



FIGHTING AGAINST THE VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The SADC force dismantles enemy bases and helps Government restore state authority in many areas of Cabo Delgado

- Launched on 9 August this year with more than 700 troops, the SADC Standby Force Mission (SAMIM) has been recording positive operational results in the bushlands of Cabo Delgado, helping Mozambican forces to restore the State authority in areas previously dominated by violent extremist groups. Unlike the Rwandan troops, who have a political and media propaganda machine at their disposal, the SADC mission uses communiqués to report on the progress of operations on the ground. It is done with due transparency, reporting not only on enemy bases dismantled, the number of violent extremists killed and civilians recovered, but also the casualties suffered.

On 25 September, while President Filipe Nyusi was constantly praising his counterpart Paul Kagame and the Rwandan troops in the City of Pemba, the SADC Force was fighting intense battles against violent extremists in the Chitima area of Nangade District, which borders Tanzania. Apart from the destruction of a base that was commanded by Sheikh Njile North, SADC troops reported that at least 17 terrorists were killed during the operation. On casualties, the released statement on 26 September indicates that one soldier was killed and three (3) were injured but were already recovering.

This statement notes that on Sunday (26 September), the SADC Force clashed with a violent extremists group in south of the Messalo River, a forest-covered area where it is believed there may be more enemy bases. During this operation, the regional troops killed one insurgent, seized three weapons and captured a teacher suspected of being a member of the extremist groups.

In mid-September, specifically on the 14th, SAMIM launched a military operation which culminated with the capture of a fortified base of the violent extremist groups, located south of the Messalo River. Named Sheik Ibrahim, the dismantled base had been used as a training camp and soft and heavy weapons were seized. In a statement issued on 18 September, the SADC Force said that a significant number of military training books as well as videos and other communication devices were found at Sheik Ibrahim base. This is data and information that will help in understanding how violent extremist groups operate. In the same operation three elderly women were rescued.

On 3 September, a few days before the official launch of the mission, the SADC Force issued a communiqué informing that it was conducting operations within its designated area of responsibility, namely in the districts of Mueda, Macomia and Nangade, in strict coordination with the Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (FADM). In addition to combat casualties, SAMIM lost two soldiers in accidents. On 29 July, a soldier from Botswana died in a motor



vehicle accident, while another soldier from Tanzania lost his life in an incident involving an aircraft on 28 August.

Unlike the Rwandan troops who have not yet set dates for their withdrawal from Cabo Delgado, the SADC Standby Force Mission (SAMIM) ends on 15 October, within two weeks. The initial deadline was three (3) months, from 15 July. However, the SADC

troops only began landing in Mozambique after 15 July, the official launch of the mission took place on 9 August in Pemba City, and operations on the ground started at the end of August. Given these delays and the fact that the security situation in Cabo Delgado is not yet consolidated, it is very likely that SADC will extend its mission of the Standby Force.



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