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African Union Mission for Somalia
P.O. Box 20182- 00200; Tel:+254(20)7216710,Fax:+254(20)7216775, Nairobi, Kenya
au-amisomhom@africa-union.org

PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release)

AU Special Representative commends AMISOM and TFG troops on the recent military offensive in Mogadishu

Mogadishu, August 8th, 2011; The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra has commended AMISOM and TFG troops for conducting a successful operation which has led to the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab extremist group from Mogadishu.

Ambassador Diarra expressed hope that the ejection of the rebels from the city would ease the delivery of humanitarian aid to the suffering population. “The extremists have been preventing the provision of food to hungry Somalis and this has opened up the opportunity to help many more people,” he added. He called on the humanitarian agencies to redouble their efforts to deliver much needed assistance to the Somali people.

The Special Representative is appealing to AU member states and the international community to contribute towards the humanitarian effort in whatever form to help alleviate the plight of suffering Somali people due to the drought situation. He further calls on all AU member states together with the international community to unite in providing the much needed support to both AMISOM and the TFG to ensure that Mogadishu is fully secure and safe to allow Somalis lead a normal life.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is warning people intending to occupy areas left by Al-Shabaab to exercise caution due to the high possibility of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), roadside bombs and pockets of remaining extremist fighters.

For more information, please contact;

PIU, Tel:+254(20)7216710,Fax:+254(20)7216775, Email:amisommediacentre@gmail.com