

UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE BOOSTS FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE GREATER NORTHERN UGANDA



GULU CITY - In the wake of rising global concerns about violent extremism, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) has taken proactive measures to strengthen its capacity to combat this menace.

The Threat of Violent Extremism

Violent extremism poses a significant threat to global peace and security, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and nations. Uganda, like many countries, is not immune to this threat.

Capacity Building

To counter this challenge, UPS today concluded a five-day training program for prison officers on managing Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) and preventing radicalization in prisons. The training, held at Bomah Hotel in Gulu City from September 9-13, brought together 70 prison officers from the Northern, North Western, and Mid North regions.

Partners in Prevention

The program was organized in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (@UNODC_EA) and the European Union (@EUinUG), demonstrating a collaborative approach to addressing this global issue.

Leadership Call to Action

Mr. Simon Alex Ben Wansadha, Commissioner of Prisons (Safety, Security, Operations), represented the Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP) at the closing ceremony. He appealed to the staff to utilize their newfound knowledge to assess, manage, and identify VEPs among other prisoners.



"The fight against violent extremism starts with our prison officers," Mr. Wansadha stressed. "We must prevent radicalization in our prisons."

Enhancing Capacity

Mrs. Margret Orik Obonyo, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (RPC - Northern Region), emphasized the importance of enhancing the capacity of prisons staff in managing VEPs.

"We must equip our officers to identify and manage violent extremist prisoners effectively," she said.



Nationwide Initiative

The training is part of a larger nationwide initiative targeting over 400 prison officers across 19 administrative regions. Similar trainings were successfully conducted in Fort Portal City and Mbarara City this month.

A Step in the Right Direction

The Uganda Prisons Service remains committed to countering violent extremism, ensuring the safety and security of inmates, staff, and the broader community.