We need peace in our region to transform wealth into prosperity

Message from the Chief of Defence, Kenya Defence Forces

Todays marks an important milestone in the history of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), and also commemorates an important event in the history of mankind: the International Peace Day.

EASF is a regional force, being a component of the African Standby Force. It is charged with the responsibility of bringing together the 10 Eastern Africa countries to collectively contribute towards peace and stability on our continent.

It is 10 years ago that the Government of the Republic of Kenya made a commitment to be an active player in this agenda, and since then, the Eastern Africa Standby Force, known then as the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade.

Kenya is delighted today to report that it was the first member state of EASF to validate its pledged forces. In addition, Kenya recently ratified the agreement establishing EASF. This illustrates the important our country attaches to regional peace and security.

As EASF continues to develop, I wish to appreciate the political will and leadership from all Member States. This has made it possible for EASF to reach its current status in a bid to secure the region and its peoples. In this regard, I wish to appreciate the commitment of the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, who has constantly supported this regional peace initiative.

I conclude by expressing the Kenya Governments gratitude to all EASF Member States, especially in entrening Kenya with the responsibility of hosting the Secretariat. I also wish to thank the Chair of the Council of Ministers, Chiefs of Defence Forces, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Internal Security, Development Partners and the media, for standing with EASF so far.

It is fitting that this EASF open day is taking place on the day the entire world is celebrating the International Peace Day. We trust that EASF will continue to be a vehicle for the enhancement of peace and stability for all the citizens of our region.

Message from the Cabinet Secretary for Defence of the Republic of Kenya

We remain committed to making Eastern Africa a safe place to live in

Message from the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa Region and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Seychelles

I convey to you, peace-loving people of our Eastern Africa region, a message of confidence in our common future on the occasion of the Eastern Africa Standby Force Open Day which, fittingly, falls on the day the world celebrates the International Day of Peace.

This happy coincidence underlines the central importance of peace to the mandate of the Eastern Africa Standby Force as well as to the culture of the people of our beautiful part of the world.

The Africa Standby Force emerged from the convergence of the wish of the African people to live in peace and the political will of their leaders to deliver on this wish by striving to rid our continent of conflicts.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force, as one of these Regional Forces comprising of the ten Eastern African States, represents our region's contribution in making that dream come true. Our regional actions have a continental and even global impact because peace advances in Africa and around the world as a result of our determination to keep our region free of conflict.

In fact, the whole aim of this Open Day is for the EASF to highlight its relevance in the daily lives of the people in Eastern Africa by another and in one voice.

The whole aim of this Open Day is for the EASF to highlight its relevance in the daily lives of the people of Eastern Africa by showing its critical importance in bringing and maintaining peace in our region.

The Africa Standby Force emerged from the convergence of the wish of the African people to live in peace and the political will of their leaders to deliver on this wish by striving to rid our continent of conflicts.

We remain committed to making Eastern Africa a safe place to live in

We also value the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security, Chiefs of Defence Forces, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Internal Security for remaining committed to the EASF visions and mission. We also appreciate the valuable support of the friends and partners of EASF throughout our journey. EASF remains committed to serving the people of Eastern Africa and the continent as a whole.

As we celebrate this Open Day in conjunction with the International Peace Day, we pay homage to the thousands of men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace. We at EASF will not relent in our quest because, as Edmund Burke rightly points out, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Message from the Director, EASF

Today as the world celebrates the International Peace Day, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of us who have been engaged in this noble cause. As a region, we choose to join hands with all global efforts in pursuit of lasting peace.

Over 10 years, EASF, strongly supported by the Member States, has responded to the call of the African Union to help address the scourge of conflict destroying our continent.

Today, after 10 years of preparation, EASF stands ready and willing to bring substantive contribution to making our world, a safer place to live in.

We are committed towards the region, continental and global agenda in pursuit of international peace and security. We appreciate all our Heads of State for their continued support and commitment.

We also value the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security, Chiefs of Defence Forces, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Internal Security for remaining committed to the EASF visions and mission. We also appreciate the valuable support of the friends and partners of EASF throughout our journey. EASF remains committed to serving the people of Eastern Africa and the continent as a whole.

As we celebrate this Open Day in conjunction with the International Peace Day, we pay homage to the thousands of men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace. We at EASF will not relent in our quest because, as Edmund Burke rightly points out, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”
Introduction
The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) takes this opportunity to join the rest of the world in observing International Day of Peace on 21st September 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Day will be celebrated in an event entitled the “EASF OPEN DAY”. The EASF Open Day coincides with this day to signify the importance that the Member States of the Eastern Africa region, and the African continent at large, attach to peace and security for its peoples today and in the future.

It provides an opportunity for EASF to present its activities/functions to government officials, academics, civil society, students, journalists, and various other relevant stakeholders.

The activities will kick off with a symbolic Peace Walk to demonstrate solidarity and support for peace at one level in Eastern Africa and at another level, the African continent. Other activities will include presentations, discussions and a debate on various security issues.

Speakers will include university lecturers and key peace and security practitioners currently involved in mediation and other peace-keeping activities in Eastern Africa. The day will conclude with a comprehensive exhibition to display some of the practical activities that the organisation uses to train the multidimensional force comprising military, police and civilian personnel to build the requisite capacity in preparation to deploy in peace-support missions.

