



## **EASF POLICY ORGANS MEETINGS**

### **MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF**

**KAMPALA, UGANDA**

**8<sup>TH</sup> March, 2017**

**OPENING REMARKS BY DIRECTOR**

The Guest of Honour ----

Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Chiefs of Defence Staff,

Distinguished Chiefs of Defence Staff,

Inspector General of Police,

Representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Experts,

Member of the Press,

All protocols observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It's as always a great honour to have you, our chiefs of defence staff attending our EASF EACDS meeting. I would in particular like to thank our host country Uganda for availing all necessary resources to ensure the meetings run smoothly and that we all feel welcome and comfortable.

As we all recognize, our continent is facing massive challenges that include endless poverty, over-dependence on international humanitarian aid, lack of true leadership, endless conflict, media injustice, famine, disease, climate change, gender imbalance and capacity constraints.

Until and unless we as Africans understand the foundation of our problems, not much will be achieved in the way of development in this great continent.

### **Distinguished Chiefs**

We have a full agenda for the next two days ranging from EASF Financial Status, FTX '17 requirements that will take place in this year and the Peace Fund conference calendar among others. We are sure that the Chiefs will carefully go through and evaluate every presentation that will be made over the next two days

and come up with well thought out recommendations for the Council of Ministers' consideration.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our development partners who have been with us in this journey every step of the way. Their technical and financial support has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated.

Finally, as I come to the end of my tenure, I would like to express my profound gratitude to you, our Chiefs of Defence Staff, for the trust and confidence you have placed in me and my entire team over the last three years.

I am confident that I can count on your continued support to my successor so that we can collectively claim ownership of our peace and security agenda and forge ahead in shaping the future of our region.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.