Saharawi Bonafide Member of AU, CS Amina Mohamed says

By Jane Kariuki

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed has strongly defended Saharawi Republic membership in the African Union.

Speaking at the Joint Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 4th Africa Arab Summit, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on November 21, 2016 the Cabinet Secretary said any objection to this fact was ill informed.

“The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic has a rightful seat just like any other member of the African Union in all its partnerships. This principled position is non-negotiable and must be respected by all our partners.”

Morocco had raise the objection on the participation of Western Sahara claiming that the arrangement was not in line with the principles and criteria used in convening the past two Africa-Arab Summits.

The issue of Saharawi in the African Union and by extension the Africa-Arab partnership has for a long time been contested by Morocco over a territorial dispute.

This boundary dispute and whether or not Saharawi should form part of the partnership played out during the Afro-Arab Summit.

Saharawi has been a member of the African Union since 1984 when it was the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), accession which was granted in Nairobi. Morocco withdrew then from OAU in protest and is now seeking to rejoin AU.

The Joint Council of Ministers meeting in Malabo during the Afro-Arab Summit was delayed as members discussed the involvement of the Saharawi in the Africa-Arab partnership. African leaders felt that in future a common framework to manage the myriad partnerships must be developed.

“Recent events have painfully showed us that lack of clarity, mutual respect, may threaten and even fatally diminish the vitality, integrity and potential opportunities this partnership holds for us”, said Amina Mohamed.

“Our organization, operates on the basis of established rules, regulations and procedures, that clearly define who we are, what we do and how to do it. Interactions amongst ourselves and with others are informed by this understanding.”

CS Amina added, “As we come to the end of this 4th Summit, it is important for us all to reflect on the true status of this partnership.”

She called for honest discussion in devising a meaningful, realistic way forward.

“Honesty they say is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. The outcome before us is the net return for the efforts and energies that we have honestly expended”.

She concluded her remarks by calling for clarity and urged members to work in unity, by quoting the old adage. “In walking alone, I can walk faster, but in walking together we can go further”.

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CS Amina Launches AUC Chairperson Bid

By Andrew Kuria

Amb. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, formally launched her campaign for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on November 29, 2016.

The launch provided an opportunity for CS to share her vision and priorities with her compatriots from the continent and provided an opportunity to exchange views on shared expectations for the next AU Commission.

"However complex this agenda may seem, its aspiration is really simple, to build a prosperous and united Africa based on shared values and common destiny," said Amina Mohamed.

Amb Mohamed said her vision is to build a secretariat that will harness the current momentum in the continent to secure Africa’s rightful place in the community of nations.

“This will be achieved through strengthening the institutional capacity” she added.

She said if elected the key priorities will be making AUC a dynamic, versatile and effective institution through engaging all stakeholders to find ways of improving Africa infrastructure, women empowerment, Africa diaspora agenda and investing in education, technology, innovation and job creation for the youth.

The launch was attended by compatriots from the continent including the members of the Permanent Representatives Committee at Africa Union, and a number of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and those of Trade.

The AUC Chairperson seat becomes vacant after the end of term of current chair Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma of South Africa.

The elections are due in January 2017.

Kenya, Iraq sign MOU on Foreign Training

By Wendy Natasha and Ann Kagathi

November 28, 2016 Kenya and Iraq signed a three year Memorandum of Understanding touching on academic field.

The MOU between the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) of Kenya and the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the Republic of Iraq will enable the two institutions deepen relations between the two governments.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Director FSA, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi expressed commitment of the Academy to see the agreed items in the MOU are fully implemented and called for active engagement towards these goals.

“The success of the MOU requires commitment, focus and sacrifice by the two governments,” he said.

The Dean of FSI Iraq Amb. Dr. Adel Mustafa Kamil noted that Iraq and Kenya are both committed to enhance diplomatic ties established since 1967.

The two institutions agreed to cooperate on: Developing modern methods of training specialists in the fields of foreign policy; international relations; political science; foreign languages and research. They also agreed to hold consultative meetings on areas of mutual interest.
Over 30,000 Kenyan Soldiers have been in Peace Missions: says CS Amina

By Kawira Githinji

Kenya continues to express anger over the dismissal of Lt. General Johnson Mogoa Kimani Ondieki as Commander of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and justified the subsequent withdrawal of troops from South Sudan.