Background
EASF was established under the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act and relevant provisions establishing the protocol of the AU Peace and Security Council. Its mandate of “Enhancing Peace and Security in the Eastern Africa Region” is anchored on Chapter VIII of the UN Charter that provides for regional security arrangements, and in particular, the Agreement on Establishment of EASF.

EASF was formerly named Eastern Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), as it was comprised of only a Military Component. The subsequent incorporation of Civilian and Police Components in March 2007 necessitated the change of name from a Brigade to a Force.

In an effort to achieve its Full Operational Capability, EASF has been engaged in developing its operational procedures, manuals and other relevant documents to set the foundation and development for operationalisation of the Force. In the recent past EASF has embarked on intensive capacity building programmes specifically for military, police and civil components. This has created an encouraging level of integration and interoperability as the force components work together and interacts in various ways in pursuit of its mission mandate.

EASF completed the first cycle of Training Exercises after successfully conducting a Command Post Exercise (CPX) in Nairobi, Kenya in 2008, a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in Djibouti in November 2009, and a Logistics Map Exercise (LogMAPEX) in November 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Upon completion of this first training cycle, EASF attained the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in 2010.

In the second training cycle, EASF conducted a second CPX in Khartoum, Sudan in November 2011. This was followed by a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in May 2013 in Jinja, Uganda. EASF FTX “Mashariki Salam 2013” was a multi-dimensional Field Training Exercise (FTX) set to validate EASF on its path towards attaining Full Operational Capability (FOC). The Exercise provided a great opportunity for the EASF to enhance the understanding and practice of multidimensional/multinational complex Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and improve the interoperability of its forces.

EASF further conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX) MASHARIKI SALAM 2014 in Adama, Ethiopia in August 2014. EASF, in its progression, has also had an opportunity to participate in current missions by deploying staff and other enabling capabilities to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2011/12 to augment AMISOM efforts to deliver its mandate.

About EASF
The EASF is one of the African Union’s five regional Standby Forces based in five regions of Africa that make up the African Standby Force. It comprises 10 Member States in Eastern Africa, namely Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

Vision
To contribute to regional and continental peace, security and stability, and enhance regional integration.

Mission
EASF maintain and sustain a fully operational and multidimensional integrated Standby Force ready to respond to emerging crisis, in the region.

Organs of EASF
In order to ensure the realisation of its vision and mission, the EASF affairs are guided by Policy Organs, which are structured at three tiers, namely: the Assembly Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security, and the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff (EACDS).

The Assembly
The Assembly is the supreme authority of the EASF. It is represented by the Heads of State and Government of Member States. It formulates policy, directs and controls the functioning of the EASF. The Assembly authorises the deployment of the EASF in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its Peace and Security Council (PSC) Protocol.

The Assembly meets at least once a year and at a time upon the request of any Member State and is contingent to the agreement of the majority of the Member States.

The Council of Ministers of Defence and Security
The Council of Ministers of Defence and Security directs and manages the PLANELM, the heads of EASF Structures as well as the EASF Commander upon recommendation of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff for stand-alone missions within Eastern Africa. The Council meets at least twice a year.

Eastern Africa Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff (EACDS)
EACDS is made up of Ministers of Defence and Security of EASF Member States that are signatory to the MOU. The Council manages all aspects relating to EASF. The Council appoints the Director and Heads of Department of EASF Secretariat, the heads of EASF Structures as well as the EASF Commander upon recommendation of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff for stand-alone missions within Eastern Africa. The Council meets at least twice a year.


The Committee is made up of the Chiefs of Staff of EASF Member States signatory to the MOU. It serves as an advisory Military Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly. It oversees, directs and manages the PLANELM, the Standby Force Headquarters, and the Logistics Base on all matters; oversees and directs the EASF Secretariat on all matters. The Committee meets at least twice a year.

The EASF Secretariat
EASF Secretariat is located in Nairobi, Kenya and serves as the Secretariat for all EASF policy organs, structures and activities. It coordinates EASF activities in consultation with relevant authorities of Member States and the African Union and is led by a Director and Heads of Departments appointed by the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security.

The Logistics Base (LOGBASE)
Located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Logistics Base serves as a command headquarters for force preparation and operational command of the Standby Force. Upon deployment, the Force comes under the operational control of the African Union or the United Nations, as applicable. It assists PLANELM to prepare the mission Force Headquarters structure.

EASF Secretariat in Karen, Nairobi
Planning Element (PLANELM)
Located in Nairobi, Kenya, PLANELM serves as a multi-national and multidimensional full time planning headquarters for EASF. PLANELM comprises a military, police and civilian components on secondment from all EASF Member States.

EASF Force Headquarters
Located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Eastern Africa Standby Force Headquarters is made up of military and civilian staff on secondment from EASF Member States. It serves as a command headquarters for force preparation and operational command of the Standby Force. Upon deployment, the Force comes under the operational control of the African Union or the United Nations, as applicable. It assists PLANELM to prepare the mission Force Headquarters structure.

EASF staff in a meeting with “Friends of EASF”. 8th from left is Amb Issimail Chanafy, Director EASF Secretariat; 7th from left is Col Soren Knudsen, Chair, Friends of EASF.

Ministers and Chiefs of Defence and Security of Members States of EASF during a Policy Organs Meeting.

EASF staff in a meeting with “Friends of EASF”. 8th from left is Amb Issimail Chanafy, Director EASF Secretariat; 7th from left is Col Soren Knudsen, Chair, Friends of EASF.