



UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

NO: 51 VOL. 51

AUGUST 2025



**UGANDA HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSION
CONDUCTS SUPPORT SUPERVISION AT
UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE**

The leadership of the Uganda Health Service Commission (HSC) conducted a support supervision visit at the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) Headquarters and Luzira Prisons Hospital, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and addressing human resource challenges.

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**UPS CALLS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF
MENTAL HEALTH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM**

Uganda's criminal justice system faces a growing and critical challenge: the increasing number of people with mental illness entering and remaining within detention facilities.

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PRESIDENT MUSEVENI HONORS CHIEF JUSTICE OWINY-DOLLO

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**UPS AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP
WITH COMMISSIONING OF LUZIRA PRISONS STAFF HOSPITAL**



In a historic move to transform prison healthcare provision in Uganda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, officially commissioned the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, a modern medical facility designed to serve Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) staff, their families, and the surrounding communities.

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LUZIRA PRISONS STAFF HOSPITAL

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Service - UPS

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WISDOM CORNER

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

– **Muriel Strode**

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

– **William James**

“Normality is a paved road: it's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it.”

– **Vincent van Gogh**

“When you realize how perfect everything is, you will tilt your head back and laugh at the sky.”

– **Buddha**

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.”

– **Ambrose Redmoon**

“You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

– **Maya Angelou**

“An entire sea of water can't sink a ship unless it gets inside. Similarly, negativity can't put you down unless you allow it in.”

– **Goi Nasu**

“Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn.”

– **John C. Maxwell**

“Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.”

– **Oscar Wilde**

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

– **Martin Luther**

“A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not in the branch but in her own wings.”

– **Unknown**

“When you arise in the morning, think of what a privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.”

– **Marcus Aurelius**

“Stars can't shine without darkness.”

– **D.H. Sidebottom**



Quote of the month

“We are working with the Ministry of Health Engineering Department to develop appropriate plans for the construction of a National Referral Hospital for prisoners that reflects the current demographic needs. This initiative will require collective support. Both the Mental Health Act and the Prisons Act provide for the transfer of mentally ill prisoners to mental health facilities. In line with this, we are working to establish a specialized wing at Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital to cater for such inmates, with support from technical experts, and plans are already underway.

To fully functionalize Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, the institution is hiring various consultants to build staff capacity and enhance health service delivery. In addition, we have developed the Prisons Health Policy after a wide consultative process, ensuring that it is aligned with the National Health Policy.”

Can. Dr. Johnson Omuhunde
Rwashote Byabashaija
Commissioner General of Prisons

During the Commissioning of the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital
Kampala Extra Region

Friday, 15th August 2025

Chief Editor



FRANK BAINE MAYANJA

**SENIOR COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS
(DEPUTY DIRECTOR - CORPORATE AFFAIRS
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER)**

Welcome to the August 2025 Edition of Uganda Prisons Service Newsletter. In this edition we highlight on the; 14th Africa Public Service Day, Agro-Industrial and Vocational Innovations, Internal Affairs' Annual performance review, Northern Uganda Agricultural Trade Show, Prisons Darts Club, memory lane, and obituary, among others. Enjoy!

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UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE

MONTHLY STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

AUGUST 2025

1 CHARACTERISTICS OF PRISONERS' POPULATION

1.1 Population Change

Table 1.1 Average Population of Prisoners for July, 2025 and August, 2025.

Categories	Jul-25			Aug-25			% change
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Convicts:	39,901	1,912	41,813	39,944	1,880	41,824	0.03
Remands:	35,376	1,808	37,184	34,697	1,793	36,490	-1.9
Debtors:	465	193	658	375	130	505	-23.3
Total:	75,742	3,913	79,655	75,016	3,803	78,819	-1.0
Percentage (%)	95.1	4.9	100.0	95.2	4.8	100.0	
Approved Capacity			22,419			22,569	0.7
Occupancy Rate (%)			355.3			349.2	-6.1

1.2 Percentage composition of Remands, Convicts and Debtors

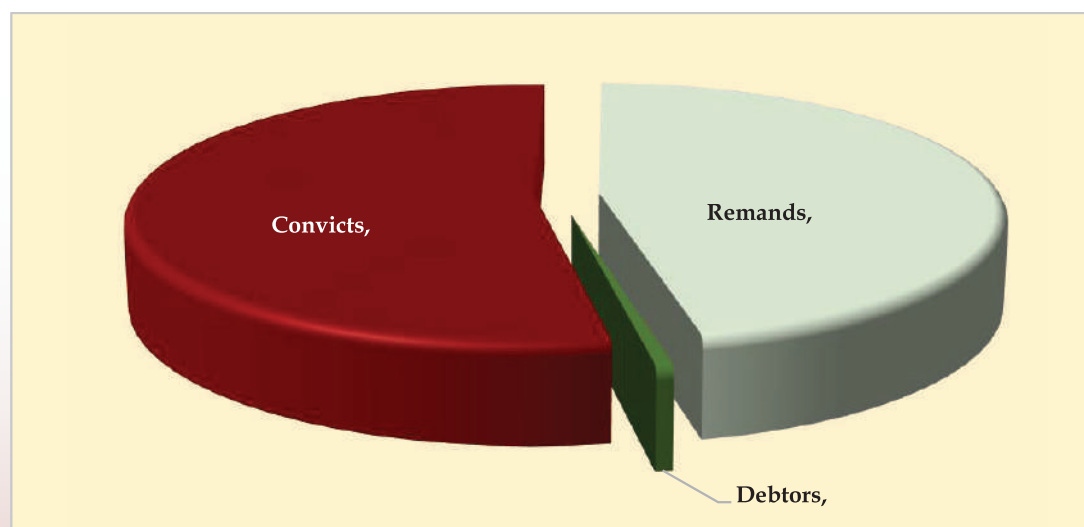


Figure 1.1 Composition of Prison population



1.3 Percentage composition change of Remands, Convicts, and Debtors

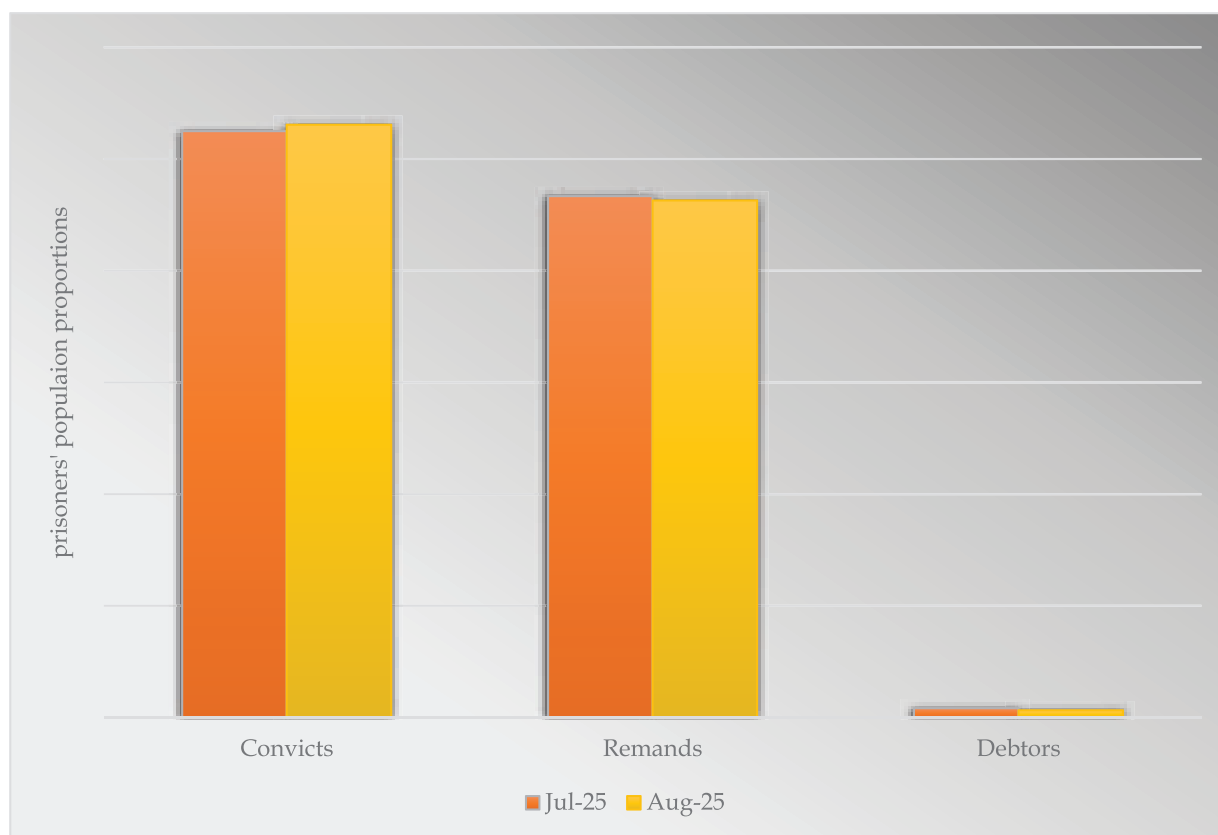


Figure 1.2 Percentage composition of remands, convicts and debtors

Monthly Prison Population trends for the period January 2025 to August 2025

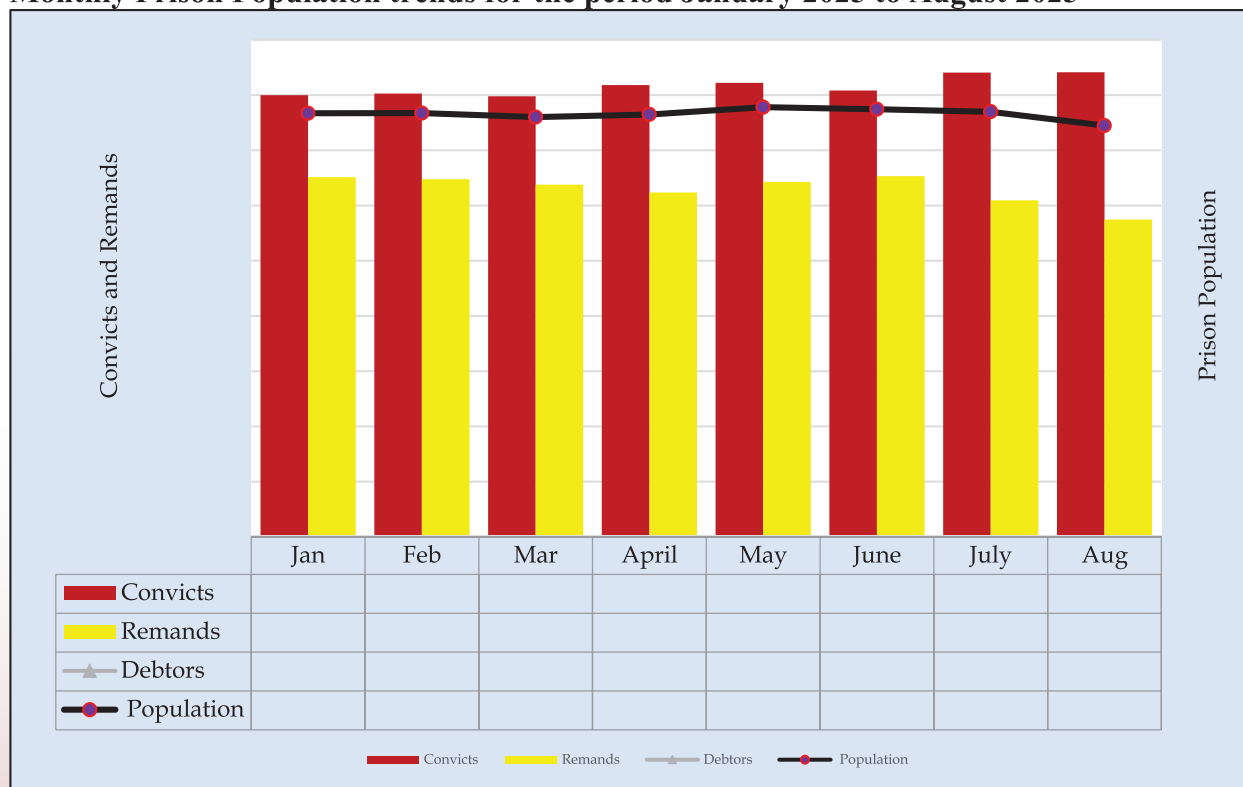


Figure 1.3 Monthly prison population trend for the period January 2025 to August 2025



