

Speech by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta CGH, President, and Commander in Chief of Kenya Defence Forces at the Field Training Exercise for Pledged Forces to The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)

Archer's Post, Isiolo, Kenya, 5th September 2014



It is my pleasure to welcome you to Archer's Post.

As you know, the exercise we mark today, **Eneza Amani** is the culmination of our preparation of Kenya's pledged forces to the East African Standby forces. This is in accord with the African Union's timelines. More importantly, today we reaffirm and strengthen the bonds of solidarity which bind our region and our continent. We redeem our promise to be our brothers' keeper.

You will remember that a summit of our leaders decided to hasten the operationalization of the East African Standby force --- indeed, they made up their minds to bring the date forward to **December** of this year. I am delighted to note that we remain on track to meet our goals, and that Kenya's Defence Forces are at the very forefront of this effort.

Let me reiterate here what I have said elsewhere, most recently when the AU visited us to discuss security matters - the emerging threats to our region and our continent are real, and deadly: no African can stand idly by when terrorists roam the continent, stealing and killing as they go. No African democracy can let terrorists substitute murderous violence for democratic persuasion. We face a common threat. Collective action is what we need to meet it.

The establishment of the standby force proves the strength of our intent. We in the region have shown that we are ready to meet our security obligations. Here let me also thank the AU Peace and Security Commission, which has given every support to our efforts. It has also forged strong relationships with friends, partners and institutions outside the continent -- - perhaps the most important of these relationships are the links it has forged with the **United Nations Security Council, and the European Union.**

We are glad, because these efforts remind us that much as we need solidarity between Africans to defeat terror and other threats to our security, solidarity between us and non-African partners also promises much.

Let me now formally pledge the Kenyans who today complete their validation to the force, where they will join hands with others from the rest of **East Africa.** At the same time, it is my pleasure to encourage even greater contributions to this most worthy initiative from each of our neighbours, and from our Defence Forces.

It falls to us to live up to the promise of standing a regional force by the end of the year, and to make concrete the promise of our solidarity.

God Bless you. God Bless Africa