

Bamako, Mali, May 23 (Infosplusgabon) – The United Arab Emirates has offered tanks to strengthen the capacity and protection of Malian armed forces engaged in the fight against terrorism that has shaken the West African country since 2012, Malian Prime Minister Boubou Cissé said on Wednesday at the conclusion of a four-day visit to the Emirates.

During his visit he held talks with Emirati Defence minister Mohamed Al Bowardi on quick implementation of the agreements signed in the field of defence and security.

The Malian Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Economy and Finance, said that "the visit was very positive at the security, economic and social levels, particularly with regard to the strengthening of bilateral relations."

He said that the implementation of the protocols related to defence and security will materialise with exchanges and training of Malian soldiers, with particular focus on the development of their competence.

In that respect, he agreed with the Emirati Minister of Defence to establish a Commission that will include Malians and Emiratis to coordinate implementation of the protocols.

At the political and diplomatic level, Prime Minister Cissé said that he held talks with the Emirati authorities, particularly on their support to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

The United Arab Emirates has also pledged support for the G5 Sahel in its fight against terrorism and poverty in the Sahel region.

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UAE offers Malian army tanks to fight terrorism

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