1.4 Prison population trends for the period January 2025 to August 2025

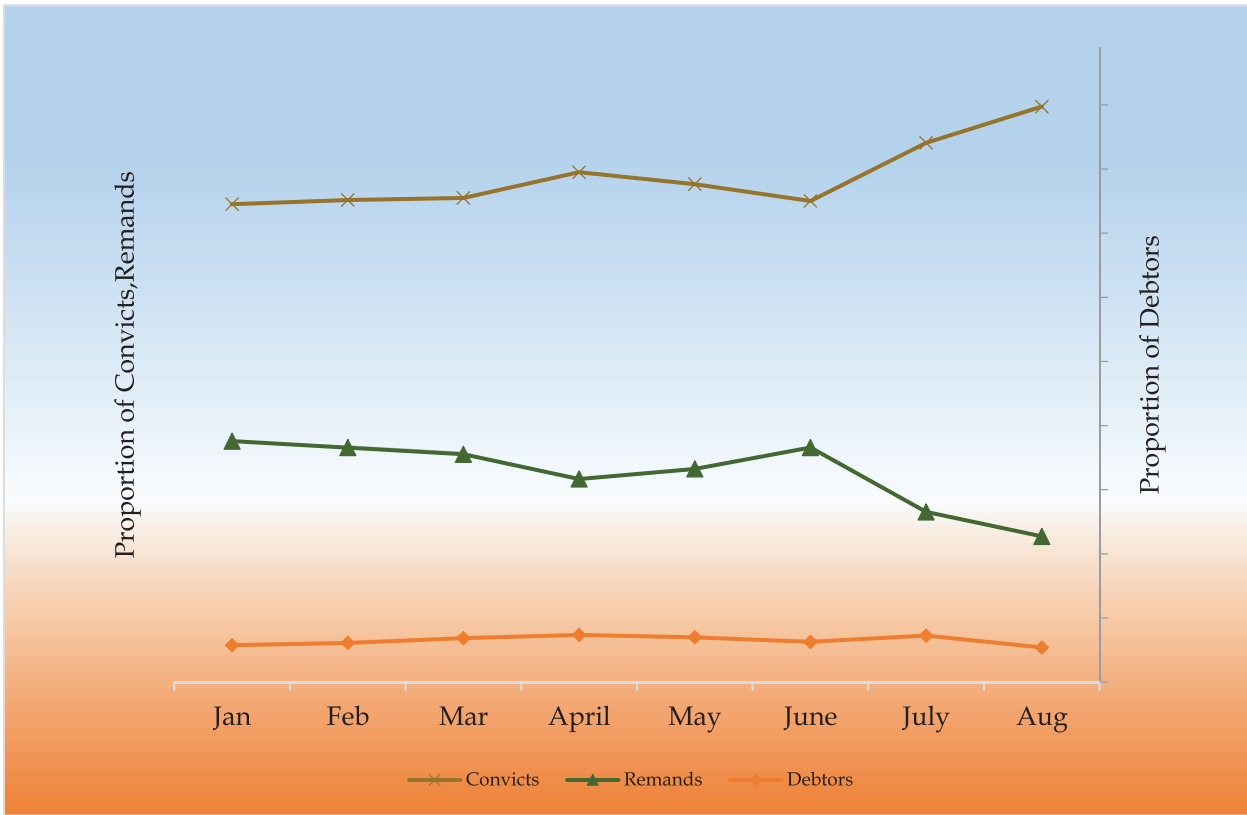


Figure 1.4 Composition trends of convicts, remands, and debtors for the period January 2025 to August 2025



2 STAFFING POSITION

2.1 Staff Strength

Table 2.1 Staff Strength as at 31st August 2025

STAFF CATEGORY	GENDER		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Uniformed	9,354	3,990	13,344
Senior officers	498	114	612
Principal officers	665	171	836
Non-Commissioned Officers	8,191	3,705	11,896
Non-Uniformed	254	234	488
Senior officers	102	82	184
Junior officers	152	152	304
Total	9,608	4,224	13,832
Trainees at PATS	867	291	1,158
Recruit Warders and Wardresses	867	291	1,158
GRAND TOTAL	10,475	4,515	14,990
Percentage	69.9	30.1	100.0

2.2 Uniformed staff by rank august 2025

CATEGORY	SEX		TOTAL
	M	F	
Commissioner General Prisons	1		1
Deputy Commissioner General Prisons	1		1
Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons	6		6
Senior Commissioner of Prisons	3		3
Commissioner of Prisons	13	5	18
Assistant Commissioner of Prisons	13	5	18
Senior Superintendant of Prisons	39	7	46
Superintendent of Prisons	93	29	122
Senior Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	32	8	40
Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	296	60	356
Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	1		1
Principle Officer I	227	60	287
Principle Officer II	435	111	546
Cadet Principle Officer	3		3
Chief Warder/Wardress I	179	51	230
Chief Warder/Wardress II	257	89	346
Chief Warder/Wardress III	500	204	704
Sergeant Warder/Wardress	1,187	572	1,759
Corporal Wardress/Wardress	1,994	1,017	3,011
Lance Corporal Wardress/Wardress	654	316	970
Wardress/Wardress	3,420	1,456	4,876
Recruit Warders/Wardresses	867	291	1,158
TOTAL	10,221	4,281	14,502

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI HONORS CHIEF JUSTICE OWINY-DOLLO IN AGAGO DISTRICT – NORTHERN UGANDA



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in a group photo with Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo and cultural performers during the thanksgiving ceremony in Patongo Town Council, Agago District.

HE. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni officiated at a thanksgiving ceremony in honor of the Chief Justice of Uganda, His Lordship Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo, held at Patongo Town Council in Agago District. The event drew national leaders, local officials, and citizens from across the region to celebrate the Chief Justice's legacy of integrity, reform, and dedication to justice.

In his remarks, President Museveni credited Chief Justice Owiny-Dollo's rise to one defining quality: truth. Recalling the turbulent years of insurgency in Northern Uganda, the President noted that while figures like Joseph Kony and Alice Lakwena misled communities into believing that the NRM government hated the region, the Chief Justice remained steadfast and unswayed by tribal divisions.

"Kony was lying to the people of Northern Uganda that NRM hates them, but Hon. Justice Alfonse is among those who saw the truth, and that is perhaps why we have worked together all these years," the President remarked.

Reflecting on the evolution of Uganda's judiciary, President Museveni described the system they inherited decades ago as "childish and unserious" but praised Chief Justice Owiny-Dollo for championing Alternative Dispute Resolution

Reflecting on the evolution of Uganda's judiciary, President Museveni described the system they inherited decades ago as "childish and unserious" but praised Chief Justice Owiny-Dollo for championing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which has simplified access to justice and localized conflict resolution.

The President also emphasized the importance of wealth creation at the household level for sustainable development, citing the example of Joseph Ijaara from Serere District, who earns over UGX 800 million annually through poultry and dairy farming on just two acres of land. He reiterated the NRM's 1996 manifesto guidance, encouraging citizens with small plots to engage in seven core activities: coffee, fruits, pasture, food crops, poultry, piggery, and, where possible, fish farming.

Chief Justice Owiny-Dollo, who is set to retire in six months upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70, expressed gratitude for the President's support in increasing the Judiciary's budget, which he said has strengthened its independence.



The thanksgiving brought together leaders, community members and the clergy in a unified celebration of a career marked by reform, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the rule of law in Uganda

He described his wealth not in material terms but as the wealth of relationships and people he has impacted. “When I retire, I will come back and help transform my people,” he pledged, urging support for the Acholi sub-region through coffee and other government programs.

The Deputy Chief Justice, Dr. Flavian Zeija, praised the Chief Justice for his passion for alternative justice systems. He highlighted the Chief Justice’s recent academic achievements, including a master’s degree in Dispute Resolution and a certificate in International Commercial Arbitration from Pepperdine University (2023), and noted that he now chairs the African Chief Justices Forum on ADR.

Hon. Hilary Onok, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness, and Refugees, shared personal childhood memories with the Chief Justice, recalling visits to his home and playful moments drinking goat’s milk. Hon. Akello Akori, Woman Member of Parliament for Agago District, commended the President for the peace prevailing in Acholi and the successful rollout of the Parish Development Model (PDM), which has achieved 86% disbursement in the district, while raising concerns over delayed compensation for families affected by cattle rustling and the LRA insurgency.

The event was also attended by top officials from the Uganda Prisons Service, including Commissioner General of Prisons, Canon Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, and Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, Mr. Samuel Akena. Other senior officers from Prisons Headquarters, as well as Officers-in-Charge from prisons in Northern Uganda, were present to show support and honor the Chief Justice’s contributions to justice and national cohesion. The thanksgiving brought together leaders, judiciary officials, and the public in a unified celebration of a career marked by reform, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the rule of law in Uganda.

PICTORIAL



Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo welcomes President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to Patongo Town Council, Agago District, for the thanksgiving ceremony held in his honor.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni greets guests upon his departure from the thanksgiving ceremony



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija engages in a light conversation with members of Prisons top management officers at the function



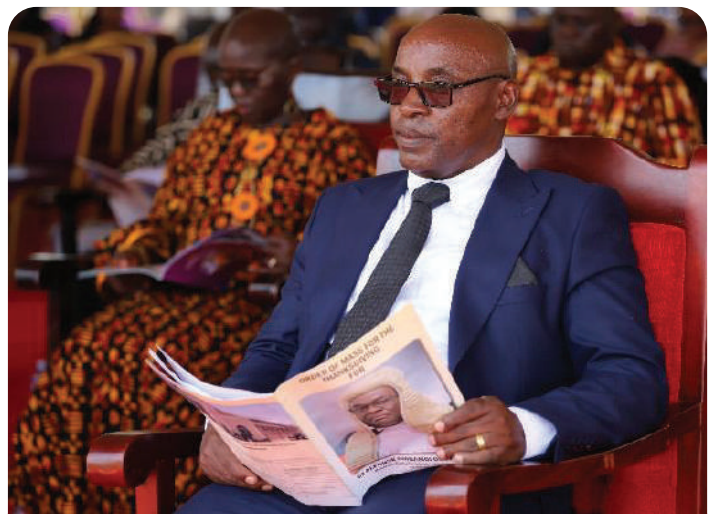
Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo arrives at the ceremony in the company of family members



The event drew high-ranking government officials, top members of the Judiciary, and Agago District leaders



Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Nobert Mao and Minister of State for Northern Uganda Hon. Kenneth Omona were in attendance



The Deputy Chief Justice, Hon. Dr. Flavien Zeija, in attendance



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, alongside his Deputy Samuel Akena, in attendance



Members of Uganda Prisons top management in attendance



Minister of Disaster preparedness, Hon. Hillary Onek receives Holy Communion during the mass celebration



ACGP Milton Tiyo receives holy communion



Cultural performers entertain the congregation



Performers showcase the traditional Bwola Royal Dance during the thanksgiving ceremony

UPS CELEBRATES FIVE OFFICERS' GRADUATION FROM SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE



Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhoozi, in a group photo with CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashajja, IGP Abas Byakagaba, course administrators, and officers who graduated from the Senior Command and Staff Course at the Senior Command and Staff College, Bwebajja

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) has celebrated a major milestone after five of its senior officers successfully graduated from the prestigious Senior Command and Staff Course at the Senior Command and Staff College, Bwebajja, alongside 37 senior officers of Uganda Police Force (UPF).

The colourful ceremony was presided over by the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhoozi, who was warmly received by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Abbas Byakagaba, and accorded a Quarter Guard Parade as a mark of honour. The event also drew senior officers from both the Police and Prisons.

The five UPS officers who graduated are:

- Ms. Aliyo Naatukunda – Commissioner of Prisons
- Ms. Brenda Sana – Commissioner of Prisons
- Mr. Jolly Robert Bamutura – Assistant Commissioner of Prisons
- Mr. Arthur Mugaba – Senior Superintendent of Prisons
- Mr. Ben Nicomedie Nyanzi Ahimbisibwe – Senior Superintendent of Prisons

They were part of a class of 41 participants, including 36 senior officers from the Uganda Police Force, who completed the rigorous one-year program that ran from August 30, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

The Senior Command and Staff Course is a high level professional development program that equips officers with advanced skills in leadership, strategic thinking, operational command, and decision making. Participants are prepared to respond to emerging challenges such as transnational crime, terrorism, cybercrime, and complex correctional management needs.

In his address, Gen. David Muhoozi praised both the UPS and UPF for their commitment to investing in people through training. He noted that human resource development remains the single most important driver of institutional growth, as infrastructure and systems are only as effective as the people managing them.

"The country relies on security and correctional institutions not just for enforcement, but also for reform and stability. It is therefore critical that we continuously invest in building skilled, disciplined, and visionary officers who can lead with competence in a rapidly changing world," Gen. Muhoozi emphasized.



Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhozi, is welcomed on arrival at the event by heads of security agencies

The IGP, Abbas Byakagaba, echoed similar views, highlighting the evolving nature of security threats. He underscored that continuous training is essential for producing transformative leaders capable of tackling modern security and correctional challenges.

Discipline and Excellence Honoured

The ceremony also saw Mr. Jolly Robert Bamutura, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons, recognized as the Most Disciplined Participant. This award celebrated his professionalism, integrity, and exemplary conduct throughout the year-long course, reflecting the UPS's values of discipline and excellence.

Why Human Resource Development Matters

Human resource development is central to the transformation of the Uganda Prisons Service. By equipping officers with the right knowledge, skills, and attitudes, UPS ensures:

- **Effective leadership and command:** Trained officers can lead teams, make sound operational decisions, and respond to crises efficiently.
- **Enhanced professionalism and integrity:** Continuous training reinforces discipline, ethics, and accountability within the force.
- **Adaptation to new challenges:** As crime and correctional needs evolve, well-trained officers are better prepared to handle modern threats such as cybercrime, organized crime, and radicalization.
- **Improved rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders:** Skilled officers can implement correctional programs that focus on rehabilitation, reducing reoffending, and contributing to public safety.
- **Institutional sustainability:** Developing officers through structured courses creates a pipeline of future leaders who will sustain reforms and modernization efforts.



The IGP and CGP congratulate CP Brenda Sana upon her successful completion of the course

Multiple Certifications and Academic Enrichment

In addition to the core Senior Command and Staff Course certificate, the graduates earned specialized qualifications delivered in collaboration with academic and security institutions, including:

- Institutional Leadership and Management Certificate (Uganda Management Institute)
- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Training Certificate (Financial Intelligence Authority)
- Community Negotiation Certificate (Makerere University)

They also engaged in advanced academic modules in Business and Conflict Studies, Strategic Security Studies, Diplomacy, and Global Studies, equipping them for higher responsibilities and further studies such as Master's degrees.

UPS's Broader Training Agenda

The graduation highlights UPS's commitment to continuous human resource development. Alongside the Senior Command and Staff Course, the Service runs a range of professional programs, including Non-Commissioned Officer Courses, Junior and Station Command Courses, and Intermediate Command and Staff Courses. These ensure career progression, professionalism, and readiness at all levels of command.

PICTORIAL



Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhozi, receives a Guard of Honor at the saluting base upon arrival



Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Gen. David Muhozi, inspects the Uganda Police parade upon arrival



The Senior Command and Staff Course is a high level professional development program that equips officers with advanced skills in leadership, strategic thinking, operational command, and decision making.



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashajja in a group photo with the five Uganda Prisons officers who graduated from the Senior Command and Staff Course at the Senior Command and Staff College, Bwebajja.



Gen. David Muhozi congratulates a graduate upon successfully completing the Course



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija presents a certificate to a graduate



The course equipped graduates with skills and recognized their dedication and readiness to take on higher leadership responsibilities.