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Mohamed in a statement said that the dismissal was a knee-jerk reaction that “fails to address structural limitations of the UN peacekeeping operations”.

She reiterated that Kenya’s military involvement in Sudan was not her first contribution to peace.

“Kenya has taken part in peacekeeping operations in more than 40 countries sending out over 30,000 soldiers in the process” she said.

According to Amb. Mohamed, reasons for the dismissal were not genuine citing lack of formal consultation prior to the Commandant dismissal which was a clear demonstration of disrespect, dishonor and disregard of Kenya’s contribution to peace in South Sudan.

“The ex parte decision was arrived at against an individual who had arrived at the workplace just three weeks earlier, raising reasonable doubts about his culpability. This was clearly a scapegoating verdict rather than an honest intent to troubleshoot, said the CS.

Amb. Mohamed pointed out that in January 2005, Kenya led by top soldier General Lazaro Sumbeiywo took the lead in the comprehensive peace Agreement (CPA) signed by the Sudan people’s Liberation Movement and the Government to end the civil war.

Earlier in 1989, Kenya provided huge logistics and operations hub for operation lifeline Sudan (OLS) following a devastating famine and civil war between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Movement Army.

Kenya maintains that failure to address structural and systematic weakness of the UN peacekeeping was the cause for poor performance.

The CS pointed out that before the chaos erupted, the international community was already getting exasperated with the situation in South Sudan and the ability of UNMISS to operate was so crippled leading to the United Nations Security authorizing an increase in troops.

Amb. Mohamed urged the international community to go back to the drawing board and appreciate well intentioned efforts by countries who contribute troops towards peacekeeping.

Kenya, Poland Relations

By Richard Mutuota and Kawira Githinji

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Monica Juma has hailed bilateral relations between Kenya and Poland stressing that Kenya is keen to grow its footprint in Eastern Europe and strengthen bilateral ties with Poland.

During a visit by Poland Senate delegation led by Marshal Stanislaw Karczewski on November 25, 2016, the PS reiterated the important role played by the Kenya’s Parliament and Senate in advancing its foreign policy.

While appreciating Poland’s continued support to Kenya especially in health, education and water, the PS stressed the need to improve Kenya’s exports to Poland and EU noting that the balance of trade remains in favour of Poland.

Mr. Karczewski pointed out the huge potential that exists between the two countries which should be exploited to broaden cooperation especially in scientific exchanges, cultural areas, trade and tourism.

He added that “Poland is well placed to boost the opportunities for the Kenyan youth by providing education opportunities”.

The Marshal, congratulated the Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed for her nomination by President Uhuru Kenyatta to vie for the chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The PS expressed confidence in Amb Mohamed leadership given her experience in foreign relations.
Vision
A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya

Mission
To project, promote and protect Kenya’s interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world

Core Values
- Customer Focus
- Patriotism
- Team Spirit
- Professionalism
- Ethics and Integrity
- Equity and fairness

Belgium’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Didier Reynders visited Kenya on November 21, 2016. He was received by CS Amb. Amina Mohamed.

During his visit he met President Uhuru Kenyatta. This was a follow up to bilateral and multilateral issues discussed between Belgium Prime Minister and President Kenyatta during his visit to Belgium in June 2016.

Finland Minister for Trade and Development, Mr. Kai Mykkänen was in Kenya for a three day visit from November 18, 2016. The Minister met Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Amina Mohamed at her office where they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries focusing on support for water sector and women empowerment.

Principal Secretary Amb. Monica Juma with National Defence College, Senior Directing Staff Brig John Migui Waweru when he paid her a courtesy call at her office on November 24, 2016. In attendance was Foreign Service Academy Director Amb. Simon Nabukwasi.

President Uhuru Kenyatta’s Special Envoy Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki with President Mahamadou Issoufou in Niamey when she presented messages on Kenya’s African Union Commission candidature on November 18, 2016.

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