

UPS ADVANCES INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS TO END CONGESTION AND IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY: A SPOTLIGHT ON UG. PRISON MITYANA, MID-CENTRAL REGION.



The Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP), Canon Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, has successfully concluded his strategic and policy working visit to the Mid-Central region, touring Mityana Main and Women's Prisons.

On arrival, he was welcomed by the Regional Prisons Commander–Mid Central and Officers in Charge of the two facilities, before being ushered into the units through a quarter guard parade mounted at the gate. His itinerary included inspection of newly established infrastructure, an address to inmates in both male and female sections, and engagements with staff and regional prison leadership.

During the walkabout tour, Dr. Byabashaija commended the Officer in Charge for the tremendous work in developing the station and improving welfare for both staff and inmates. Over the past 18 months, Mityana Prisons has achieved significant progress through the initiative of the OC, including the construction of administration blocks, installation of security systems such as watchtowers and perimeter fencing, establishment of staff quarters and an OC's residence, and expansion of the female section.

As part of the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) community engagement initiative, the event was also attended by Mityana district leadership, including key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, who witnessed these developments firsthand.

While addressing staff of the Mityana Group of Prisons, the CGP emphasized health and wellness, urging vigilance against HIV/AIDS and promoting positive living for those already affected. He stressed the importance of regular medical check-ups and highlighted the integration of health workers into the Prisons Service structure to strengthen service delivery.

He discouraged junior officers from desertion, noting Uganda's economic growth, particularly in the oil sector, and assuring those salaries for public servants, including prison officers, will gradually increase. Officers were also encouraged to make use of the Uganda Prisons SACCO for affordable financial products, utilize the duty-free shop to acquire building materials, and educate their children in schools within their means.

The CGP announced that the general promotion exercise for both senior and junior officers into higher ranks will begin with evaluations in October and conclude in April 2026. On safety, Dr. Byabashaija addressed rising road accidents affecting young people, including prison staff. He advised officers operating motorcycles as a side business to always wear protective gear such as helmets and riding boots, and urged passengers to do the same, emphasizing the need to take riding safety seriously.

Directing Officers in Charge in the Mid-Central region, the CGP stressed that they must end the challenge of prison congestion within six months through comprehensive infrastructure development initiatives. He further instructed OCs to attend to the welfare needs of their subordinate staff and mentor their deputies into future leadership roles. Additionally, he directed that Officers in Charge adjust to the use of energy-saving blocks for construction to ensure the durability of prison facilities, while emphasizing strict adherence to administrative instructions to maintain discipline, order, and efficiency.



Human Resource Development and career growth featured prominently in the visit, with Dr. Byabashaija stressing the importance of professional courses such as the Non-Commissioned Officers Course, Junior Command and Staff Course, Intermediate Command and Staff Course, and the Senior Command and Staff Course.

He reminded officers of their core responsibilities, which include facilitating access to justice by producing prisoners in court legally, motivating staff on court duties, apprehending and immediately recapturing escapees, and ensuring all prisoners benefit from earning schemes, while staff supervising profitable outside labour are duly rewarded.

The Mid-Central visit is part of a nationwide strategic program, which has so far seen similar workshops conducted in the Eastern, East Central, Western, and Northern regions. These engagements are designed to strengthen professional standards, improve welfare, and enhance institutional efficiency across the Uganda Prisons Service. They further emphasize ending congestion through infrastructural growth, expanding access to justice programs, boosting staff welfare, and reinforcing accountability and professionalism at all levels of command.





MITYANA PRISON AT GLANCE







