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PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

The African Union Honours Peacekeepers in Somalia

Mogadishu, 1 July 2011- The Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, presided over a medal parade today, 1st July 2011 to honour officers and men of the Ugandan contingent of AMISOM being rotated. The ceremony which was also attended by the outgoing Force Commander, the incoming Force Commander, AMISOM Chief of staff, and AMISOM Chief Administrative Officer, brought together in the same gathering soldiers and their Senior Officers, AMISOM Senior staff and other members of the African Union Mission in Somalia.

The African Union Mission In Somalia (AMISOM) organized this farewell ceremony in honor of outgoing Officers who have been serving in Mogadishu more than a year. The ceremony took place in the compound of the Headquarters of the Ugandan Contingent. In front of colorful flags of the AU, Uganda and Burundi, the Officers stood at attention in a single row as they were called one by one to receive their respective medal and certificate. This was meant to acknowledge their dedication, courage, and skills which have kept most parts of Mogadishu relatively safe.

During his address, the DSRCC thanked the Officers on behalf of the African Union Commission for a job well done. He urged them to continue to maintain their resolve and remain committed to the cause of Africa. He also paid tribute to the fallen soldiers and wished a quick recovery to those who sustained injuries.

“The African Union appreciates the sacrifices you are making to bring peace to your brothers and sisters of Somalia, and as such, will do its best to provide necessary support in order for this mission to be a success. For those who are leaving, I wish you the best; and for those who have just arrived, I wish you a warm welcome. You will have a difficult task ahead, but I trust that you will perform your duties very well and achieve the expected goals. ”, says the Deputy.

The Deputy also called on all parties in Somalia to be involved in the dialogue process to bring peace and stability to the country which has been in conflict for more than two decades.

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