A graduating officer proudly receives his certificate from the CGP



The graduating officers are expected to serve as role models, demonstrating exemplary leadership skills and driving transformative impact



The course aimed at investing in building skilled, disciplined, and visionary officers who can lead with competence in a rapidly changing world



Strengthening the Chain of Justice: UPF and UPS Collaborate for Improved Human Resource Development and Security

UPS AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMISSIONING OF LUZIRA PRISONS STAFF HOSPITAL



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, in a group photo with CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, members of UPS top management, and medical officers during the commissioning of the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital at Luzira Prison

In a historic move to transform prison healthcare provision in Uganda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, officially commissioned the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, a modern medical facility designed to serve Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) staff, their families, and the surrounding communities. The ceremony, held at Luzira Prison Complex, was attended by the Commissioner General of Prisons, Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, UPS top management, healthcare professionals, and representatives from partner institutions.

The commissioning marked the culmination of years of planning and investment, signalling a new era in correctional healthcare where prison services, public health, and community wellbeing converge.

The Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital is a state-of-the-art facility, meticulously designed to address the diverse healthcare needs of its patients. Its key features include:

- **Outpatient and Inpatient Wards:** Separate wards for general medicine, surgical care, and chronic disease management, with capacity for long-term patient stays.

- **Surgical and Operating Theatre:** A fully equipped theatre capable of performing emergency and planned surgeries. The theatre adheres to modern safety and sterilization standards, ensuring high-quality surgical outcomes.

- **Diagnostic Laboratory:** Equipped with advanced diagnostic machines, the lab provides timely results for infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, as well as for chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension.

- **Pharmacy Services:** The hospital's pharmacy stocks essential medicines, enabling uninterrupted treatment for both staff and patients from nearby communities.

- **Maternal and Child Health Unit:** Specialized maternal and neonatal care facilities, including antenatal care, safe delivery rooms, and pediatric services, ensure the hospital supports national reproductive health goals.

- **Mental Health Services:** In collaboration with Butabika National Referral Hospital, the facility plans to expand mental health services, addressing the psychological wellbeing of inmates, staff, and their families.



The visiting team inspects a fully equipped theatre at the newly commissioned Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital

- **Health Education and Training Facilities:** Dedicated spaces provide ongoing professional development for prison health workers, including training in the operation of advanced medical equipment.
- **Community Outreach Programs:** More than half of the hospital's patients currently come from surrounding communities, reflecting its dual role as both a prison and community health hub.

Strengthening Healthcare Through Partnership

During the commissioning, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine acknowledged the significant challenges of providing healthcare in prison settings. "Prison health services are unique. We deal with limited resources, high disease prevalence, and logistical complexities inherent in secure environments," she said.

Dr. Atwine pledged the Ministry of Health's full support to strengthen UPS healthcare systems through initiatives such as:

- Revising medicines budgets and care packages to meet specialized medical needs.
- Finalizing a development masterplan for the National Prisoners Referral Hospital at Murchison Bay.
- Equipping specialist units, including theatres and laboratories.
- Training additional healthcare personnel in advanced medical procedures.
- Seconding health workers to UPS facilities to enhance service delivery.

"This hospital represents a bold step towards accessible, equitable, and high-quality healthcare for all those we serve," Dr. Atwine said.

UPS Leadership on Healthcare

The Commissioner General of Prisons, Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, emphasized that healthcare is a critical component of prison management and human rights compliance. "Our staff and inmates must have access to the same quality of care available to the public. For prisoners, healthcare outside prison walls is not an option—we must provide it here," he noted.

Dr. Byabashaija highlighted that while Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital was originally designed for 14,000 staff, 60% of current patients come from surrounding communities, placing pressure on limited resources. To address this, he proposed a co-funding mechanism between UPS and the Ministry of Health, ensuring sustainability and equitable access for both prison populations and public patients.

He also outlined UPS's broader healthcare strategy:

- Building a National Prisoners Referral Hospital at Murchison Bay to meet 2025 population projections.
- Expanding mental health services, including a forensic psychiatric unit at Butabika National Referral Hospital.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, together with CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija and members of UPS top management, inspect the newly commissioned Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, a milestone in strengthening prison healthcare services

- Strengthening preventive healthcare programs for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and chronic conditions.
- Integrating digital health systems and patient records to improve efficiency and transparency.
- Enhancing healthcare worker capacity through specialized training and continuous professional development.

Healthcare staff at Luzira shared how the new facility has transformed service delivery. Dr. Jingo, the medical superintendent explained, “Before this hospital, we had limited space, old equipment, and insufficient resources. Now, we can offer proper treatment, monitor patients effectively, and even perform complex procedures on-site. It’s a huge relief for both staff and the communities we serve.”

A patient from the surrounding Luzira community, Mr. Joseph Okello, described the hospital as “a blessing.” He recounted how his mother received maternal care here and how the hospital’s laboratory enabled early diagnosis and treatment of chronic illness. “It feels like a hospital for the whole community, not just prison staff,” he said.

Recognition of Partners

During the ceremony, UPS awarded institutions and partners who have contributed to strengthening prison health systems. Recipients included the Ministry of Health, Naguru Regional Referral Hospital, MOH infrastructure developers, and Butabika National Psychiatric Referral Hospital.

These awards recognize sustained collaboration and shared commitment to building a resilient correctional health system.

The Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital represents a pivotal shift in correctional healthcare in Uganda. By integrating specialized services, modern infrastructure, and community outreach, the facility addresses the complex health needs of a growing prison population while also supporting public health initiatives.

Statistics indicate that Uganda’s prison population is increasing by an estimated 8% annually, intensifying the demand for medical care within secure environments. By establishing a comprehensive, multi-service hospital, UPS is not only improving the wellbeing of inmates and staff but also relieving pressure on local health facilities.

The hospital’s maternal and child health services, in particular, have already seen significant uptake. Over 500 deliveries have taken place in the first six months, and immunization coverage for children of staff and community patients has improved dramatically.

Mental health, often overlooked in correctional settings, is now receiving focused attention. In collaboration with Butabika Hospital, Luzira plans to introduce psychiatric consultations, counseling services, and rehabilitation programs, recognizing the link between mental wellbeing, staff performance, and rehabilitation outcomes for inmates.

Looking to the Future

With the commissioning of Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, UPS is set to continue its ambitious healthcare agenda. Plans include:

- Expansion of facilities to accommodate growing patient numbers.
- Introduction of specialized care programs for chronic diseases, occupational health, and rehabilitation.
- Digital transformation to improve health record management and service delivery.
- Continuous staff training in modern medical practices, research, and patient-centered care.

Dr. Byabashaija emphasized that these initiatives align with international human rights standards, ensuring that Uganda's correctional facilities remain models for equitable and sustainable healthcare delivery.



Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, and CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija officially commission the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital



During the commissioning, Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine acknowledged the significant challenges of providing healthcare in prison settings stressing that the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital represents a pivotal shift in correctional healthcare in Uganda.



Dr. Diana Kanzira Atwine, in a group photo with healthcare workers at Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital during its commissioning



Dr. Diana Atwine is warmly welcomed by senior Prisons officers at Luzira Prison Complex



The commissioning team inspects the hospital data board at Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital



The newly commissioned Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital, a state-of-the-art facility established to provide quality healthcare services to Uganda Prisons Service staff, their families, and the surrounding communities



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija and Dr. Diana Atwine exchange commemorative souvenirs during the commissioning of Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital

UGANDA COMMEMORATES 14TH AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY, SPOTLIGHT ON UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE



Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, in a group photo with senior Prison officers and other government officials during the 14th Africa Public Service Day celebrations at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds

Uganda joined the continent in celebrating the 14th Africa Public Service Day (APSD) at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, under the theme “Empowering Marginalized Communities Through Inclusive and Accountable Governance.” The event was presided over by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, who represented His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as Chief Guest.

The day’s celebrations began with a grand procession of all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), starting from Wandegaya, home to the Ministry of Public Service headquarters.

The march continued along Bombo Road, Kampala Road, and Jinja Road, before reaching the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds via Wampewo Avenue.

The procession was led by a joint band from the Uganda Prisons Service and the Uganda Police Force, providing a rhythmic and patriotic accompaniment. Despite heavy downpours, public servants demonstrated remarkable resilience and spirit, marching with determination and pride, reflecting their commitment to service and national unity.

Following the procession, the Prime Minister inspected the exhibition stalls, applauding the MDAs for their dedication to public service and grassroots engagement. In conveying the President’s official message, she reflected on Uganda’s transformational journey since 1986, emphasizing

that peace, stability, and security form the foundation of national development. She highlighted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for enhancing Uganda’s international profile and encouraged continued efforts to attract investment and tourism.

The President’s message also emphasized Uganda’s readiness for regional and continental integration, citing peace, infrastructure, a young population, and access to the 1.3 billion African market as key pillars for investment, productivity, and anti-corruption efforts.

Deputy Head of Public Service and Commissioner for Performance and Service Delivery, Madam Jane Kyarisiima, led a session on “Driving Results through Performance Contracting and Cross-Government Accountability,” highlighting Uganda’s evolving model for public sector transformation. “We are building a lean, cost effective, and efficient public service,” she noted, referencing the rollout of One Stop Centres in Hoima, Kasese, and Kampala as examples of efforts to decentralize and streamline service delivery.



The day's celebrations began with a grand procession of all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), starting from Wandegaya, home to the Ministry of Public Service straight to Kololo ceremonial grounds through Kampala town

Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa, Minister for Public Service, commended the progress made through automation initiatives and called for greater outreach to marginalized groups, ensuring that women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities are fully included.

This year, the Africa Public Service Day spotlighted institutions that demonstrate innovation, inclusion, and performance, with the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) emerging as a national exemplar. Under the theme “Enhancing the agility and resilience of public institutions to achieve equitable governance and rapidly address historical service delivery gaps,” UPS showcased its institutional reforms, correctional excellence, and people centered service delivery.

A key highlight of APSD 2025 was the Africa Public Service Sports Gala held at Makerere University from June 27 to July 4. UPS dominated the week-long competition, demonstrating physical prowess, institutional unity, and team spirit. Among the victories:

- Netball Gold: UPS defeated the Ministry of Energy (19–16)
- Tug of War Gold: UPS defeated Uganda Police (2–1)
- Athletics: Eunice Apolo – 100m Gold, 200m Silver; Brenda Adokorach – 100m Silver, 200m Gold; Moses Aleper – 100m Gold; Patrick Achira – 200m Gold; Jimmy Adar – 800m Silver
- Volleyball: Women – UPS beat Judiciary 3–0; Men runners-up to KCCA

The success of UPS in the sports gala illustrated the role of physical fitness, morale, and inter-agency cohesion in strengthening public service culture.

Dr. George Muge, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Cooperation and Corporate Affairs), represented the Commissioner General of Prisons at the APSD celebrations, underscoring UPS’s commitment to public service excellence and professional development.

During the exhibition, UPS showcased a wide range of innovative products and services produced through its prisons industries and agricultural programs. These included:

- Furniture and Carpentry Products: High-quality office and household furniture crafted by inmates across prison workshops.
- Maize Seed Varieties: Certified high-yield seeds produced under UPS’s agricultural production and seed multiplication programs.
- Environmental Conservation Initiatives: Soil testing, clean energy solutions, and waste-to-product innovations aligned with UPS’s sustainability agenda.
- Artisanry and Handmade Crafts: Skilled craftsmanship by inmates, highlighting vocational training and rehabilitation outcomes.



UPS showcased a wide range of innovative products and services produced by the prisons industries and agricultural programs

The UPS stall attracted hundreds of visitors, demonstrating the transformative power of correctional skilling programs in fostering innovation, economic productivity, and social rehabilitation.

UPS exemplifies the decentralization and modernization of public service delivery, with 19 administrative regions and 269 prison units across 134 districts. In partnership with the Ministry of Public Service, UPS has undertaken human resource restructuring, salary enhancements, institutional audits, capacity building, and performance management integration, ensuring efficiency, professionalism, and staff welfare. These efforts align with national objectives to strengthen governance, public accountability, and service delivery.

The celebration also highlighted UPS's role in advancing rehabilitation, correctional training, and community engagement, strengthening the idea that correctional institutions can serve as platforms for skill development, research, and entrepreneurship.



ACGP Dr. George Muge arrives at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds to participate in the 14th Africa Public Service Day celebrations



The Procession underway



Not even the down pour could stop the procession



UPS dominated the week-long competition, demonstrating physical prowess, institutional unity, and team spirit.



It was a blissful day to celebrate the Public Service Day



Innovative crafts produced by prisons industries were on showcase



UPS boosts of quality maize seed that has enhanced crop production



This year, the Africa Public Service Day spotlighted institutions that demonstrate innovation, inclusion, and performance, with the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) emerging as a national exemplar



Event attendees from various MDAs admired the Uganda Prisons Service exhibition stall



UPS showcased the improved soil sampling technologies geared towards crop improvement and seed production



The UPS band led the day's celebrations



UPS band doing what they do best

UPS SHOWCASES AGRO-INDUSTRIAL AND VOCATIONAL INNOVATIONS AT PUBLIC INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



Minister of State for Planning, Hon. Amos Lugoloobi in a group photo with senior Prisons officers during the 2nd Edition of the Public Investment Management (PIM) Conference at Makerere University

The 2nd Edition of the Public Investment Management (PIM) Conference, held at Makerere University under the theme “Overcoming Implementation Barriers in Public Investment Management for Fiscal Sustainability”, brought together senior government officials, policy experts, development partners, and academia to reflect on Uganda’s investment journey, strengthen project implementation capacity, and exchange knowledge on driving fiscal sustainability.

Officiating at the conference, the Minister of State for Planning, Hon. Amos Lugoloobi, underscored the importance of public investment management as a tool for socio-economic transformation.

“The infrastructure we have built over the years, the social services that we continue to fund, and the economic opportunities we unlock through our public investments are the very pillars upon which Uganda’s progress rests,” he said. He noted that Uganda’s transformation into a high-income economy depends on the country’s ability to manage public investments strategically, efficiently, and sustainably.

He highlighted Uganda’s opportunities for growth beyond the current 6%, pointing to the youthful population, abundant natural resources, and strategic East African location as key drivers of economic expansion. Lugoloobi also commended the Makerere University PIM Centre of Excellence for its continued role in capacity building.

