

**Remarks by
Col Gitonga 'psc' (K)
Commandant,
Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS)
During the
Opening Ceremony of the
AU sponsored EOD LEVEL ONE & TWO
Held at
Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS)
Embakasi, Kenya
From
20th Oct – 7th Nov 2014**

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**The Course Director,
UNMAS rep
The course coordinator,
Facilitators,
HPSS Staff,
Course Participants.**

Foremost on behalf of the director, HPSS and myself, I take this opportunity to welcome you all to HPSS. I am happy to note that this is the first AU sponsored EOD course since I this institution was identified as the most suited to support mine related activities in support of AMISOM

This course will take three weeks from today. The School has a lot of experience in this field which falls within Mine Action and Disarmament Wing the original wing of the school. I have no doubt that facilitators and instructors will be able to use all the necessary training aids, experience the best practices for your training. It is my advice that you will make use of the facilities for your maximum learning in this course.

I also want to pass my appreciation to the US-AFRICOM for the good relationship that exists between them and HPSS. The School has benefitted a lot from US-AFRICOM in terms of the provision of the latest tested skills and training aids in EOD.

For the course participants, you are aware of the AU operations in AMISOM. The main threat to Troops in Somalia remains the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and Explosive Remnants of War. The EOD Skills are very critical in neutralizing and the disposal of military munitions in the battle field. This opportunity will enhance you with the Knowledge and skills as operators and first responders.

Therefore you are expected to work hard and muster these skills so has to be able to save live in the field and facilitate return of UXOS belted areas to Agriculture use.

Finally I wish to invite our chief guest to officially open the course and I wish you a comfortable stay and successful learning.