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Somali Police Force (SPF) celebrates its 75th Anniversary



Police as primary actor for security in Somalia

Mogadishu: On 20 December, the Somali Police Force (SPF) celebrated its 75th Anniversary in Mogadishu and the FMS capitals. The President of Somalia, the Minister for Internal Security, the SPF Commissioner and other senior officials from the security forces attended the celebrations in Mogadishu. Guests included representatives from the international community that are supporting the Somali Police at the FGS and FMS levels. The SPF used the event to showcase a parade of it's officers and equipment, and highlighted progress made in countering terrorism and management of crime. In his address, the President promised to provide the necessary training and equipment to the SPF and improve officers' welfare and support to their families.



Newly appointed Galmudug Minister for Security briefed on the UN's support to Police

Mogadishu: On 17 December, UNSOM in Mogadishu hosted a delegation from Galmudug, led by Saadaq Sheikh Yusuf the newly appointed Galmudug Minister for Security and Abdulahi Ahmed Alasow the State Minister for Security. Representatives from UNSOM, UNDP, UNOPS, UNMAS and IOM briefed the delegation on the United Nations support to the State Police in Galmudug. The Minister agreed to reconvene the State Technical Committee on the New Policing Model and to reconfigure its membership. The TC will be instrumental in the development of a comprehensive work request to access funding under the Joint Police Programme (JPP) in order to address the Galmudug policing priorities.



UNSOM Commissioner meets with SPF Commissioner



Mogadishu: On 10 December, the UNSOM Commissioner with his team and UNOPS, met the SPF Commissioner and his 1st Deputy (and Head of Communications Dept.) to discuss the further implementation of the approved Joint Police Programme work requests. Agreement was reached on the steps to be taken in order to implement the scheduled activities. Actions were also discussed to ensure that the SPF leadership take lead in developing their future work requests and defining the priorities for 2019.

Training for 200 Police in Jowhar in progress

HirShabelle: The basic police recruit training of the first batch of 200 Police Recruits in Jowhar commenced on 15 November 2018. This is the first training for state police in HirShabelle, being conducted by AMISOM Police and SPF trainers with funding from the EU through the Joint Police Programme. In total, 800 recruits will be trained over the next year and will be responsible for providing policing services to various communities in HirShabelle.



Somali Government marks International Anti-Corruption Day





Mogadishu: Around the globe, 9 December is observed as International Anti-Corruption Day with the aim of raising awareness in preventing and combating corruption. During the event, Federal Government of Somalia announced a series of steps to combat corruption and reinforce transparency in order to build more accountable institutions. The event was attended by government officials, international partners and representatives of youth and women's groups. Somalia's Federal Minister of Justice and Judiciary Affairs signed the Project Initiation Plan (PIP) involving his ministry and UNDP, which aims to strengthen government institutions to fight corruption and promote accountability. The Project will be implemented over six-months followed by a multi-year programme to support the government of Somalia in its anti-corruption efforts.



Following the signing ceremony, the UNDP Country Director for Somalia, George Conway, explained that the newly-signed PIP allows the Federal Government to tackle corruption in a comprehensive way.



Operational Readiness Assessment-II (ORA-II)

Mogadishu: The ORA of Regional Forces (Darwish) was finalized in Jubaland, Galmudug and South-West States with a total of 14,700 regional forces biometrically registered, of which 1,300 are female. The exercise is now also will be finalized in the coming days in Puntland. The collected data will be used by the Government of Somalia in the decision-making process regarding the integration of regional forces into the Somali National Army and to the State Police services, an important step in the transition process and the implementation of the National Security Architecture. This exercise is being conducted by the MoIS with technical support from AMISOM Police financial/logistical support from United Nations. A comprehensive report will be produced at the completion of the exercise.



UNSOM Commissioner meets with EU Delegation

Mogadishu: On 7 December, UNSOM and AMISOM Commissioners, participated in a work lunch, organized by the EU Delegation with team of the EU Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) to further discuss policing in Somalia and how to strengthen coordination and mutual support for the future. The EU proposed to explore jointly, options on how to expand the cooperation with UNSOM Police, by organizing a joint workshop on policing in the beginning of 2019. This proposal was unanimously supported by all those who were present.

Pension Bill for the SNA and Security Forces:

Mogadishu: On 30 December, the Federal Parliament House of the People passed the draft bill reviewing the Law No. 6 of 31 December 1969 governing Pension and Gratuities for Members of the Armed Forces and Security Services, with 170 votes in favor and two votes against. Co-authored by the MoIS, the MoD and the MoJ, the draft bill was submitted to the House of the People in 2017, and revised by the Defense Committee, following two-days of wide public hearings held in November. The passage of this draft bill indicates a wide political consensus on the need to move forward with the right-sizing of the army and security forces including the Police, in line with the National Security Architecture Agreement.

2018: This time of the year is also the appropriate moment to evaluate our activities and results of the past 12 months. The general impression is that UNSOM Police, despite all sorts of security, political and budgetary constraints, managed to keep the further implementation of the NPM, on track and on schedule. The Somali Police Governance and Coordination structure -especially the Technical Committees- were revamped during the second semester and are now fully operational. The Joint Police Program was implemented and has delivered already a first set of approved work requests -for \$13M- in 2018. The Operational Readiness Assessment and biometric registration of more than 20.000 -and countingregional security forces will likely be finalized next month, once completed in HirShabelle. Whenever possible our small team supported training initiatives in a sometimes very creative manner, which has resulted in one of our UNSOM Police officers being awarded Female Police Officer of the Year 2018 distinction, by the UN Secretary-General. And there was more. 2019 will likely be a year of important changes, with hopefully the Constitutional review finalized and other essential legislation, like the Electoral Law, etc. voted. UNSOM Police, as always, stands ready to support its Somali colleagues.





UN SCR 2447: On 13 December, the Security Council in New York adopted its third Resolution (2447) on UN Policing. The resolution underscores among other things, the importance of integrating UN support to police, justice and corrections areas into the mandates of peacekeeping operations from the outset; for police-contributing countries to meet the UN performance standards for personnel and reiterates its resolve to give clear, credible and achievable mandates, matched by appropriate resources, etc.

