



African Union Mission for Somalia

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PRESS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

AMISOM MEETS NEW HEAD OF SOMALI NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES

Mogadishu, 15 March 2013: The AMISOM Force Commander Lt Gen Andrew Gutti, has paid tribute to the outgoing Somali Chief of General Staff, Gen Abdulqadir Shiekh Ali Diini and pledged to continue working with his successor, Brig Gen Hadir Adan Elmi.

Speaking at a luncheon held to introduce the new Chief of General Staff and his deputy to AMISOM and in honor of Gen Dini and his deputy, Gen Abdikarin Yusuf Dhega Badan, Gen Gutti said the outgoing team deserved much praise for their role in beginning to rebuild the Somali armed forces and in working to extend the authority of the Somali state. "We in AMISOM have been proud to serve alongside such great Somali patriots," he said. "Under Gen Dini's leadership, the Somali National Security Forces have become better organized and more effective as evidenced by the successes they have achieved against the Al Qaeda-affiliated al Shabaab terror group across the country," he added.

Gen Gutti welcomed the appointment of Brig Elmi saying AMISOM was looking forward to working with the incoming commanders as the country consolidates the security and political gains and continues the process of professionalizing its security forces. "Although much has been achieved, a lot more remains to be done to ensure that the people of Somalia can go about their daily lives in safety and security," he said.

The luncheon was attended by the Somali Minister of Defense Abdulhakim Mahamud Fiqi, who thanked AMISOM for support it had provided to the Somali government and security forces over the last six years.

Others present included Amb. Maj Gen Nathan Mugisha, the Ugandan Ambassador to Somalia as well as AMISOM Deputy Force Commander Maj Gen Salvator Harushimana, and Sector 1 Commander Brig Micheal Ondoga.

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