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), through its Product Promotion, Marketing, and Distribution Department, proudly exhibited a range of high-quality prison industries products. These included premium office furniture, high-yielding maize and soya bean seed varieties, and other outputs from agro-industrial and vocational skilling programs.

Their exhibition highlighted UPS’s growing role in national socio-economic development beyond its traditional mandate of safe custody and rehabilitation. The Service has invested heavily in agro-industrial production and vocational training programs for inmates, contributing to self sufficiency, revenue generation, and skills transfer for reintegration into society.

The Minister of State for Planning, Hon. Amos Lugoloobi, together with Maj. Gen. David Kasura Kyomukama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, visited the UPS exhibition stand. They were received by



Hon. Amos Lugoloobi, visited the Prison exhibition stall and inspected high-quality soya and maize seed produced by Prisons farms

Mr. Robert Munanura, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director – Production and Engineering), who showcased the Service’s diverse range of products.

The dignitaries commended UPS for its value addition initiatives and vocational skilling programs. Hon. Lugoloobi encouraged the Service to strengthen its marketing strategies, noting that its high-quality products have strong potential to tap into Uganda’s rapidly growing population and emerging markets.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, former Finance Minister of Rwanda and 7th President of the African Development Bank, emphasized the need to equip technocrats with practical skills to ensure investments are both technically and politically feasible. He called for more effective public financial management and programmatic approaches to planning and budgeting.

The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi, acknowledged Uganda’s progress in project appraisal and preparation but pointed out challenges in project execution. He cited delays, cost overruns, fragmented coordination, and suboptimal delivery as major setbacks to public trust and development progress. He emphasized that the National Public Investment Management Policy, recently launched, provides a framework to guide investment across its entire cycle, stressing the need for MDAs to institutionalize its provisions.

Participation in the conference was a strategic milestone for the Uganda Prisons Service. By showcasing high-quality products, UPS demonstrated its alignment with Uganda’s national development priorities, including fiscal sustainability, agricultural transformation, and industrial growth, as articulated in Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan IV.

The exhibition also provided UPS direct access to policymakers, technocrats, development partners, and potential buyers, opening doors to new markets, stronger partnerships, and enhanced visibility for its rehabilitation-driven enterprises.

Dr. Joseph Muvawala, Executive Director of the National Planning Authority, commended the Uganda Prisons Service for its outstanding work in strengthening production and productivity. He praised the Service for its strides in governance, institutional capacity, accountability, and transparency over the last two decades, which have positioned UPS as a reliable partner in national socio-economic transformation.



UPS showcased the Service's diverse range of products including quality furniture produced by Prisons Industries



Dignitaries at the conference



The dignitaries commended UPS for its value addition initiatives and vocational skilling programs



UPS office furniture on display



Uganda Prisons Industries also produce garments ranging from both staff and prisoner uniforms to flags and other outfits

UGANDA HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSION CONDUCTS SUPPORT SUPERVISION AT UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE



Members of Prisons top management welcome the Uganda Health Service Commission supervision team during their support supervision visit to UPS Headquarters

The leadership of the Uganda Health Service Commission (HSC) conducted a support supervision visit at the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) Headquarters and Luzira Prisons Hospital, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and addressing human resource challenges within the country's correctional facilities.

The delegation, led by the Chairperson of HSC, Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa, was on its inaugural support supervision visit since assuming office. He was accompanied by the Deputy Chairperson, Permanent Secretary/Secretary, Members, and staff of the Commission.

At the Prisons Headquarters in Kampala, the HSC leadership held a high-level meeting with the Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson O.R. Byabashaija, and the UPS top management team.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Byabashaija welcomed the delegation and commended HSC for extending support supervision to the Uganda Prisons Service. He briefed the team on staffing levels across the Service, noting the presence of both uniformed and non-uniformed qualified health professionals.

The CGP, however, expressed concern over understaffing in the health sector within prisons, where custodial officers often step in to perform duties of health workers. He questioned whether such officers, who take on additional technical responsibilities, could be considered for remuneration on the scientist scale.

He further informed the Commission that the Prisons Health Policy is under review, with the aim of improving healthcare structures and systems. He also recommended that the HSC conduct a thorough assessment of prison health workers for promotion, stressing that many officers have shown exceptional commitment in improving health conditions for inmates and staff.

Dr. Byabashaija concluded by thanking the HSC leadership for their visit, describing it as a strong gesture of partnership and support towards improving prison health systems.

Dr. Mwebesa, the Chairperson of HSC, commended the Uganda Prisons Service for its strides in strengthening human resource standards for health professionals. He pledged the Commission's support in addressing persistent challenges.

He emphasized the need to review the prisons health structure, particularly the presence of multiple systems that sometimes slow down service delivery. He also raised the importance of validating custodial health workers to ease deployment and ensure clear accountability.



The Uganda Health Service Commission visiting delegation at Luzira Prisons Hospital. They were received by Dr. Kisambu, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services, and Dr. Jingo, Medical Superintendent of the facility

Dr. Mwebesa stressed that government payment rates—particularly the science scale—must be upheld even in NGO-supported health programs, such as those associated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) operating in prisons. This, he said, would ensure uniformity and fairness across the sector.

He concluded by noting that the Health Service Commission remains committed to working with UPS to recruit, deploy, and promote qualified health professionals while addressing emerging human resource needs.

Tour of Luzira Prisons Hospital

Following the headquarters meeting, the delegation proceeded to Luzira Prisons Hospital, where they were received by Dr. Kisambu, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services, and Dr. Jingo, Medical Superintendent of the facility.

The HSC team was taken on a guided tour of the hospital, where they inspected the facilities, interacted with patients, and assessed available resources. The visit ended with a meeting with the hospital's medical personnel, focusing on healthcare delivery, staff welfare, and opportunities for improved service.

Support supervision is a key tool for strengthening Uganda's health systems. It helps identify staffing gaps, assess performance, promote accountability, and provide technical guidance to health facilities. For correctional services like UPS,

support supervision is particularly vital because:

- Prison populations have unique health challenges, including high rates of communicable diseases, mental health needs, and limited access to specialized care.
- Staffing shortages often stretch available medical personnel, requiring urgent interventions in recruitment, deployment, and capacity building.
- It ensures uniformity in health standards between prison facilities and national health facilities, promoting equity and human rights.
- It provides a platform for policy dialogue between UPS and HSC, ensuring that reforms such as the ongoing review of the Prisons Health Policy are properly guided.
- It enhances motivation and career growth for prison health workers through validation, promotions, and recognition of their contribution.

The Health Service Commission is the statutory body mandated to recruit, develop, and manage Uganda's public health workforce. By extending support supervision to UPS, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that even specialized institutions like prisons have access to adequate, well-trained, and fairly remunerated health professionals.



The visiting Health Service Commission contingent is welcomed to UPS Headquarters



Inspection of the newly commissioned Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital



The visiting team, led by Dr. Henry Mwebesa, Chairperson of the Health Service Commission, in a group photo with health workers at Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital after the supervision visit



Support supervision is a key tool for strengthening Uganda's health systems. It helps identify staffing gaps, assess performance, promote accountability, and provide technical guidance



The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that institutions like UPS have access to adequate, well-trained, and fairly remunerated health professionals

UPS CALLS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF MENTAL HEALTH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



GP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija delivers his remarks on the urgent need to prioritize mental health in Uganda's criminal justice system, as panel members listen attentively during the discussion on mental health and detention.

Uganda's criminal justice system faces a growing and critical challenge: the increasing number of people with mental illness entering and remaining within detention facilities. Many are wrongfully arrested, endure prolonged pretrial detention, or remain incarcerated indefinitely without adequate medical or psychosocial support. Prisons, already overstretched by overcrowding, have inadvertently become default mental health institutions—places of confinement rather than care.

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), which manages 78,500 inmates across 269 prison facilities, has voiced strong concern over this reality. According to the Commissioner General of Prisons, Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, prisons have become the last stop for individuals with untreated mental health conditions, despite lacking the infrastructure, resources, and trained personnel to respond adequately. He emphasized that this is not only a humanitarian issue but also a direct threat to rehabilitation efforts, public safety, and human rights.

Dr. Byabashaija announced UPS's commitment to collaborate with the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) to establish a forensic psychiatric ward at Butabika National Referral Hospital. This initiative will provide specialized treatment for offenders with severe mental health conditions, easing the burden on prisons while ensuring that inmates receive the care they require.

The dialogue, organized by Penal Reform International (PRI), convened a broad spectrum of key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health,

The dialogue, organized by Penal Reform International (PRI), convened a broad spectrum of key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Police Force, the Embassy of the Netherlands, and several civil society organizations.

On infrastructural development, Dr. Byabashaija stressed that addressing mental health challenges cannot be separated from broader correctional reforms. He pointed out that UPS needs to expand maximum-security facilities regionally to decongest existing prisons. A modern maximum security prison has already been completed at Kitalya, featuring state-of-the-art facilities designed to accommodate inmates more humanely. Plans are underway to construct another similar facility in Western Uganda, which will significantly reduce congestion and improve living conditions in correctional institutions across the country.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Ms. Mariam Wangadya, highlighted that mental illness remains deeply misunderstood and stigmatized, often resulting in systemic injustices such as wrongful arrests and long-term detention



Her Excellency Frederieke Quispel, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Uganda, underscored that mental health is not a peripheral issue but central to justice, dignity, and human rights

without proper support. She reaffirmed UHRC's mandate to monitor, protect, and promote the rights of all Ugandans, including those with mental health conditions, stressing that inclusion must be translated from principle into daily practice.

Representing the international community, Her Excellency Frederieke Quispel, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Uganda, underscored that mental health is not a peripheral issue but central to justice, dignity, and human rights. She urged Uganda to align its criminal justice practices with international standards, commending UPS and its partners for tackling an often-overlooked subject. Health sector stakeholders, including officials from the Ministry of Health, reinforced the need for integrated services and mental health units near prison facilities to ensure timely diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of care. Experts also advocated for diversion programs to prevent the unnecessary incarceration of people with mental health challenges, as well as the adoption of trauma informed, recovery-focused approaches within the justice system.

The national dialogue concluded with a collective call for urgent, coordinated action. For UPS and its partners, prioritizing mental health is a moral and practical imperative. Without decisive measures, untreated mental illness in prisons will continue to perpetuate cycles of reoffending, erode human rights, and strain an already burdened correctional system. Making mental health a top priority ensures that the justice system fulfils its rehabilitative purpose rather than exacerbating vulnerability. It strengthens public confidence, reduces recidivism, and contributes to safer communities. As Uganda moves forward, the integration of mental health care into criminal justice represents a vital step toward a system that is just, humane, and aligned with both national aspirations and international human rights standards.

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HOLDS 2024/2025 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY



Permanent Secretary Lt. Gen. Joseph Musanyufu in a group photo with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Internal Affairs' agencies during the 2024/2025 Annual Performance Review Workshop at Silver Springs Hotel, Kampala

The Ministry of Internal Affairs held its 2024/2025 Ministerial Annual Performance Review Workshop at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala, presided over by the Permanent Secretary, Lieutenant General Joseph Musanyufu.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from the Ministry's agencies to evaluate progress over the past year, identify challenges, and set strategic priorities for the future. It focused on assessing institutional performance, enhancing inter-agency collaboration, refining the legislative framework, and addressing emerging internal security threats.

In his opening remarks, Lt. Gen. Musanyufu commended the participating agencies for their dedication to maintaining law, order, and public safety. He emphasized that the Ministry's core mandate is to ensure the maintenance of internal security, regulate migration, enforce citizenship and immigration laws, provide rehabilitative correctional services, and strengthen forensic and analytical capacity.

"This workshop reaffirms our shared commitment to building a secure and stable Uganda. We must continue to innovate, strengthen partnerships, and deliver quality services to our citizens," Musanyufu stated.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry's affiliated agencies, including the

Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC), the Uganda Police Force, the Community Service Programme, the Government Analytical Laboratory (GAL), the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), and the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) delegation was led by Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, Samuel Akena, who reiterated the Service's commitment to safe custody, rehabilitation of offenders, and supporting the broader national security agenda through vocational training, production initiatives, and human rights observance within correctional facilities.

The workshop was hailed as a major success, producing actionable resolutions to guide the Ministry in the coming year. Participants agreed on the need for greater resource mobilization, stronger legislative backing for security operations, and continued modernization of institutional capacities.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs plays a pivotal role in Uganda's governance architecture. It is responsible for ensuring public safety and order, managing migration and citizenship, administering correctional services, supporting forensic



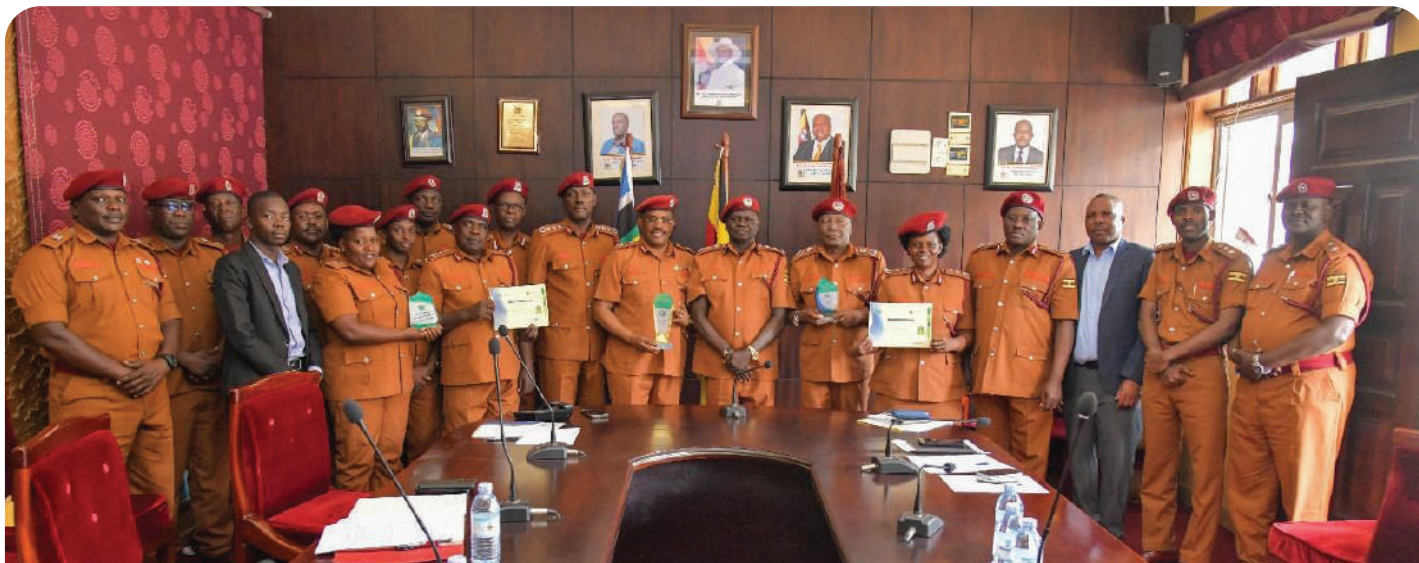
The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) delegation was led by Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, Samuel Akena, who reiterated the Service's commitment to safe custody, rehabilitation of offenders, and supporting the broader national security agenda

investigations, and coordinating community service as an alternative to imprisonment. Its agencies collectively form the backbone of the country's internal security framework. The workshop concluded with a renewed pledge by all stakeholders to work collectively towards a safer, more secure Uganda, underscoring the Ministry's mission to promote peace, lawfulness, and effective service delivery for national development.



