMIS Police Commissioner, Hillary Sao Kano, expressed satisfaction with ongoing training and mentoring initiatives for Somali police officers in Jubaland State.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, AIGP Hillary Sao Kanu, on arrival at Kismayo Airport

During a visit to Kismayo, AIGP Kanu commended the training and mentoring provided by ATMIS police officers, highlighting its importance in preparing the Somali Security Forces (SSF) to assume full security responsibilities.

“We have delivered extensive training in areas like fingerprinting, community policing and traffic management. We are looking forward to further training of our Somali counterparts,” said AIGP Kano.

Leading a delegation from ATMIS headquarters in Mogadishu, AIGP Kanu assessed the progress made in building the Jubaland Police Force’s capacity.

ATMIS has deployed Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and Formed Police Units (FPUs) to Jubaland State for training, mentoring, and providing operational support to the local security forces.

AIGP Kanu thanked ATMIS police officers, the military and SPF for their support and dedication to advancing the mission’s mandate

in southern Somalia.

“I thank the police officers on the ground in Kismayo, and the military who have been working hand in hand supporting the SSF and specifically the Somali Police to secure the region,” said AIGP Kanu.

She also expressed gratitude to the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) for providing logistical support essential for the police component to fulfill its responsibilities effectively.



ATMIS Police Commissioner in a group photo with ATMIS personnel in Kismayo

ATMIS trains Somali police officers on community policing and child protection

Early September, over 100 Somali Police Force officers concluded a month-long training on community policing, to equip them with skills to address crime and violent extremism in local communities.



Somalia's Federal Minister of Internal Security, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail Fartaag (3rd Right), presented certificates to participants at the end of the training on Community Policing.

Early September, over 100 Somali Police Force officers concluded a month-long training on community policing, to equip them with skills to address crime and violent extremism in local communities.

The workshop organised jointly by ATMIS and the Somali Police Force (SPF), forms part of a series of training sessions to strengthen the capacity of the force to maintain peace and security in population centres and newly liberated areas.

At the graduation ceremony in Mogadishu, Deputy Head of ATMIS, Siyuvile Bam, and Somalia's Minister for Internal Security, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail Fartaag, both emphasised the commitment of ATMIS and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to training and equipping the SPF to counter violent extremism.

"Somalia's security landscape is complex and therefore it is important to have a tailored approach to community policing. We must continue to listen to the concerns of the communities, understand their needs and work together to address them," said the Deputy Head of ATMIS, Siyuvile Bam.

He commended the officers for their dedication to protecting civilians and maintaining law and order under challenging circumstances.

"I am confident that the police and community volunteers will enhance their collaboration and improve their partnership to detect, prevent and combat crime within our communities," he added.

Somalia's Minister for Internal Security, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail Fartaag, thanked ATMIS for the continued support to develop the SPF through mentorship and training programmes.

The ATMIS Police Commissioner, Hillary Sao Kanu, revealed that since January 2024, ATMIS Police, together with the SPF, have conducted 18 capacity-building training programmes across Somalia, benefiting 352 SPF personnel, including 162 female officers.

She called on all to "work together to build a future where peace and security are the cornerstones of our society," emphasising security is important to economic development and growth.

The SPF Police Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Sulub Ahmed Firin, was confident that the training would enable the officers to establish positive relationships with the communities they serve to ensure a safe and secure Somalia.

ATMIS Nigerian peacekeepers celebrate 64th Independence Day

In October, Nigerian peacekeepers serving with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) marked their country's 64th Independence Day with a vibrant ceremony in Mogadishu.



ATMIS Nigeria peacekeepers in a group photo at celebrations to mark Nigeria's 64th independence anniversary

The event was attended by high-ranking officials, including the African Union Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the Deputy AU Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Sivuyile Bam, the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Raisedon Zenenga, ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma and Police Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP), Hillary Sao Kano.

The AU Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Souef, presiding over the ceremony, reflected on Nigeria's journey since independence. He also praised the ATMIS Nigerian peacekeepers for their significant contributions to Somalia's peace process, including deploying a Formed Police Unit and Individual Police Officers.

"As we commemorate Nigeria's triumph of freedom, unity, and resilience, let us reflect on the sacrifices

made by the founding fathers who fought tirelessly for this historic milestone," he said.

The UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Raisedon Zenenga highlighted Nigeria's broader impact on the continent, noting its leadership within ECOWAS and its pan-Africanist agenda.

"From the early days, Nigeria selflessly led the campaign for the liberation of Africa," he remarked. ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Kavuma, commended the Nigerian contributions highlighting that their vast experience in peacekeeping efforts is important to in helping achieve the African Union mandate.

At the event both Ambassador Souef and Lt. Gen. Kavuma congratulated the ATMIS Police Commissioner, AIGP Kanu on her recent promotion in the Sierra Leone Police Force as Assistant Inspector General of Police.

Celebrating Zambia at 60

On 24 October, Zambia peacekeepers serving with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) celebrated their country's 58th independence anniversary with a colourful ceremony in Mogadishu.



Senior ATMIS officials led by the Deputy SRCC, Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam, celebrating Zambia's 60th Independence anniversary

The Republic of Zambia attained its independence from Britain on 24 October 1964.

ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Diomedes Ndegeya, presided over the celebrations held under the theme, 'promoting inclusiveness towards a sustainable social and economic recovery.'

During the event, Lt. Gen. Ndegeya praised Zambia for its achievements as a country, as well as its active contribution to African and global peace and security.

"African Union commends the role played by the Republic of Zambia in strengthening peace and stability in the world and on the African continent," said Lt. Gen. Ndegeya.

He noted that Zambia ranks highly in peacekeeping, with over 1000 peacekeepers deployed to various peace support operations globally. "Your ultimate sacrifices and professionalism are without a doubt empowering the Somali Security Forces with knowledge and skills which will enable them to move forward, to the progressive handover of security responsibilities," the Force Commander added.

The ATMIS military Chief of Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC), Col. Crispine Kanjungu, a Zambian, talked about the history of Zambia and how its founding

father, Dr. David Kenneth Kaunda, united the 73 different tribes through the 'One Zambia, One Nation,' slogan backed by the humanism ideology, which preached dignity and equality.

"We are celebrating today because of two things—the freedom that we have acquired and to remember the men and women who fought and shed their blood for this generation and other generations yet to come. May their souls rest in eternal peace," said Col. Kanjungu, who led the celebrations.

Zambia is one of the six Police Contributing Countries (PCCs) to ATMIS, with a contingent of Individual Police Officers (IPOs) serving in Somalia, where together with officers from other PCC's, they train, mentor, and advise the Somali Police Force (SPF).

Zambia also provides military staff officers, deployed at ATMIS Force Headquarters, to assist with implementing the mission mandate and degrading Al-Shabaab. Other PCCs include Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya and Sierra Leone.

Guests at the event included the ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. William Kitsao Shume, ATMIS Deputy Commander in charge of Support and Logistics, Maj. Gen. Gerbi Kebede Regassa, ATMIS Police Chief of Staff, Commissioner of Police (CP) Rex Dundun.

Celebrating Uganda at 62

On 13 October, the Uganda Community in Somalia celebrated their country's 62nd independence anniversary with a colourful ceremony in Mogadishu.



Senior officials from ATMIS, UN, FGS and the international community cut a cake at an event to mark Uganda's 62nd independence anniversary in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 12 October 2024.

The ceremony was attended by high-ranking dignitaries including Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Moallim Fiqi; Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA), Fardowsa Osman Egal; Minister of Internal Security, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail; ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma and Acting UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Fiqi, who was the chief guest, described Uganda as a beacon of hope for regional peace and commended Uganda's support to Somalia through ATMIS.

"Uganda has been supporting Somalia primarily through its participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has been active since 2007. This mission has aimed to support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to stabilize the country and create a secure environment for development and governance," stated the Minister.

In his address, ATMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma, who represented the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, highlighted the vital role played by Ugandan troops in upholding ideals of freedom, peace and security in the African Union peacekeeping mission.

"As one of the largest ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries with 4,026 soldiers, 160 Formed Police Unit and 39 Individual Police Officers (IPOs), Uganda has played and continues to play a significant role in Somalia's journey to peace and stability. These valiant Ugandan men and women have demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism and sacrifice," said Lt. Gen. Kavuma.

Lt. Gen. Kavuma also paid tribute to the fallen Ugandan soldiers who had sacrificed and dedicated their lives for the sake of peace and stability in Somalia, describing them as true African heroes.

The event, commemorated under the theme, 'A Re-commitment to Secure and Fortify Our Destiny', featured captivating cultural, musical and artistic performances showcasing Uganda's rich historical heritage and traditions.

In his address, the Uganda's Deputy Ambassador to Somalia, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Nathan Mugisha, reiterated Uganda's commitment to strengthening regional and sub-regional organisations such as the African Union and East African Community as centres for promoting peace, security, economic development, good governance and regional integration.

"The Africa we want, is the Africa that is peaceful, that addresses economic recession, tackles imbalanced international financial systems, climate change,

food insecurity and adds value to the abundant natural resources at its disposal," said Mugisha.

The Acting UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, thanked Uganda troops for bearing a heavy burden over the past 17 years in support of Somalia's goals and aspirations for security gains, achieved not only through the military dynamics but also diplomatic relations.

"As the representative of the UN, let me also say how important those security achievements have been to enabling diplomatic presence here in Somalia, to allowing for expansion of humanitarian and development assistance here in the country," said Swan.



Senior ATMIS, UN and FGS officials at celebrations to mark Uganda's 62nd independence anniversary in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 12 October 2024.



Jamhuri Day

On 12 December, Kenya peacekeepers serving with ATMIS celebrated their country’s 61st independence anniversary in a vibrant ceremony in Mogadishu.

Kenya gained independence from the British on 12 December 1963.

The ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials, including the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef; Somalia’s State Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hirsi Jama Ganni; State Minister

for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Mohamed Yusuf Adan; the Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, James Swan; the diplomatic corps; officials from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), as well as United Nations and ATMIS personnel.

The below are some pictures from the celebration of Jamhuri Day at the ATMIS Force Headquarters.

















