

ADDRESS OF DR. ABDILLAHI OMAR BOUH,
DIRECTOR OF THE EASF
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE
EASF OPEN DAY.



20 APRIL 2018

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

- Excellency the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs;
- Excellency the Guest of Honor Distinguished guests;
- Excellency the Minister of Public Security;
- Chief of the Forces of the National Defense of Burundi;
- Inspector General of the National Police of Burundi;
- Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Standby Force of East African Countries;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Representatives of EASF Staff;
- Honorable Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

Hello !

It is with great honor that I would like, on behalf of the East African Standby Force, to wish you all a very warm welcome to this **"EASF Open Day"**, being celebrated here in Bujumbura, in the Republic of Burundi.

I extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for being with us this morning, despite your busy schedules.

I am very grateful to our Guest of Honor, **His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel NTAHOMVUKIYE**, the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs who, in spite of his busy schedule, was kind enough to be with us this morning and officially launch the work of this important Day.

*Excellency the Guest of Honor,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

This day aims to raise the awareness of the Burundian public about the existence of EASF and its activities in the region of Eastern Africa, in strict compliance with the mandate of the African Union.

Among the activities of this day to be marked in the

imprint of history, are various presentations on the history of this noble pan-African peacekeeping institution, which I have the honor to represent, on the reasons that motivated its creation, its evolution, for your better understanding of this pan-African Organization, which is the EASF.

As you know, conflicts in Africa have reached alarming levels.

In this respect, the need to create regional capacity, with the tools and assets required to better deal with various forms of conflict affecting our region, was of paramount importance.

When the EASF is mentioned today, reference is made to this extraordinary rapid response force in the event of conflict in our region, to this operational capability that was conceived in 2004, and which was developed for more than ten years.

Excellency the Guest of Honor,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Peace and security are not just professional concepts for us, but must remain an everyday endeavor, a responsibility carried by each and every one of us here, and on every other person living on the African continent, and even beyond it all over our dear planet.

Your presence here this morning is an eloquent testimony to the importance you individually attach to peace and security.

It is with great pleasure that we are together here today in Bunjumbura, your charming capital, to celebrate EASF Day, knowing that our organization is one of the five most integrated Multidimensional Standby Forces placed under the control of the African Union.

In order to determine the best possible approach, in order to guarantee the security and stability of the continent, we must act together with all the other actors with whom we share the same objectives.

Our Member States have demonstrated a total commitment to the sustainable development of EASF, and the Republic of Burundi, in particular, has been actively involved in all EASF activities since its creation until today, without discontinuity.

We express our sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Burundi and our gratitude for its unwavering support.

On behalf of myself and all the EASF staff I represent, I extend my sincere thanks and my deep gratitude to all our Friends and Partners, with whom we take the same

path, and who we have relentlessly supported since the establishment of EASF in 2004.

*Excellency the Guest of Honor,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Before concluding my remarks, allow me to reiterate my sincere thanks to our host country, the Republic of Burundi, for the particularly warm welcome extended to members of the EASF Secretariat Delegation since their arrival here in Bujumbura.

I also express my deep gratitude to the Department of National Defense and Veterans Affairs and, through it, to all the Government Authorities of this Republic, for the invaluable support provided to EASF, in the preparation and organization of this "Open Day" which, let me say it, is marked by the seal of success.

I also extend sincere thanks to each and every one of you,

Excellences Ladies and Gentlemen, all the protocols observed, because without your participation, this "Open Day" would not have any splendor, and the objective would not be reached.

Finally, I wish you a good day full of fun.

Long live the promotion of peace and security in the Member States of EASF.

I thank you for your kind attention.