



Somali Police Force The Commissioner

This is my first Policing Action Plan as Commissioner of Somali Police Force (SPF) and it sets out my national policing priorities within the SPF Strategic Action Plan for the policing of Somalia 2013-2017 as envisioned by the Ministry for Interior and National Security. As you know, Pillar One, of the President's six pillar policy is the realization of safety and security for Somalia. As such, we will redouble our efforts towards creating a safer Somalia through our Policing objectives outlined in this plan.

Although some progress has been made to improve security in the country, particularly in the capital, the task at hand and the challenges ahead are momentous. A great deal of work needs to be done on many fronts, as part of my vision to tackle crime and criminal behavior at all levels, maintaining public order, safe guarding the security of the state from subversive and terrorist elements and generating public confidence and safety on the streets, I will spare no effort in the implementation of the Strategic Acton Plan for Policing 2013-2017 and make sure we all give maximum effort in turning this vision into reality.

As we begin our journey toward a fully democratic nation, the reconstruction of our society, state and economy will depend on the enforcement of state laws/constitutions, maintaining order and the protection of our citizens from crime and injustice. The failure to build a functioning, professional and progressive police force in Somalia has grave consequences for our long-term security and could hinder the efforts of state re-building. Therefore, it's essential to have a police service that is responsible for their actions, based on the core universal principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability. My desire is to enhance and define our Police Service Delivery to ensure we are not only providing essential, proactive policing but community-based services to the public as well.

My immediate response to this challenges is to put forward the first stage in developing a comprehensive working process which involves everyone who has an interest in policing and the wider issues of reducing crime, lawlessness, disorder and victimisation in Somalia, in particular, the Ministry for Interior and National Security and other relevant Ministries and agencies.

As we proceed with the Strategic Action Plan for the policing of Somalia 2013-2017, I will take an analytic, evidence-based approach to refining the plan, turning it into an outcome-orientated, partnership-based action plan for the purpose of creating a Police force that every Somali is proud of.

I have no doubt that, the coming months and year will be one of significant change and hard work and I am realistic about the challenge we face and tough road ahead, but I am also confident, if we provide the necessary resources in infrastructure, manpower, training, vehicles and equipments, the men and women of the Somali Police Force, with leadership committed on

achieving results, will rise to the challenge to achieve our vision of making Somalia a safe place to live and to do business. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, I will work on a series of priority areas for action, taking account of existing priorities and developing new ones.

I will put emphasis on the importance of values which are expected of the Police in serving and representing the interests of, the whole population of Somalia without fear or favour and without bias through measured policies and practices.

Strategic Planning and Monitoring for the SAP for SPF 2013-2017

The Strategic Planning and Monitoring will serve as a guide to our organization as it continues on its path of building a capable professional Police Force. New procedures and guidelines will be put in place to make sure all those responsible for delivering the Plan meet and discuss progress and challenges regularly.

Management and Oversight

I will create an effective oversight to evaluate the police service's basic management structure for carrying out operations and being accountable to the community, and ensure, that the necessary professional and ethical standards are widely understood and effectively enforced. The Management and Oversight is to define a understood mission, code of conduct, operational procedures, and chain of command for all levels of the Police Force.

SPF leadership and middle management will engage in the planning process and implementation for the Force to move forward in line with identified priorities.

In addition, we will hold task owners to account, request and follow up information about progress or what is stopping or slowing implementation.

Police Reform

Police reform is one of the most complex challenges in any environment. It is particular challenging, in post-conflict situations where the entire police institution has to be build from the ground up. Transforming such police forces into rights-respecting police services that simultaneously provide protection and fight crime is a enormous task to undertake. Having said that, with the right approach of a comprehensive planning in the recruitment and training process, procedure and defined code of conducts and a clear vision, we can and must transform our Police Force.

We will enforce practical and systematic way of identifying areas of concern in the police reform program and make timely, evidence-based adjustments to spearhead the reform process within the Police force.

Police Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy

The recent terrorist attacks on our main court complex and other suicide attacks since, demonstrate the continued threat of attacks posed by the terror organization Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda. As we continue on the path of re-building our nation, it's imperative that we protect our state from those who are focused on destroying it.

Our country is at war with a terror group whose their main objectives are to spread a hatred ideology through violence, oppression and mass-murder and above all, stop the aspirations of the Somali people of having a peaceful, democratic nation, at peace with itself and others.

The SNA and AMISOM have achieved a major military objective by securing the most part of the country from Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda, enabling the Somali government to pursue long-term peace and security for the Somali people. However, after being defeated militarily, the insurgents have resorted to terrorism attacks, particularly on civilian populated areas.

Therefore, as a matter of top priority, we must put in place a capable mechanism of Policing systems, with the responsibility of protecting our citizens from such threats.

Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy

I will review and update our Counter-Terrorism Strategy Policy, with the responsibility, (effective immediately) of assessing the nature and scale of terror attacks and develop proactive counter-terrorism initiatives. The Strategic Policy will provide a framework for addressing domestic and international terrorist threats. The new Strategy will consist of four elements: Prevent Detect, Stop and Respond. In the near future, we will establish a rapid response frontline unit to enhance community policing and operational capabilities. The Rapid Response Team will be made up of a special unit that is selected from the SPF and will be given an effective training and exercise programs to increase their ability to respond quickly and effectively in an act of terrorism. In addition, they will be trained for preventing, responding and investigating terrorist attacks.

The RRT will operate in close co-operation with other security agencies, in terms of joint operations, information and intelligence sharing.

Success in this plan requires the support and participation of all levels of government, particularly security agencies and, most of all, local communities and individual Somalis. Raising awareness among youth and adults within our local communities is an important step in preventing and countering violent extremism.

Community Relations

We cannot make our country safer and tackle crime effectively if we leave it all to the police. Every citizen must play their part. I want to build a strong partnership between the public and the police through consultation, communication and trust-building, so we can work together to ensure our beloved country is a safe place to live in.

Improving the relationship between the public and the police will be high on my agenda, I will establish a task force within the police with the mandate of learning, reporting and putting forward recommendations of addressing community concerns with regards to the police and

policing with the aim of gaining and maintaining the confidence of the public. In the coming weeks and months, I will meet residents, to find out their views. I will strongly push for a broad range of community outreach initiatives and will get the communities involvement in decision-making process of how they policed. The police must be accepted as the main legitimate source of internal security, to achieve this goal, we (the police) must strive for public acceptance.

Training

Officers in the Somali Police Force must have the skills and knowledge to effectively do their jobs. For new recruits, we will set a entry-level qualifications and vigorous assessments before they start the field and in-service training programs. These measures are key to ensuring that officers not only understand the department's expectations but have the skill level to meet them. Police departments will commit to this policy.

The SPF training will also encompass a strong civic education program that teaches the SPF citizen's rights, rule of law, human rights and above all being a servant the public. There will be new procedures to ensure that poor performance by individual officers is deal with fairly and effectively.

Human Rights

Often, conflicts are sparked by a failure to protect human rights, and the trauma that results from severe human rights violations. As government and as a society, we must protect these principles at all cost and commit to uphold the basic rights and freedoms to which all Somalis are considered entitled under the constitution: the right to life, liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equal treatment before the law.

In order to protect and safeguard these fundamental rights, the Somali Police Force, under my instructions and guidance, will commit to operate within the democratic policing standards, respect for all people, and readiness to protect the rights of citizens, in particular, the minority groups.

Within the SPF, we will form a Police Conduct Unit (PCU), in which complaints of the public can file grievances against the police, and an internal police oversight body to investigate misconduct.

Sexual Violence

We must ensure that women in our society are afforded dignity, respect and a life free of violence. This is about protecting fundamental rights and creating a future we can be proud of. Protecting the most vulnerable in our communities is the moral obligation of all, and in accordance with our faith and values.

We must be clear about this issue on all fronts, there is no place for violence against women and girls in our society and we must all work together to combat this despicable and inhumane crime. I will put forward an Action plan for the prevention and response to sexual violence against women and girls. We will protect and support victims of domestic and sexual violence; and use

every mechanism within our means to bring offenders to justice. Within the new police training programs and procedures, we will prepare a specialized training for police personnel to assist in the investigations and prosecutions of sexual violence. The police force will ensure that sufficient, competent, and trained police are deployed to protect vulnerable areas, in particular, taking all necessary steps to protect displaced communities;

As part of a wider campaign, we will be pro-active in preventing such violence happening in the first place by engaging with the communities through consultation, public awareness and educational programs.

Newly-liberated areas and Remote Communities

For people in some of the newly-liberated areas and those live in remote communities, we acknowledge the lack of credible and sufficient Police Service that is current available to them. Although, a range of issues can hamper access to services, including practical aspects such as resources, distance, poor telecommunications and lack of other support infrastructures. We are nevertheless committed to implement a significant improvement to the permanent positioning of police in all of the liberated and some remote areas that will ensure a more consistent police service to these communities and contribute to a safer overall environment.

While the presence of a permanent local police station staffed by mainstream police officers will significantly increase the perception of safety in the community, our approach, must be community policing in every sense of the word. We recognize, past perceptions dictate current attitude, therefore, it's essential, Police Service aims to overcome longstanding distrust through direct engagement with the communities.

Police Force Mission Statement

The stated purpose of the Somali Police Force is to uphold the law fairly and firmly, without fear or favour, to prevent crime, to pursue and bring to justice those who break the law, to keep the peace, to protect, help and reassure residents and visitors and to be seen to do all this with integrity and impartiality. Our core values will be, the dedication to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia, respect for the dignity of those we serve and protect, demonstration of compassion, fairness and firmness at all times and to uphold uncompromising personal and institutional integrity at all times.

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Commissioner Somali Police Force