Key actors of the criminal justice system came together to discuss the way forward

UPS CROWNED THE BEST AT THE 31ST NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE SHOW IN JINJA CITY, ESTABLISHING ITS POSITION AS A LEADER IN INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY.



DCGP Samuel Akena, on behalf of CGP, receives the prestigious accolades won by Uganda Prisons Service at the 31st National Agricultural Trade Show in Jinja City, where UPS was recognized as Overall Best Exhibitor, Most Innovative Institution, and Best Livestock Exhibitor.

In July this year, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) emerged as the biggest winner at the 31st National Agricultural Trade Show held at the Source of the Nile in Jinja City, taking home three of the most prestigious accolades: Overall Best Exhibitor, Most Innovative Institution, and Best Livestock Exhibitor.

Receiving the trophies at Prisons Headquarters on behalf of the Commissioner General of Prisons, Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons (DCGP) Samuel Akena applauded the teams involved for their commitment to innovation and productivity. He emphasized that the showcased agricultural models should not remain confined to the exhibitions but instead be replicated across all prison units in the country. Demonstration plots, improved land use practices, and adoption of the latest farming methodologies, he noted, could enhance both inmate rehabilitation and the welfare of staff.

The DCGP expressed satisfaction at seeing other farmers and stakeholders drawing lessons from the UPS farming initiatives. He challenged the production department to sustain its leadership role in agricultural innovation and productivity, stressing that UPS, as part of government, remains guided by constitutional mandates and the directives of the President in delivering on national development goals.

Mr. Akena further encouraged prison officers and their families to actively engage in community-based income-generating activities

supported under the Parish Development Model (PDM), such as poultry, piggery, and goat or sheep rearing.

He highlighted that such ventures, coupled with the food security and seed production projects already underway, reflect UPS's role as a major stakeholder in the national agricultural value chain. Beyond internal consumption, UPS has expanded its capacity in seed multiplication and commercial farming, reinforcing its contribution to Uganda's broader socio-economic transformation agenda.

Adding to this perspective, Mr. John Bosco Tumwebaze, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Administration), underlined the rehabilitation potential of the agricultural programs. According to him, the farming and production initiatives exhibited at the trade show go beyond boosting food security; they serve as tools for vocational training, preparing inmates to reintegrate into society as law-abiding, skilled, and economically viable citizens.

Mr. Robert Munanura, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Production and Engineering), echoed the pride and gratitude felt across the service. He credited the triumph at the trade show to the tireless efforts of the staff,



DCGP Samuel Akena receives the Overall Livestock Exhibitor accolade from ACGP Robert Munanura



DCGP Samuel Akena applauded the teams involved for their commitment to innovation and productivity

departmental heads, instructors, and inmates who worked collectively to deliver world-class exhibits. Their work, he noted, not only showcased UPS's capabilities in livestock, sustainable farming, and industrial production but also reaffirmed the institution's place as a leader in innovation within the agricultural sector. He paid special tribute to the Commissioner General of Prisons for providing strategic and financial backing that enabled the success.

Mr. Munanura pointed out that the accolades reflect the transformative journey UPS has been pursuing—one where rehabilitation, productivity, and national development intersect. He urged teams to build on the achievement and aim for even greater innovations in future shows, emphasizing that the institution's reputation now stands as a benchmark for agricultural excellence and vocational training.

Mr. Amos Turyashaba, Commissioner of Prisons (Farms), detailed the range of initiatives exhibited in Jinja, which included modern crop production and management techniques, livestock productivity models, prison industries' manufactured products, irrigation systems, post-harvest handling mechanisms, environmental conservation and afforestation programs, as well as innovations in entomology, vector control, and Black Soldier Fly (BSF) technology. These, he said, were key to UPS being recognized as the most innovative exhibitor.



The triumph echoed the pride and gratitude felt across the service.



UPS' win at the 31st Jinja agricultural show further established its position as a leader in innovation, sustainability and productivity.



The accolades reflect the transformative journey UPS has been pursuing, one where rehabilitation, productivity, and national development intersect.



The wide range of initiatives exhibited in Jinja were key to UPS being recognized as the most innovative exhibitor



SP Betunga Generous Behabura is applauded by DCGP Samuel Akena

UPS, U.S. CDC LAUNCH MODERN REFERENCE LABORATORY TO STRENGTHEN HIV AND TB RESPONSE IN PRISONS



Dr. Mary Adetunke Boyd, CDC Country Director, ACGP John Bosco Tumwebaze, and other officials in a group photo during the launch of the modern Uganda Prisons Service Reference Laboratory

Uganda's prisons have long battled a heavy burden of HIV and tuberculosis (TB)—a crisis worsened by overcrowding, limited healthcare infrastructure, and the heightened risk of disease transmission among inmates, staff, and surrounding communities. Today, a major step was taken to change this trajectory.

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), in partnership with the United States Embassy in Uganda through the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), officially launched a state-of-the-art UPS Reference Laboratory at the Luzira Prisons Staff Hospital and the National Prisoners Referral Hospital – Murchison Bay, within the Luzira Prisons Complex, Kampala Extra Region. The facility is poised to transform disease detection, management, and prevention in correctional facilities nationwide, offering advanced diagnostic capabilities previously unavailable within Uganda's prison health system.

Presiding over the commissioning, Dr. Mary Adetunke Boyd, CDC Country Director, emphasized the laboratory's critical role in improving HIV and TB control in prisons—a population often left behind in public health interventions. She reaffirmed CDC's long-term commitment to supporting vulnerable groups and expressed confidence in UPS's ability to maximize the facility's potential and ensure sustainability.

The new reference laboratory includes:

- Advanced molecular testing systems for rapid detection of TB, HIV, and other infectious diseases.
- Automated viral load testing technology to monitor HIV treatment effectiveness.
- Biosafety-compliant infrastructure for safe handling of infectious samples.
- Integrated digital reporting systems to improve data accuracy and speed up results sharing.
- Specialized TB culture and drug-resistance testing units.
- Modern X-ray and ultrasound equipment to diagnose TB and HIV-related complications.
- Simple Complete Blood Count (CBC) testing for quick assessments and treatment guidance.

These upgrades will significantly reduce turnaround times for test results, accelerate treatment initiation, and curb disease spread both inside prisons and in surrounding communities.

Representing the Commissioner General of Prisons, Mr. John Bosco Tumwebaze, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Administration), commended the CDC's unwavering support. He noted that prison health improvements



ACGP John Bosco Tumwebaze, commended the CDC's unwavering support noting that prison health improvements save lives not only within prisons but across the country

save lives not only within prisons but across the country, as infectious diseases in prisons pose broader public health risks.

He urged prison health workers to fully utilize the new laboratory, emphasizing that its success depends on sustainability and continued commitment. He also revealed that UPS is expanding health infrastructure across multiple prison facilities to enhance access to quality care for both staff and inmates.

To complement the laboratory launch, eight new motorcycles were handed over to support CDC field teams operating in hard-to-reach prisons, bringing their total fleet to 31. These motorcycles will boost sample collection, follow-up care, and outreach services in remote locations, ensuring no facility is left behind.

The CDC, active in Uganda since 1991, has played a pivotal role in HIV and TB interventions in prisons. Its initiatives include routine HIV testing and counseling, scaling up ART to all diagnosed individuals, integration of TB services into HIV programs, PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) initiatives, and stigma-reduction campaigns.

For UPS, this partnership marks a milestone in transforming prison health services. By integrating modern diagnostics, expanding access to care, and reinforcing prevention measures, the Service is not only protecting inmates and staff but also contributing to Uganda's broader public health goals.

This investment underscores a critical truth: prison health is public health. Strengthening disease control in correctional facilities safeguards communities, supports national health priorities, and ensures that no one—regardless of their circumstances—is left behind in the fight against HIV and TB.



To complement the laboratory launch, eight new motorcycles were handed over to support CDC field teams operating in hard-to-reach prisons, bringing their total fleet to 31.



The cake cutting session



The visiting team inspects the facility



The new motorcycles that were handed over



Dr. Mary Adetunke Boyd receives presentaries

HIGH-LEVEL JUSTICE DELEGATION VISITS LUZIRA UPPER PRISON TO ADDRESS DELAYED JUSTICE AND INMATE WELFARE



The high-level justice delegation in a group photo afront Luzira Upper Prison during their visit to address delayed justice and promote inmate welfare, highlighting efforts to strengthen the rule of law and improve conditions within Uganda's correctional facilities

Delays in the justice system remain one of the most pressing challenges undermining Uganda's efforts to uphold the rule of law and human rights. Thousands of inmates across the country spend years in detention awaiting trial or sentencing due to missing case files, slow investigations, and limited court resources. These delays have far-reaching effects—not only denying inmates timely justice but also contributing to prison congestion and exacerbating human rights concerns.

It is against this backdrop that a high-level delegation, led by the Acting Principal Judge, Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga, visited Luzira Upper Maximum-Security Prison to assess the situation firsthand and engage stakeholders on solutions to address case backlogs and prolonged incarceration. The visit, supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), brought together key actors in Uganda's justice and human rights sectors, including representatives from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Police Force, Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF), and Penal Reform International (PRI).

They were received by Senior Superintendent of Prisons Bryan Corr Mbaziira, Officer-in-Charge of the facility, which currently houses 3,246 inmates and three lodgers—including 93 inmates on death row (91 men and two women).

During the visit, inmates presented a petition detailing critical issues such as missing case files, delayed judgments, and the severe psychological toll of prolonged incarceration—particularly for those on

death row. Lady Justice Kajuga acknowledged these concerns, reaffirming the Judiciary's commitment to tackling case backlogs through initiatives like Daily Hearings, the Justice for Her project, plea bargaining, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). She urged inmates willing to admit guilt to consider plea bargaining as a means to obtain fair and timely sentences, and called on legal aid organizations to intensify support for mandatory bail applications for capital offenders.

On the sensitive issue of the death penalty, Lady Justice Kajuga emphasized that while it remains part of Uganda's legal framework, it continues to spark national moral and social debate—one that requires inclusive discussion across society.

Other stakeholders echoed their commitment to reform. Mr. George William Byansi, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, pledged to streamline prosecution processes to help decongest prisons. Ms. Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson of the UHRC, lauded Uganda Prisons Service for upholding human rights despite challenges and called for a review of the "condemned section," suggesting a name change to align with evolving human rights



During the visit, inmates presented a petition detailing critical issues such as missing case files, delayed judgments, and the severe psychological toll of prolonged incarceration



The visiting team was received by SP Bryan Corr Mbaziira, Officer-in-Charge of the facility



Ms. Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson of the UHRC, lauded Uganda Prisons Service for upholding human rights despite challenges



The visiting delegation is welcomed and taken on a guided tour around Upper Luzira Prison



The visiting team also pledged to streamline prosecution processes to help decongest prisons.

standards. Mr. Bernd Brünner, Managing Director of ADC, and Dr. Katja Yvonne Kerschhaumer reaffirmed Austria's support for justice reform efforts. The visit concluded with a guided tour of the condemned section, where delegates interacted directly with inmates. Inmates expressed gratitude for the engagement, describing it as a "ray of hope" and a sign that their voices were finally being heard. The event ended on a vibrant note, with inmates showcasing cultural dances and songs of victory, symbolizing resilience and optimism amidst adversity.

BUILDING CAPACITY: UPS ENHANCES CUSTOMER CARE, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND PROFESSIONALISM



ACGP John Bosco Tumwebaze poses for a group photo with participants and course facilitators after officially opening the capacity-building program

In the past, the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) faced challenge of ensuring that its staff remain professional, financially stable, and aligned with the Service's evolving development goals. In today's demanding environment, officers not only safeguard and rehabilitate offenders but also act as the face of the Service to the public. Without proper training in customer care, personal development, and financial management, even the most committed officers risk burnout, poor decision-making, and a negative public image—issues that can undermine the credibility and effectiveness of UPS.

To address this, junior officers from Uganda Prisons Headquarters attended a transformative training session at Lake Victoria Beach Cottages in Kigo. The program focused on improving customer care, mindset change, building positive public relations, and managing personal finances responsibly.

The training was officially opened by Mr. John Bosco Tumwebaze, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Administration), who emphasized the importance of aligning personal ambitions with the strategic development plans of UPS. He urged officers to think long-term, plan for retirement from the onset of their careers, and set ambitious goals that keep them driven and purpose-oriented.

Financial discipline took center stage with Mr. Frank Baine, Senior Commissioner of Prisons (Deputy Director CCA/Service Spokesperson), who introduced the AIM (Activity, Ideas, Money) model to guide officers on how to earn, save, and grow their resources.

He encouraged them to make smart financial choices, avoid unnecessary loans, and differentiate between needs and wants to reduce stress and achieve financial independence.

