

**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CDF GENERAL SAMSON MWATHETHE ON 17
JANUARY 2016**

Ladies and gentlemen, just as the CS has pointed out in her statement, I also wish to highlight a few operational aspects.

First, I know there has been anxiety for information following the attack. KDF's priority as is our norm with military operations, was to degrade the enemy which we have already done through a concerted effort of both land and air assets in the last 48hours.

We embarked on a Search, Rescue and Recovery operation as a priority. However, it should be noted that this is a delicate operation as we have information to the effect that some soldiers are being used as human shield, and we will not allow any further casualties.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, Al Shabaab are now evolving and competing for space. Nonetheless, this does not undermine our operational and combat capability. Our resolve to combat terrorism remains.

As we speak right now our troops are engaging the terrorists and it is therefore imperative that we desist from divulging details that might compromise operational security. However, we will keep Kenyans updated as events unfold.

For the brave men and women of KDF, as we stand for our core values and maintain our vision and mission, I commend you for the fighting spirit and professionalism you have displayed. Let us keep the momentum.

And to our families who have taken every step with us, thank you. I assure you that the KDF fraternity will stand with you till the end. Special gratitude goes to all Kenyans and the media for standing with KDF.

Finally, I reiterate the Commander in Chief's assurance that the blood of our fallen heroes was not shed in vain. We will fight them deep in their hideouts, we will smoke them out of their caves and we will follow to the end in honour of every drop of blood of our Kenyans.

Thank You.

May God Bless you.