



Cooperating to Disarm

**REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
AND KENYA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON SMALL ARMS
NATIONAL ARMS MARKING WORKSHOP**

15th and 16th December 2008

Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi

Opening Remarks

By

**Dr. Francis K. Sang, CBS
(Executive Secretary, RECSA)**

**Our Guest of Honour, Major General Hussein Ali, MGH,
MBS, Commissioner of Police, Kenya;
Mr Peter Eregae, Kenya National Focal Point Coordinator;
National Focal Point Officers;
Senior Police and Military Officers and other Government
officials;
Members of the Media;
Distinguished Participants;
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me, on behalf of the Secretariat of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), and on my own behalf, to welcome you all to this two day national training on arms marking hosted by RECSA and the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms.

Particularly, I wish to thank our Chief Guest, Police Commissioner Major General Hussein Ali, for finding time out of his very busy schedule to officially open this workshop.

This workshop is one in a series of similar workshops being held in the five Eastern African countries with the financial support of GTZ through the RECSA-EAC collaboration mechanism. National

trainings have been held in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

This is a landmark gathering as RECSA is the first regional body in Africa to hold arms marking workshops in the continent in the ongoing efforts to address the menace of proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons.

Our Guest of Honour,

The requirement of RECSA Member States to mark arms in state possession and to keep effective records is in line with the Nairobi Protocol, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

Discussions on the progress of implementation of the UNPoA and the ITI by UN Member Countries was the centre of focus during the Third Biennial meeting of States held in New York in July this year where RECSA Member States, including Kenya, also participated.

The Arms Marking workshop will demonstrate the use of the MC Couth 2000 electronic arms marking machine, review progress of

harmonising legislation in Kenya in line with the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol on small arms as well as the Best Practice Guidelines on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol, specifically the guidelines stipulating marking of each firearm with a unique mark in line with International Standards.

Two officers from the Kenya Police and the Military have received training on the use of the machine in marking firearms in South Africa through the financial support of the EAC/GTZ partnership.

RECSA wishes to recognize the commendable progress made by Kenya in implementing the various provisions of the Nairobi Protocol. Kenya was among the first countries in the RECSA region to develop a National Action Plan for arms control and management.

Among the main tenets of the Plan is the pillar on stockpile management under which are three key objectives of record-keeping, stock-taking, and collection and destruction of small arms.

Marking of state-owned and legally held civilian-owned arms will contribute greatly to effective management and control of

stockpiles. The records generated in the process will ease traceability and identification of the source and end user of arms within a country. Consequently, tracing illegal arms will be enhanced.

The new electronic machine provided by RECSA to the Kenya Government will kick start the marking of arms in the country as Kenya aspires to mark all its state owned arms in conformity with regional and international instruments.

Our Guest of Honour,

This arms workshop is held in Kenya in recognition of and provides technical support to the country's commitment to mark its state owned arms. The electronic marking machine provided by RECSA will contribute to and speed up this process. RECSA is in the process of procuring another machine to be donated to the Government of Kenya in 2009 for arms marking by the military through financial support from the USA Government.

RECSA wishes to thank the Government of Kenya for providing firearms for use during this two day workshop to practically

demonstrate the use of the MC Couth 2000 electronic marking machine on small arms.

The aim of marking arms as provided in regional and international instruments on small arms is for easy tracing and identification of firearms. This will further ease the process of identifying illegal arms in ongoing efforts to address the proliferation of these arms among members of the public. Tracing in addition enables State authorities to detect illicit manufacture and trafficking of small arms and light weapons within their borders.

This national arms marking training and demonstration is a contribution by RECSA towards building the capacity of the Kenya National Focal Point and law enforcement officers to effectively implement related elements of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

Our Guest of Honour,

The acceptance by Kenya to host and run this workshop is a demonstration of the country's commitment to implement the

International Tracing Instrument that, among other things, emphasises on 'marking' for easy traceability and identification of arms.

The two law enforcement officers who have recently received training in South Africa will be key in further trainings in the provinces around the country.

Finally, RECSA wishes to thank the Kenya Government for its support to the Secretariat through regular financial contributions and various facilitations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government arms.

Our Guest of Honour,

The electronic machine purchased by RECSA for the Kenya Police was officially handed over to your Deputy during the last regional arms marking training here in Nairobi in July.

I now invite you to view a demonstration on the use of the new marking equipment.

I thank you.