Mr. Apollo Bakwate Akankunda, Commissioner of Prisons (National, Regional, International Cooperation), addressed professionalism and the importance of maintaining a positive public image. He highlighted that every interaction with the community reflects on the entire Service, and urged officers to offer exceptional service, build lasting relationships, and embody the values of UPS in their daily conduct.

The officers expressed gratitude for the skills acquired, noting that the training would not only enhance their ability to serve with professionalism but also empower them to live balanced, productive lives. For UPS, such initiatives are not optional—they are essential. A well-trained, motivated, and financially secure workforce ensures better service delivery, strengthens public trust, and contributes directly to the Service's mission of safe custody, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders.

Prioritizing continuous capacity building for staff remains a strategic necessity for UPS as it positions itself as a modern, professional, and people-centered institution.



ACGP John Bosco Tumwebaze shares insights about mindset change, building positive public relations, and managing personal finances responsibly to the course participants



Prison officers actively participate during the training



SCP Frank Baine shares his lecture



CP Apollo Bakwate Akankunda engages course participants



Course participants were urged to make smart financial choices, avoid unnecessary loans

25 AFRICAN NATIONS UNITE TO REIMAGINE PRISON INFRASTRUCTURE WITH REHABILITATION AT CORE



Delegates from 25 African nations, ICRC, and ACSA in a group photo during the 5th Workshop on Prison Infrastructure in Africa

In a landmark collaboration between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA), the 5th Workshop on Prison Infrastructure in Africa has marked a significant milestone in shaping the future of correctional facility design and management on the continent.

Hosted in Windhoek, Namibia, the five-day workshop ran under the theme “Rehabilitation Philosophy: A Driving Force Behind Prison Design.” It drew together correctional leaders and experts from 25 African nations, demonstrating a united front towards the transformation of prisons from punitive holding facilities into modern rehabilitation centres.

Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) was well represented by Mr. Wilson Magomu, Senior Commissioner of Prisons (Deputy Director Production and Engineering), and Eng. Hannington Nsubuga, Senior Superintendent of Prisons (Commandant Prisons Engineering Gang). Their participation underscored Uganda’s strong commitment to innovative prison infrastructure development and to learning from continental peers in advancing humane and effective correctional practices.

ICPA Board Member Marayca López, who attended the workshop, commended the collective spirit of African correctional leaders: “It is quite admirable and commendable that, despite the many significant and persistent challenges, they all came

together to discuss prison reform initiatives and efforts towards improvement in prison management, operations, planning and design to achieve the rehabilitative ideal.”

López, who joined a panel discussion on correctional philosophy and prison design, highlighted the importance of collaboration across nations. She noted: “Happy to reunite with ICPA Board Member and colleague Commissioner General Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela and Geert de Vries (ICRC), and blessed for the opportunity to make new acquaintances to build collaboration and partnerships to improve the prison system for a more humane and effective approach to corrections.”

The workshop went beyond theoretical dialogue. Participants conducted site visits to Windhoek’s male and female correctional facilities, where they observed firsthand how modern prison design supports rehabilitation. These facilities provide residents with access to education, skills development, vocational training, and employment opportunities—all aimed at preparing them to reintegrate into society as productive citizens.



International delegates attending the workshop

Such annual workshops hold immense significance. They provide a rare platform for correctional leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to:

- Share experiences and best practices across diverse African contexts.
- Reflect on challenges of overcrowding, outdated infrastructure, and resource constraints.
- Explore innovative solutions that balance security with rehabilitation.
- Strengthen partnerships between African states and international partners like the ICRC.
- Build consensus on continental priorities for prison reform and sustainable development.

For Uganda, participation in such gatherings ensures that the Uganda Prisons Service remains at the forefront of continental correctional reforms. UPS has been steadily improving prison infrastructure countrywide through:

- Expansion of inmates' wards to address overcrowding and enhance humane custody.
- Construction of over 1,500 staff housing units to improve staff welfare and motivation.
- Upgrading of security infrastructure across major facilities to ensure safe and secure custody.
- Improved water and sanitation systems to safeguard the health of inmates and staff.
- Integration of production and vocational training workshops within facilities to link rehabilitation directly to practical skills development.
- Deployment of the Engineering Gang in the construction and maintenance of key prison infrastructure, reducing costs while enhancing inmate vocational training.

These investments align with Uganda's broader commitment to a rehabilitation-centred correctional philosophy, ensuring that facilities are not only secure but also conducive to education, skills training, and reintegration.

UPS extends its gratitude to the ICRC and ACSA for this invaluable opportunity to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on prison reform in Africa. The success of this workshop marks not only a step forward in improving infrastructure but also a reaffirmation of Africa's collective will to humanize corrections and promote a justice system centred on rehabilitation and reintegration.



SCP Wilson Magomu represented UPS at the workshop



Delegates to the workshop toured correctional facilities to learn about initiatives that uphold human rights and promote modern correctional practices



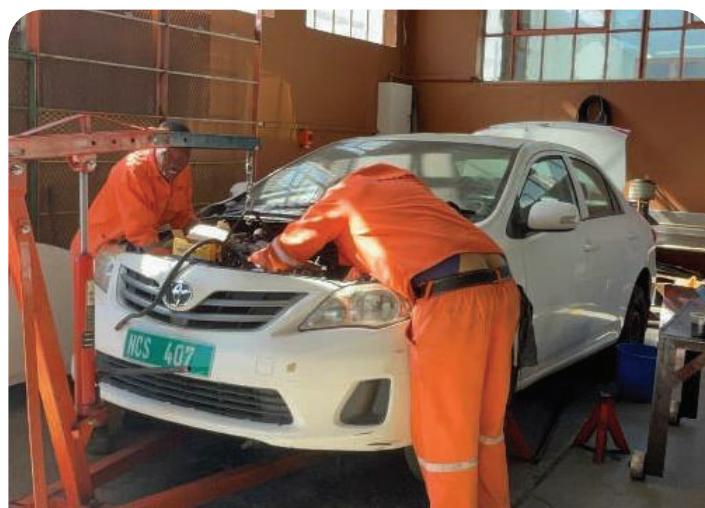
A modern kitchen at Windhoek Correctional facility



The garment making workshop



Vehicle inspection and mechanics is among the rehabilitation programs offered to inmates at Windhoek Correctional Facility



Inmate engage in car repair as part of the vocational training programs



Delegates tour the Windhoek Correctional facility



Arts and craft made by inmates on display



SCP Wilson Magomu receives presentaries after the workshop



SSP Hannington Nsubuga receives a certificate at the close of the workshop



Urban vegetable farming at Windhoek Correctional Facility has boosted inmate nutrition while promoting sustainable food supplementation within the prison system

UPS SHINES AT NORTHERN UGANDA AGRICULTURAL TRADE SHOW



Revellers admire furniture showcased by Uganda Prisons Service during the Northern Uganda Agricultural Trade Show at Gulu University

The Northern Uganda Agricultural Trade Show at Gulu University concluded in grand style, drawing over 200 exhibitors from across the agricultural value chain, including manufacturers, government agencies, development partners, agribusiness enterprises, and individual farmers. Among the standout participants was the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), which showcased its vast contributions to agriculture, vocational training, and national development under the theme “Smart Farming for Resilient Future and Wealth Creation.”

Leading the UPS delegation was Mr. Fred Kayongo, Acting Commissioner of Prisons and Head of the Product Promotion and Distribution Department, a key unit tasked with marketing and distributing products from prison farms and industries across the country.

The UPS exhibition stall attracted hundreds of visitors, including policymakers, local leaders, and farmers eager to learn about innovative farming techniques and quality products. Farmers gained insights into improved maize and soybean seed varieties produced at UPS farms, alongside agronomic practices for sustainable production and management.

In addition to seeds, UPS showcased diverse industrial products manufactured from its prison industries. These included durable furniture, liquid soap, flags, art and crafts, and premium leather products such as shoes, bags, belts, and wallets. The display highlighted UPS’s dual mandate of contributing to national food security while rehabilitating and skilling offenders for reintegration into society.

Beyond its products, the Service used the platform to emphasize its vocational rehabilitation programs, which equip inmates with marketable skills in farming, carpentry, tailoring, leatherwork, and industrial production. “Our approach ensures that inmates leave prison with skills to sustain themselves and contribute positively to society, thereby reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety,” said Mr. Kayongo during an interaction with visitors.

Such participation is immensely beneficial for the Service itself, as it strengthens public confidence in UPS’s transformative role beyond incarceration. By showcasing its agricultural capacity, quality industrial output, and successful rehabilitation programs, UPS positions itself as a key contributor to Uganda’s socio-economic development. It also creates vital market linkages for prison products, generates income to support prison operations, and boosts the morale of staff and inmates by demonstrating the value of their work to the nation.

The Northern Region, particularly the Acholi Sub-region, plays a pivotal role in UPS’s agricultural efforts, with large-scale farms at Lugore (Gulu),



PO I Peter Okedi showcases high-quality soya seed produced by Uganda Prisons Service to a visitor at the UPS exhibition stall



UPS showcased diverse industrial products manufactured from its prison industries.



The high-quality maize seed drew particular interest from inquisitive farmers eager to learn and source the seed

The trade show also highlighted UPS's humanitarian role, as prison officers voluntarily donated blood to the National Blood Bank, a gesture applauded by visitors and organizers alike.

During his visit to the UPS stall, the Gulu City Mayor lauded the Service for its innovations in smart farming, quality seed production, and vocational skilling programs. He urged residents to embrace prison products and support UPS's efforts, noting that such initiatives strengthen local industry, improve livelihoods, and drive socio-economic transformation.

Looking Ahead: Kampala Defense and Security Expo

Buoyed by the success in Gulu, UPS is now gearing up for the 2nd Edition of the Kampala Defense and Security Expo, scheduled in honor of the late Gen. Aronda Nyakairima. The Expo will provide another opportunity for UPS to demonstrate its capacity in production, innovation, and support to national security.

As the Northern Uganda Agricultural Trade Show concluded, it was clear that UPS's participation went beyond showcasing products—it presented a model of how correctional services can contribute to economic growth, community development, and national resilience. For UPS, such engagements reaffirm its relevance, strengthen partnerships, and cement its image as a forward-looking institution committed to transforming lives while supporting Uganda's development agenda



Through inmate rehabilitation programs, Uganda Prisons Service produces different products made by inmates, equipping offenders with practical skills for reintegration into society



High-quality finished leather products from Prisons Industries on display



Quality office furniture produced by UPS on display at the show

A HUMAN-CENTERED INSTITUTION: THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF STAFF WELFARE IN UPS



CGP Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija in a group photo with Prisons top management officers and Prisons SACCO members during the 2025 UPS SACCO Annual General Meeting, celebrating staff welfare and cooperative achievements

Welfare has always stood at the heart of the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), serving as both a professional obligation and a moral commitment to those who dedicate their lives to the safe custody, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders. In an institution where discipline, resilience, and sacrifice define the daily routine, ensuring the well-being of officers and their families is more than an act of kindness — it is a strategic investment in performance, morale, and institutional stability.

Over the years, UPS has undergone a remarkable transformation in its approach to staff welfare. What once existed as fragmented, survival-based initiatives has steadily evolved into a structured ecosystem of empowerment programs that respond to the diverse needs of officers, their families, and the wider service community. This shift reflects a deeper recognition that officers cannot deliver professional correctional services if their basic economic and social needs remain unmet.

Under the visionary leadership of the Commissioner General of Prisons, Canon Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, welfare has been elevated into a pillar of institutional reform, complementing professionalism, human rights observance, and infrastructure development. From centrally managed programs such as the Duty-Free Shop and the Uganda Prisons SACCO, to family-cantered initiatives like Spouse Empowerment, and grassroots support through Station-Level Welfare, each effort speaks to a holistic vision — one where officers are not just employees, but human beings with families,

aspirations, and futures to secure.

A Historical Context: From Struggle to Reform

For much of its history, UPS officers faced enormous challenges. Housing was scarce, salaries were often too little to support large families, and there were few structured programs to prepare officers for retirement.

“It was common to find officers retiring without a house of their own,” recalls a retired officer from Masindi. “You gave your best years to the country, but you went home empty-handed.”

The turning point came in 2005, with the leadership of Commissioner General of Prisons, Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, who introduced a philosophy that professional service delivery could not be achieved without investing in staff welfare. His vision, backed by government support, was to ensure that every officer in the Service had a foundation of security — financial, social, and physical.



Through the Duty Free Shop initiative, Uganda Prisons Service staff have accessed tax-free building materials an incentive designed to reward their dedicated service while enabling them to reduce the cost of constructing decent homes

Duty Free Shop: Turning Salaries into Brick and Mortar

The Uganda Prisons Duty Free Shop, established in 2011 with the support of HE. President Yoweri Museveni, remains one of the most tangible welfare initiatives. The idea was simple: sell building materials such as cement, iron sheets, ridges, valleys, and nails to officers at factory price, free of tax.

This program was born out of the painful reality that many officers reached retirement without owning a house. The Duty-Free Shop therefore aimed at easing home construction and enabling staff to build gradually, within their means.

Today, the shop has 16 outlets countrywide, with a central store at Luzira Complex. Over 2,600 officers have benefited, some completing homes in retirement while others build early in their careers.

One officer in Iganga says: “Before, I thought owning a permanent house was impossible. Through the Duty Free, I bought cement at half the market cost. I now have a home where my children feel secure.”

The Duty-Free Shop does more than sell materials. It promotes pride, security, and long-term planning among officers. For many, it is the foundation of financial independence.

Uganda Prisons SACCO: From Survival to Financial Empowerment

If the Duty-Free Shop builds homes, the Uganda Prisons Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (UPS

SACCO) builds resilience.

Founded in 1981 but revitalised in 2003, the SACCO has grown into one of the strongest financial institutions within Uganda’s security sector. With a membership of 13,132 as of 2024, it has an asset base of UGX 11.45 billion and a loan portfolio of UGX 9.3 billion.

The SACCO has given officers access to affordable loans — from salary advances for emergencies, to education loans for school fees, development loans for projects, and personal loans for day-to-day needs.

