

UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE BOOSTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ACHOLI SUB-REGION



The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), under its corporate social responsibility initiative, has strengthened its partnership with the Acholi Cultural Institution through a courtesy visit to the Acholi Paramount Chief in Gulu City.

The Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, Mr. Samuel Akena, represented the Commissioner General of Prisons during a visit to Rwot David Onen Acana II at his palace. The Paramount Chief, who heads the Acholi Cultural Institution known as Ker-Kwaro Acholi, welcomed the delegation and commended the Service for its continued support to the people of Acholi.

During the visit, the Uganda Prisons Service presented items to support the community, including tonnes of quality maize and soybean seeds, as well as a Boran bull and goats. The support is aimed at improving agricultural productivity, boosting household incomes and strengthening food security in the region.



Rwot David Onen Acana II expressed gratitude to the Commissioner General of Prisons for the kind gesture, noting that the partnership between Ker-Kwaro Acholi and the Uganda Prisons Service remains strong and impactful. He said the collaboration has contributed to regional development and improved livelihoods.

Mr. Akena said the visit reflects the Service's commitment to promoting both cultural heritage and social development. He emphasized that working closely with cultural institutions helps to extend meaningful support to communities.

The Acholi sub-region continues to play a key role in Uganda Prisons Service production programmes. UPS operates large prison farms in the region, including Logore, Orom Ti Kau, Lotuturu, Patongo and Kaladima, alongside the Food Security Strategy under the Aswa Group of Prisons. These farms have greatly boosted production of maize, soybeans, cotton and other crops.

As a result, the region has become a major contributor to the Service's food basket, supporting inmate feeding and contributing to national food security. The involvement of local communities has further strengthened production, creating shared benefits and improving livelihoods.

The Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons was accompanied by Mr. Alex Oloka, Commissioner of Prisons (Regional Prisons Commander for Northern Region); Mr. Fred Kayongo, Ag. Commissioner of Prisons (Product Promotion and Distribution); Mr. Patrick Busulwa, Superintendent of Prisons (Regional Staff Officer – Northern); Mr. Ronald Mutebi, Senior Assistant Superintendent Prisons (Officer-in-Charge of Gulu Main Prison); Mr. Peter Okedi, Principal Officer I; and Ms. Sarah Abalo, Principal Officer II, both from the Product Promotion and Distribution Department.

The visit forms part of activities leading to the 60th birthday celebrations of Rwot David Onen Acana II, scheduled for March 24 at Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City. The celebrations will feature cultural performances, community engagements, and a fundraising dinner to support education initiatives for girls.

The event is expected to bring together government leaders, cultural institutions and members of the public to celebrate unity, culture and development in the Acholi sub-region.