

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE PASSES OUT SIXTH INTAKE OF JUNIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE



In a momentous ceremony held at the Prisons Academy and Training School in Luzira, 70 prison officers proudly graduated from the Uganda Prisons Service's (UPS) sixth intake of the Junior Command and Staff Course. This milestone marks the successful completion of their rigorous 4-month training program.

Hon. Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Internal Affairs, congratulated the officers on their achievement, emphasizing the significance of their new roles. "You have undergone intense preparation for leadership positions," he stated. "As Principal Officers, you will oversee the day-to-day management and operations of the Prison Service." Otafiire urged the graduates to continue leveraging capacity-building initiatives and strive for excellence, acknowledging the great responsibility that comes with their new positions.



Hon. Otafiire also stressed the importance of rehabilitation, highlighting that environmental factors contribute to criminal behavior. He commended Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, Commissioner General of Prisons, for achieving the continent's lowest recidivism rate through rehabilitation and reintegration.



Key Progress and Future Plans

Can Dr. Johnson Byabashaija showcased the UPS's progress in staff accommodation, human resource capacity building, and prisoners' holding capacity. Since FY2020/21, 1,577 staff housing units have been

constructed, increasing properly housed staff from 31.8% to 48.9%. An additional 582 staff houses are currently under construction across various locations.

The UPS is also expanding prisoners' wards, with some already completed and others expected to be finished by January 2025. This has increased the prisoners' holding capacity from 20,773 to 21,126.

A joint infrastructure project with the Uganda Police Force and Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control is underway, expected to provide 69,000 staff housing units, with 15,000 allocated to UPS staff.

Emphasis on Staff Training

Dr. Byabashaija highlighted the importance of staff training, citing the Junior Command and Staff Course, which has trained 518 officers since 2005. In the last three years, 3,442 prison officers have benefited from specialized training courses.

ACP Mary Centenary, Acting Commandant of the Prisons Academy and Training School, welcomed guests to the pass-out ceremony.

"Today marks a significant milestone for these 70 dedicated officers," Centenary said. "I congratulate them for their discipline and resilience, and thank their families for their support."

Centenary also thanked trainers, Officers in Charge, and UPS leadership for their guidance.

"Utilize your acquired skills to make a positive impact," she charged the officers. "Embody UPS values and be ambassadors of change. Remain committed to our mission of safe custody, rehabilitation, and reintegration."

"UPS counts on you to contribute to its transformation and excellence. Go out there and make us proud."

Top-Performing Officers Recognized



The UPS recognized its top-performing officers during the ceremony:

- **Best in Discipline:** PO II Fred Bumbirya
- **Best in Academics (Male):** PO II Ponsiano Nasiima
- **Best in Academics (Female):** PO II Student Anociata
- **Best Overall (Male Category)::** PO II Siragi Kapere
- **Best Overall (Female Category):** PO II Jane Frances Amusugut

Uganda Prisons Service Transformation



The UPS has transformed from a punitive to a productive correctional philosophy in prisons management, aligning with global trends. Human capital development is crucial for achieving the UPS mandate and mission.

The UPS's commitment to excellence and rehabilitation was evident in the ceremony, as the graduates prepared to take on leadership roles and contribute to the national socio-economic transformation.