Its motto, “We save together to loan each other,” reflects a spirit of solidarity. Members’ savings create a pool of capital, and loans are disbursed at affordable interest rates.

In 2024, the SACCO embraced digital transformation by launching MSACCO, a mobile banking platform that allows officers to check balances, make deposits, withdraw cash, and manage loans via mobile phones. Already, 49% of active members are using the system.

“Our SACCO is not just about money,” says CP Amos Turyashaba (SACCO chairperson). “It is about dignity. It ensures that an officer does not collapse in times of need. It gives families hope.”

The SACCO also invests in financial literacy training, conducting sessions across 8 regions in 2024, ensuring officers and their families understand how to save, invest, and manage loans responsibly.

Housing: Building Roofs and Dignity



Prisons officers and their spouses have been empowered to diversify into income-generating activities, promoting financial resilience and enhancing staff welfare

Housing has always been a critical welfare concern. Overcrowded barracks and dilapidated staff quarters used to define life in many prisons. UPS has now committed to constructing 1,577 new staff housing units across the country, alongside modernisation of security infrastructure, prisoner wards, and water facilities.

The housing projects are not just about bricks; they are about creating an environment where officers can work with dignity and stability. Adequate housing reduces stress, improves morale, and strengthens officers' ability to deliver professionally.

"An officer who goes home to a decent house works with more confidence and less distraction," notes Mr. John Bosco Tumwebaze, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Prisons Administration)

Spouse Empowerment: Extending Welfare to Families.

UPS has gone a step further by involving officers' spouses in welfare programs. Between 2013 and 2017, 98 groups of spouses were mobilised into piggery, poultry, goat-rearing, and zero-grazing projects, supported by NAADS.

In 2017/18, a spouses' bakery was established at Luzira, employing 60 beneficiaries. In 2018/19, two greenhouses were constructed at Kigo Prisons, benefiting 219 people. In 2019/20, another greenhouse was built at Nakasongola, helping 82 beneficiaries.

These projects empower women, reduce dependence on officers' salaries, and create diversified household incomes.

One spouse at Kigo explains: "Our greenhouse gave us fresh vegetables to sell. I no longer wait for my husband's salary alone. I contribute to school fees."

Station-Level Welfare: Everyday Support

At the grassroots, every prison station now has a welfare committee that directly handles officers' needs. Key initiatives include:

- Shamba plots for staff to grow food.
- Canteens offering subsidised goods.
- Kibaruwa proceeds, allowances from inmate labour, distributed fairly.
- Welfare officers handling day-to-day staff concerns.
- Human rights committees addressing cases of staff abuse or violations.

These initiatives, though modest, create a safety net for officers and keep morale high at station level.

Covid-19: The Welfare System Under Test

When Covid-19 struck, UPS welfare systems were tested like never before. Lockdowns strained families, but SACCO loans and welfare committees helped households survive.

"Without the SACCO, we would have collapsed," recalls one officer from Mbale. "The loans kept us afloat when schools closed and expenses shot up." The resilience during Covid-19 proved that welfare is not a luxury — it is a necessity for institutional survival.

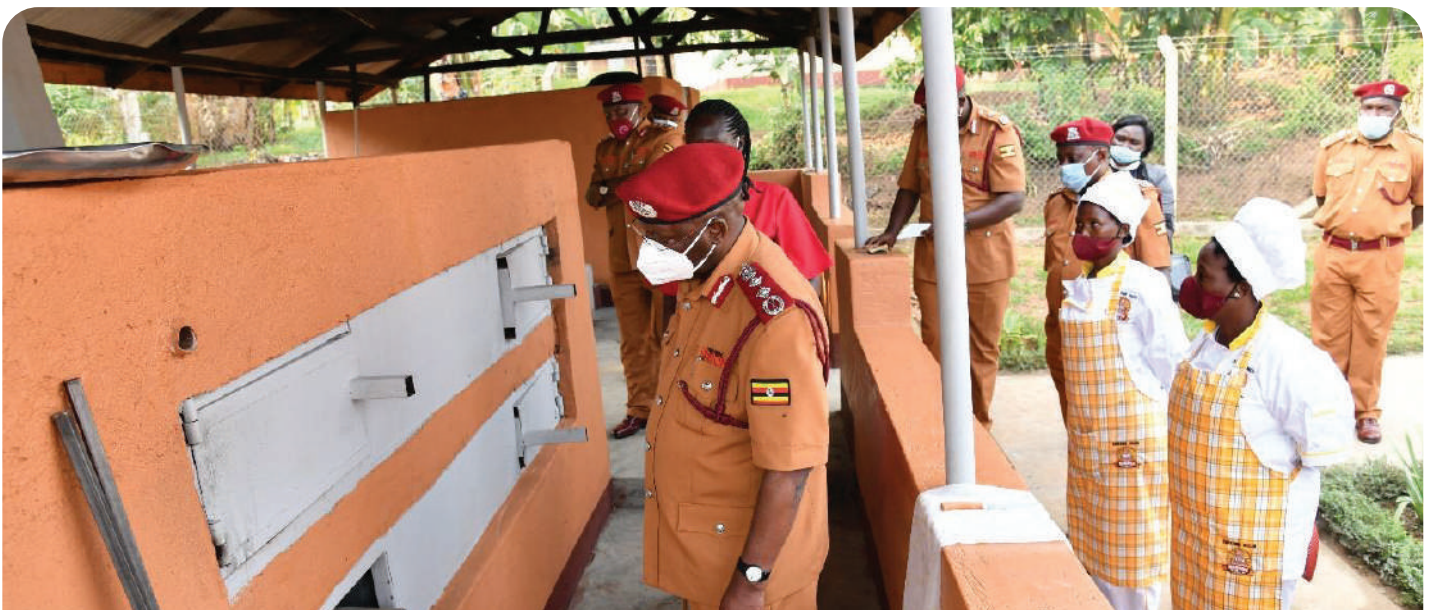
Anchored in National Policy

These welfare reforms are not isolated experiments. They align with national frameworks:

- National Development Plan III calls for enhancing welfare and housing of security personnel.



Uganda Prisons Service continues to advance staff housing, enhancing officer welfare and contributing to a supportive and stable work environment



Prison staff spouses have been introduced to income-generating ventures, including cake and bread baking, as part of Uganda Prisons Service's efforts to empower families and enhance financial inclusion

- NRM Manifesto 2021–2026 promises continued improvement in armed forces' welfare.
- Uganda Public Service Standing Orders emphasize fair treatment, housing, and compensation for staff. UPS has positioned itself as a frontline implementer of these commitments.

Looking Ahead: A Future of Dignity

As Uganda moves toward middle-income status, UPS is determined to push welfare reforms further. Plans for 2025 include expanding digital banking, improving loan turnaround to 1–5 days, extending financial literacy to all regions, and introducing mobile banking for utility payments.

Commissioner General Dr. Johnson Byabashaija sums it up best: "When you take care of your staff, your staff will take care of the Service and the country. That is the philosophy guiding us."



By investing in staff housing, Uganda Prisons Service ensures that officers and their families enjoy safe, comfortable, and secure accommodation, reinforcing morale and fostering a stable workforce



Uganda Prisons Service has focused on infrastructure development, enhancing facilities for staff accommodation, service delivery and operational efficiency

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Mental illness in prisons represents a complex intersection between health and justice systems. In Uganda, the burden of mental health disorders among incarcerated persons is significantly higher than in the general population. This article highlights the current mental health burden within Uganda Prisons, ongoing interventions and challenges, and the key legal frameworks guiding the management of persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

Despite these promising programs, challenges remain. There is a critical shortage of mental health specialists in the prison system—fewer than 20 mental health workers serve the entire correctional population. The prison environment continues to pose risks such as solitary confinement and corporal punishment, which may worsen mental health outcomes. Additionally, awareness and functional human rights committees inside prisons are limited, reducing oversight on mental health and human rights protections.

Legal Framework for Persons with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

Uganda's legal frameworks provide important protections and guidelines for persons with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system:

The Mental Health Act (2019): This Act defines mental illness and stipulates the rights of persons with mental disorders, including those in conflict with the law. It emphasizes access to mental health care and safeguards against discrimination.

The Penal Code Act: The Penal Code includes provisions related to criminal responsibility and capacity where mental illness is a factor. It recognizes conditions such as diminished responsibility and fitness to stand trial, which allow the courts to consider mental health status in criminal proceedings.

Prisoners Unfit to Stand Trial and Diminished Responsibility

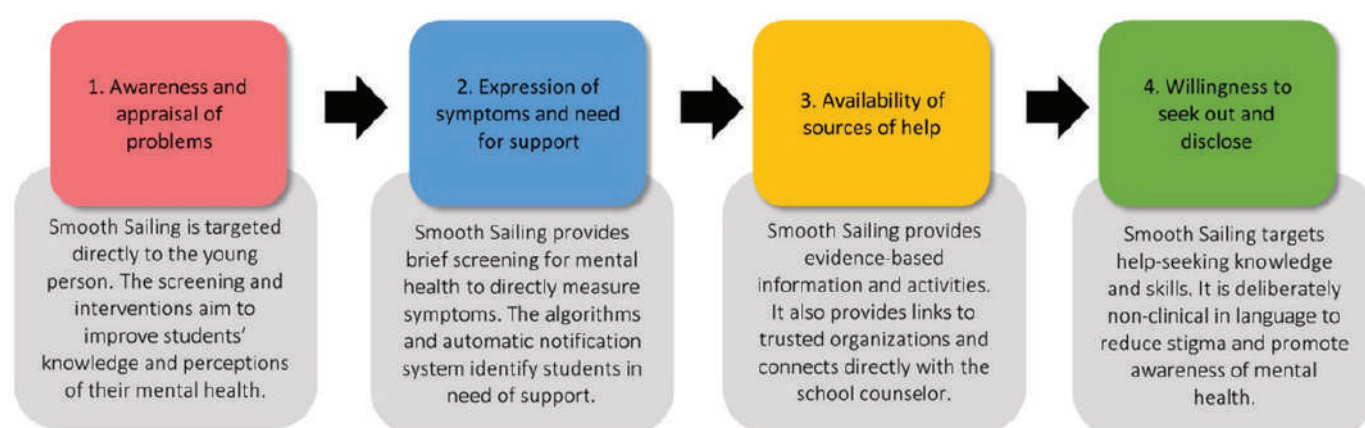
Under the Penal Code Act and the Mental Health Act, a person suspected of a crime may be found unfit to stand trial if they lack the mental capacity to understand court proceedings or defend themselves due to mental illness. Such individuals are entitled to appropriate assessment and care rather than being subjected to regular trial processes.

Similarly, the concept of diminished responsibility applies where a mental disorder impairs the accused's mental functioning at the time of the offense, potentially reducing culpability. These legal provisions aim to ensure fair treatment and justice tailored to the mental health status of offenders, preventing undue punishment of those with significant mental impairments.

Moving Forward

Addressing mental illness in Ugandan prisons requires sustained commitment to expanding access to mental health services, increasing training of mental health personnel, and fully operationalizing legal protections for inmates with mental disorders. Enhancing mental health infrastructure within prisons and ensuring all prisoners receive humane, rights-based care will mitigate the growing burden of mental illness behind bars.

Uganda Prisons Service, together with partners, must continue advancing integrated mental health interventions, supporting research to understand gender disparities in mental illness, and advocating for stronger legal enforcement. The goal is a prison system that upholds the dignity, health, and rights of all persons, including those with mental illness.



UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE: A STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTOR TO ATTAINMENT OF THE 2030 UNAIDS HIV ELIMINATION TARGET



Dr. Aidha Ajax Ajambo, Prisons Health Services and CDC

Globally, People in prison (PIP) s and other closed settings bare a disproportionate burden for HIV compared to the general population. Based on the recently released Mult disease survey conducted in Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) facilities, the HIV prevalence was found to be 11% among the PIP with the female PIP having the highest rates at 21% compared to males at 11% while it was 2% among the prisons staff.

Despite the prevalence among PIP being almost twice that of the general population (5.1%), the service boosts of registering a significant stride in the fight against HIV with a 4% (from 15%) and 10% (from 12%) drop in the HIV prevalence among the PIP and staff respectively using the 2013 Sero behavioural survey findings as the baseline.

The successes registered in this fight are attributable to a range of interventions which include;

- With support from the CDC grant, prison service has been able to increase the sites accredited to offer the HIV services from 5 in 2015 to 57 to date. This has improved access to HIV testing and care services with the non-accredited sites accessing the services via the CDDP / Outreach modality.
- The bold step to integrate HIV services into the service main stream upon admission has contributed a significant milestone. HIV counselling and testing services are voluntarily offered as part of the on-entry screening activities followed by subsequent linkages. In line with this strategy, UPS has been able to achieve the 95,95 95 targets with 97.6% of people

with HIV in prisons knowing their status, 99% receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 98.4% have successfully reduced the virus in their bodies (based on program data). Within prisons, 71% of the new HIV infected cases are people who had never received any HIV test while in community thus gaining an opportunity to interact with the health systems while in prisons.

- In the first survey in 2013, only 34% of HIV-positive staff on treatment had achieved viral load suppression. Attainment of good suppression among staff (>90%) has seen UPS staff benefit from the U=U (Undetected = un-transmittable) notion by abating horizontal transmission of the virus and contributing to the noticeable decline in the HIV incidence among staff.

