

EAC Headquarters, Arusha, 5 August 2008: The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Juma Mwapachu has advanced a new ethos of the armed forces in the EAC region which, he said, should combine their core values of high military preparedness with corporate social responsibility; and increasingly put military resources to civilian advantage. The Secretary General said the military should shed image that is ingrained in the popular psyche of an establishment that is only concerned with activities of armed engagement in battles and wars.

The Secretary General made these observations during the tour of the munitions production plant at the Kenya Ordnance Factories Corporation (KOFC) in Eldoret, 5 August 2008 on the second day of his four-day (4-7 August) familiarization tour of defence institutions and establishments in Kenya. The Secretary General's visit to the defence institutions in Kenya follows similar visits he made in 2007 to the defence institutions in Tanzania and Uganda. The Kenyan tour that had been planned for September 2007 was postponed due to the elections campaigns that were taking place in the country at the time.

During today's visit, the Secretary General was taken round the production lines of the Kenya Ordnance Factories Corporation by the Management of the Corporation led by the Managing Director, Brigadier S.G. Mohammed. The Management of KOFC briefed the Secretary General on the agricultural projects, environment and water management as well as community development projects, in health and educational development, which the local and wider civil society and business community are participating in and benefiting from.

The Secretary General said that he was impressed by the application of modern advanced technology in the KOFC munitions plant, noting also that the KOFC was engaged in the production and provision of quality products for civilian uses as well as input to the commercial demand. He said the EAC is making plans to bring similar defence institutions in the EAC Partner States together to harmonize their technological capabilities to exchange views and experiences towards rationalizing their utilization of resources and investments and benefiting from the economies of scale to avoid wasteful duplication as well as addressing, in concert, other implications and ramifications of the armaments industry.

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