

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN UNION PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN
PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOMALIA:
A CASE STUDY OF AMISOM IN MOGADISHU**

BY

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2011/HD03/2477U**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN PEACE AND CONFLICT
STUDIES OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

NOV 2015

DECLARATION

I, Justus Muhangi do hereby declare that this is my original work and that it has not been submitted to any other University/Institution of higher learning for the award of any academic qualification.

Signed:.....

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DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to the family of Mr. Woyesiga Yafesi and Mrs. Feresi Woyesiga.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe special gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo for the effort she put in advising and guiding me during the course of this study.

My gratitude also goes to my former and immediate commanders, Lt. Col. Muhanguzi, Lt. Col. Keith Katungi and Lt. Col. Chris Ogumelaki, who have always given me permission to travel to Makerere on regular basis and Somalia.

My indebtedness further goes to my workmate Capt. Enock Musinguzi Kafurera who advised me to undertake this degree, my dear friends Lewis and Moses of MA PCS cohort, my wife Resty and our daughter Yvonne without whose invaluable support, both materially and morally my endeavors would have been fruitless. My thanks also go to my lecturers, the Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies class, and members of the Faculty of Arts in general for providing an enabling atmosphere to complete the course.

Sincere gratitude and appreciation go to my dear father, mother, brothers; Asaph, Mugume, Evan, Charles, Israel, Julius and Collins, sisters; Eva, Jenipher and Caroline, and workmates who supported me and tolerated the inconveniences I have caused in one way or another. They contributed enormously to my academic success. May God reward them abundantly.

Above all, I thank the wonderful Lord for the way he protected me through thick and thin. He has groomed and molded me to be what I am today. This process has not been simple but with his mercy, love and protection, here I am finally.

ABSTRACT

This study set out to assess the contribution of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in promoting peace and stability using Mogadishu City in Somalia as a case study. The study was prompted by media reports that AMISOM had faced several challenges in fulfilling its mandate in Somalia. On that basis, the study sought to assess the contribution of AMISOM in promoting peace and stability, relations between AMISOM peace keepers and TFG and, challenges facing AMISOM peace keepers in the process of promoting peace and stability in Somalia.

The study adopted an exploratory research design which was best suited for the study to discover new ideas and insights. A total of 58 respondents participated in the study; these were drawn from some members of Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG), AMISOM forces and, community members. The primary data was collected using thick description, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

The research findings revealed that AMISOM has made positive contributions in line with its mandate despite the fact that it encountered challenges especially resistance from negative forces especially the Al-Shabaab. The positive contributions included aiding the implementation of the National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP), protecting TFG institutions, overseeing the security situation in strategic areas especially in Mogadishu and, facilitating humanitarian operations in Somalia. But there were challenges that affected the AMISOM peace support mission in Somalia. These included Language barrier, inadequate numerical strength, old equipment, weak TFG forces, lack of understanding of the mandate by stakeholders, limited infrastructure to support humanitarian activities and negative propaganda against AMISOM among others. However, there was frequent communication between AMISOM and TFG which acted as a sign of good relations between the forces; sharing of equipment where necessary, sharing information, contacts and links in an attempt to bring peace to Somalia and close connections between AMISOM and TFG forces. This implies that the relations between the two institutions were cordial.

The study recommended designing better entry and exit strategies, establishment of a Peace Mission Training Centre, prompt release of troops and financial resources and prioritizing peace operations to support effective peace processes.