



MEDIA ADVISORY:

AU COMMISSION, SADC AND PARTNERS TO CONDUCT JOINT FIELD ASSESSMENT MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA IN PREPARATION FOR THE AMANI AFRICA II - FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

Pretoria, 17 April 2015; Planning elements from the African Union (AU) Commission and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will on 19 April 2015 begin a week-long Joint Field Assessment Mission in South Africa as part of ongoing plans towards the conduct of the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise. The assessment mission is part of a series of preparatory activities designed to lay the groundwork for the successful conduct of the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise, scheduled for October to November this year. The Exercise aims to evaluate the state of readiness of the African Standby Force (ASF) and its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) to ensure its full operational capability by December 2015.

The aim of the assessment mission is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the facilities, training grounds location and other requirements for the Exercise. The assessment team will be led by the Exercise Director, Major General (rtd) Samaila Iliya, supported by the Exercise Chief-of-Staff, Brigadier General Paulo Francisco and Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) Patrick Duze from the Joint Operations Division of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

AMANI AFRICA II which had originally been scheduled for November 2014 in Lesotho was postponed and a new host nation sought following the political and security situation in the country during that period. The Exercise will still go ahead under the auspices of SADC, and South Africa has offered to host it paving the way for the implementation of the remaining activities that comprise the Exercise cycle.

When the ASF is finally operational, it will consist of standby arrangements within Africa's five sub-regions, composed of multidimensional capabilities, including military, police and civilian, on standby in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment. This field training exercise will play a significant role in evaluating the readiness of the African Standby Force to respond swiftly to ensuing conflicts unhampered by any heavy political and instrumental burdens. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is scheduled to host the exercise. AMANI AFRICA is Kiswahili for peace in Africa.



To schedule exclusive interviews with the exercise leaders or for more information please contact:

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