



MEDIA RELEASE CLARIFYING THE FUNDING OF SADC MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE INTERVENTION BRIGADE (FIB) IN THE EASTERN DRC

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The SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, at its meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique on August 17 & 18, 2012 decided to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to disarm all negative forces in the eastern DRC, in particular the M23 rebels.

In tandem with that decision, SADC, under the auspices of MONUSCO deployed the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) comprising of troops from the three SADC Member States (MS) that qualified to contribute troops on behalf of SADC. These are, Republic of Malawi, Republic of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, that participated after meeting the UN requirements/criteria for deployment in Peacekeeping Operations.

The United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) plus 11 Member States signed an agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2013 as a step towards addressing peace and security in the eastern DRC and the Region. Following these developments, the UN Security Council adopted the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2098 that established the FIB to specifically disarm and eradicate the negative forces in the eastern part of the country. Accordingly, the three SADC Member States deployed their troops as the matter was critically urgent and requiring immediate action by both the Region and the UN. In view of this, each of the three Member States had to individually negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding within the set UN Rules and Procedures for the deployment purposes.

While the mission is funded by the United Nations, given the urgency and in accordance with the MOUs, Member States had to deploy with their own equipment which would later be reimbursed by the UN. In this regard, the deployment proceeded in order to get the troops on the ground to stop atrocities being committed by the negative forces and also to assist the DRC Armed Forces to establish their authority in the Eastern DRC Region.

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