

## **Somali Forces with AMISOM Secure Strategic Sea Port and Airport in Kismayo**

Somali government forces with the support of troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) moved into the Kismayo seaport and airport on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of October in a move to secure the former stronghold of *Al-Shabaab*.

At the end of September an advance AMISOM force conducted a beach landing operation to the north of the city. Over the past month, they have secured a string of towns and centres on the road between Afmadow and Kismayo including Miido, Bibi and Jana Cabdalla.

The loss of Kismayo's seaport in particular delivers a major blow to *Al-Shabaab* who once extorted much of their revenue from traders and businesses utilising the facility. Both operations were met with little resistance.

At the airport, the troops found a cache of unexploded ordinance, which was disposed of in a controlled explosion. They also secured the governor's residence as well as the police station.

“The recent operations in Kismayo and the efforts of AMISOM are to be applauded, this a big step forward, for the people of Kismayo and for all Somalis,” said the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga.

AMISOM have reiterated their call for the international community and humanitarian agencies to act fast and begin to provide much needed humanitarian assistance to the needy population.

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