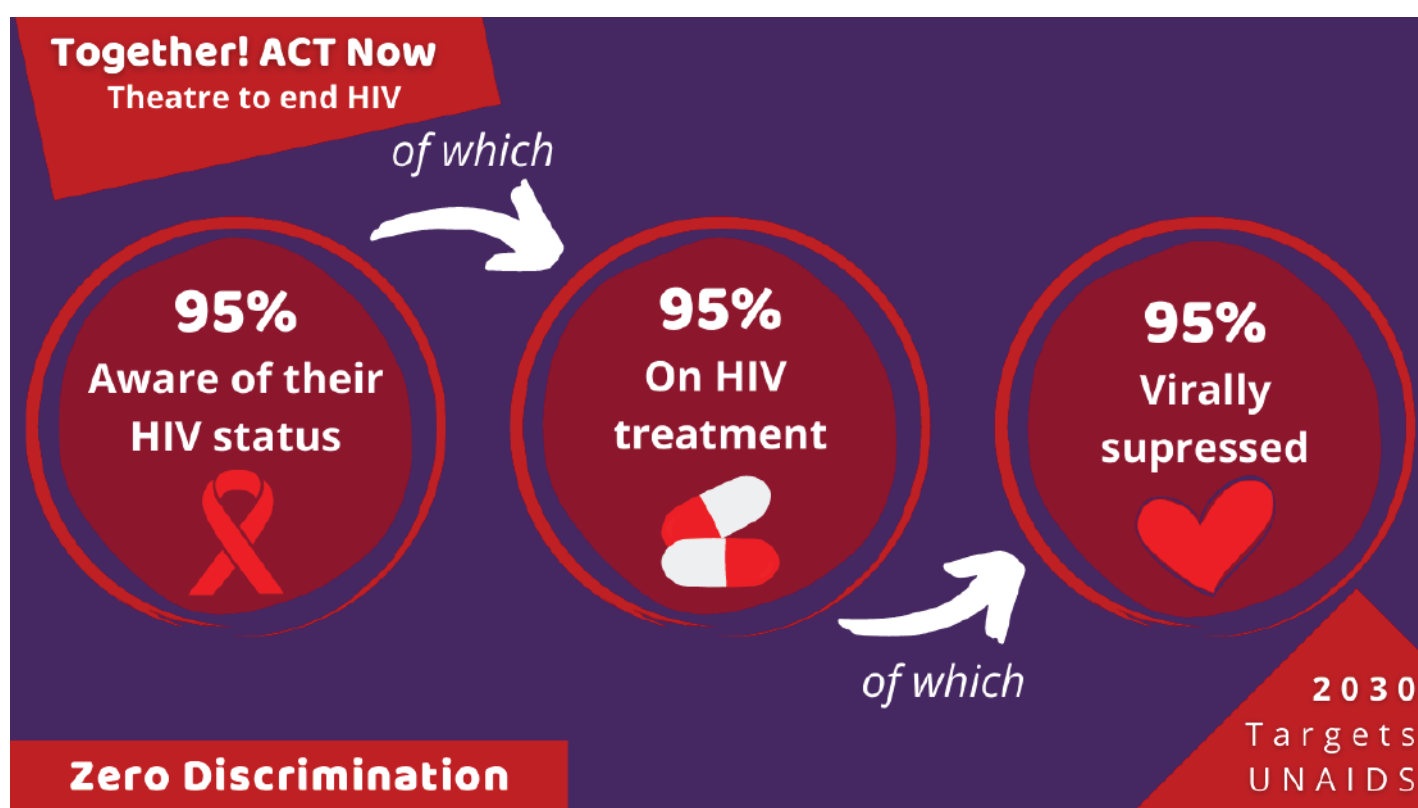
- The collaboration between UPS and CDC has built capacity of in mates and staff in HIV care and treatment services. This has improved the uptake of prevention services mitigating spread of HIV.

- Through the GOU funding, UPS has provided special meals and diet to people living with HIV and those grappling with other chronic ailments such as TB and cancers. This has enhanced adherence to medication and subsequent suppression of the virus.
- The robust peer strategy under the leadership of the “katikiros” in several prison facilities enhances linkage to care among the HIV positive individuals and adherence to treatment through innovative ways that aid in swallowing drugs while mitigating stigma.

Challenges:

- The main challenge affecting the program is failure to ascertain re integration into care following release from prisons. This not only threatens to reverse the previously gained national efforts in the struggle against HIV but it also places the country at a risk of economically productive persons due to the scourge. Therefore, there is need to concentrate efforts to promote this intervention.
- The dwindling funds affect the program implementation and therefore GOU needs to map strategic plans to uphold and support the entire response.

Conclusion: Given the high turnover rate of PIP, Prison facilities present a golden opportunity in contributing to the 2030 UNAIDS HIV elimination target through identification of missed HIV positive cases and the successful linkage to care. Therefore, sustaining these gains will stir the country to the desired success.



UGANDA PRISONS NETBALL CLUB SHINES IN FIRST ROUND, EYES TITLE DEFENSE



The Uganda Prisons Netball Club continues to deliver masterclass performances across all competitions, reinforcing its reputation as one of the country's premier netball teams

The Uganda Prisons Netball Club has delivered a stellar performance in the first round of the 2025 National Netball Super League, combining competitive brilliance with a clear strategy for long-term team building. With 10 victories, one draw, and only one loss in 12 games played, the team has reaffirmed its reputation as one of the country's netball powerhouses.

First Round Performance at a Glance

Prisons have demonstrated consistency across the league, finishing the first round in 3rd position with 21 points, just one point behind leaders NIC and level on points with rivals KCCA. The team's statistics underline their dominance:

- Games played: 12
- Wins: 10
- Draws: 1
- Losses: 1
- Goals scored: 656
- Goals conceded: 464
- Average goal margin: 1.41

These numbers highlight a squad that is both defensively solid and offensively sharp.

Key Matches

Among the most notable fixtures were:

- Prisons 47–46 UCU Cannons – a nail-biting victory that tested the team's mental toughness.
- Prisons 47–47 KCCA – a high-stakes draw that kept the two giants' neck-and-neck on the table.
- Prisons 48–45 Police – a disciplined display against another strong side.

- Prisons 61–43 UPDF – a dominant win that showcased Prisons' superior strength and tactics.
- Prisons 70–22 UGX Luweero and 78–15 Life Sports – resounding wins that underlined Prisons' attacking firepower.

The only setback came against NIC (57–44), leaving the title race wide open heading into the second round.

Blending Experience and Youth

Beyond results, Prisons have invested in nurturing new talent, elevating promising players from high school into the senior squad. This deliberate development program ensures that the club's future remains as strong as its decorated past. Veterans provide leadership while youngsters inject fresh energy and hunger, creating a balanced and competitive unit.

Training for Title Defence

With the second round approaching, the team has intensified its training regimen, sharpening fitness, speed, and tactical awareness. Training sessions at the Prisons Academy focus on:



The Uganda Prisons Netball Club continues to climb in rankings, strengthening its squad by acquiring top-notch talent and enhancing team performance

The Road Ahead

As reigning champions, Uganda Prisons Netball Club is determined to defend its crown. With the title race now narrowed to three teams—NIC, Prisons, and KCCA—the second round promises intense rivalries and decisive clashes. The club's winning mentality, depth of talent, and structured preparation give them a strong chance of reclaiming the top spot. Fans can expect nothing less than spirited performances from a side that has repeatedly proven its mettle in Ugandan netball. Uganda Prisons Netball Club's journey continues, not just in pursuit of trophies, but in setting the standard for excellence, discipline, and legacy in the game.

UGANDA PRISONS HANDBALL CLUB KEEPS THE HEAT ON RIVALS IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LEAGUES



The Uganda Prisons Handball Club has outshone its counterparts, demonstrating exceptional performance thanks to thorough preparation and a talented lineup of players

The Uganda Prisons Handball Club has once again shown why it remains a household name in Ugandan handball. With both the women's and men's teams firmly in the race for top honours, the first round of the 2025 National Handball League has been nothing short of eventful for the Luzira-based side. Every throw, every block, and every goal has carried the weight of ambition, discipline, and the club's proud tradition.

Women's Category: Close Behind Police, Eyes on the Summit

Prisons' women have been a team of grit and flair, refusing to let anything come easy for their opponents. From 10 games played, the team has collected 16 points — seven victories, two hard-earned draws, and only one loss — making them the closest challengers to leaders Uganda Police, who sit on 20 points. In total, the side has scored an impressive 371 goals, a testament to their attacking sharpness.

Their victories have been a mixture of power and patience. Against Kyengeza, Prisons showed early dominance, sealing a 48–40 win with fast breaks and precise finishing. The 36–30 win over UPDF was a tactical triumph, built on a relentless midfield press that broke down UPDF's rhythm. Their clash with Kawanda ended 43–35, a match where the backline stood tall to deny a late comeback.

Perhaps the most eye-catching result came against Makerere University. In a game that turned into a one-sided contest, Prisons stormed to a 55–16 victory, ruthlessly punishing every mistake. Wins against Victoria University (35–28) and Wanainchi

(47–17) added further gloss to their campaign.

The only setback came in the highly anticipated clash with Uganda Police, where Prisons fell 30–36. It was a bruising encounter that exposed gaps in defence but also sharpened resolve for the return fixture. Meanwhile, the 37–37 draw against Ndejje University reminded the team that title challenges are often decided by narrow margins and moments of composure.

For Prisons, the mission is clear: close the four-point gap on Police, fine-tune defensive concentration, and keep their scoring momentum alive.

Men's Category: Trading Blows with UPDF

If the women have shown grit, the men have matched them with firepower. After 10 matches, Prisons' men are locked in second place, tied on 18 points with UPDF. The record reads nine victories and one loss, underlining their consistency. What makes the tally even more remarkable is the 430 goals scored — the most prolific attack in the league. The men opened their campaign with a statement, edging Makerere University 45–39 in a game that

highlighted both their scoring touch and fighting spirit. The narrow 36–35 victory over Police was another highlight, snatched in the dying minutes through sheer determination. Their 59–33 demolition of Uzalendo was pure spectacle, with wave after wave of attacks leaving the opponents stunned.

The one dent came at the hands of UPDF, who inflicted a 32–22 defeat. It was a wake-up call and a reminder that the race at the top will be decided by fine details. Since then, Prisons have regrouped, pulling off victories over Evergreen (35–23), Ndejje University (33–25), Kampala University (46–32), and Wanainchi (47–23). Each match has shown a squad learning from setbacks and growing in confidence.

The men now head into the second round knowing that every fixture will matter, especially the much-awaited rematch with UPDF.

Training, Discipline, and the Bigger Picture

Behind the results lies a story of preparation. At the Prisons Handball Courts in Luzira, the men and women train with a singular focus: sharpening endurance, building tactical cohesion, and nurturing the mental toughness needed to win championships. Sessions often begin with high-intensity fitness drills, followed by tactical rehearsals where coaches demand accuracy in passing, composure in shooting, and discipline in defending.

The technical teams are also turning to match analysis, reviewing videos of opponents to understand patterns, weaknesses, and areas to exploit. For the women, the emphasis is on tightening defensive gaps that Police exposed. For the men, the focus is on avoiding complacency and preparing responses to the physical game UPDF brings.

Young players recruited in recent seasons are being groomed alongside experienced campaigners. This blend of youthful energy and seasoned leadership is creating depth, ensuring that Prisons not only competes for today's titles but also builds for the future.

The Road Ahead

The second round promises drama. The women's chase of Police and the men's battle with UPDF are shaping into two of the fiercest contests the league has seen in years. For Uganda Prisons Handball Club, the target is not only to keep pace but to surge past their rivals when it matters most.

With their trademark discipline, relentless work ethic, and the weight of history behind them, Prisons remain a club that thrives under pressure. Every goal scored, every point earned, carries the echo of a

legacy that has made them a dominant force in Ugandan sport.

As the season unfolds, all eyes will be on whether Prisons can turn second place into first and add another chapter to their storied tradition.



Game time!



Uganda Prisons Service remains committed to talent development, nurturing the skills and potential of its officers and athletes across various disciplines

PRISONS DARTS CLUB: LUZIRA-BASED POWERHOUSE DOMINATING UGANDA'S DARTS SCENE FOR THREE DECADES



The Uganda Prisons Darts Club in a group photo ahead of a competition at Luzira Prison Complex

The story of darts in the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) began in the 1990s with the formation of the Prisons Darts Club, based at the Luzira Prison Complex. Over the last three decades, the club has established itself as a dominant force in Ugandan darts, consistently competing at the highest level and producing players who have excelled nationally and internationally.

A Legacy of Excellence

Prisons Darts Club has been at the forefront of Uganda's darts scene since its inception. Its athletes have consistently featured in the national team, demonstrating discipline, skill, and leadership. Among its most celebrated players is Andrew Emomeri, who captained the national team for eight consecutive years and guided Uganda at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). Today, Emomeri serves as both the club's manager and an active player, having joined the club in 2003 and risen through its ranks.

"Playing for Prisons has been about more than winning; it's about teamwork, dedication, and building a lasting sporting legacy. Luzira has been the perfect environment to develop and lead Uganda's finest players," Emomeri reflected.

Other notable performers include Julius Malinga, who achieved a remarkable finishing score of 170, and Rtd. PO II Dina Amoding, one of the most successful female players in the country.

Prisons Darts Club's dominance is reflected in its impressive haul of titles, including:

- Uganda Darts League
- Uganda International Open

- Uganda Club Championship
- Uganda Super Cup
- Numerous individual accolades

The club's players have formed the backbone of national team squads for over a decade, consistently representing Uganda with distinction.

The Prisons Darts Club fields a formidable squad that blends seasoned experience with emerging talent, making it one of Uganda's most dominant darts teams. In the men's category, Andrew Emomeri brings leadership, precision, and strategic gameplay, guiding the team with his extensive national and international experience. James Ociti and James Omoding are known for their consistent scoring and sharp finishing, while Ronald Kalete excels under pressure, often turning tight matches in the club's favour. Steven Olokojo and Joshua Ogwang are recognised for their accuracy and tactical versatility, and John Otomei, Nelson Etalu, and Kalule contribute strong scoring power and reliability, ensuring depth throughout the lineup.

The women's team boasts equally impressive talent, with Barbra Akullu and Stella Adong combining composure and precision, Sunday Amony known for

her aggressive scoring style, and Josephine Agwiru and Josephine Atim demonstrating consistent finishing skills and adaptability in high-stakes matches. Together, this squad exemplifies a perfect balance of skill, resilience, and teamwork, reinforcing the Prisons Darts Club's longstanding reputation as a powerhouse in Ugandan darts.

Beyond the Boards

For the Uganda Prisons Service, the success of the Prisons Darts Club extends beyond trophies. The sport promotes discipline, unity, and national pride among officers. Luzira Prison Complex has served not only as the club's home but also as a nurturing ground for talent, providing a structured environment where players can excel while maintaining professional and personal development.

The club's three-decade-long journey has created a pipeline of talent for Uganda's national darts team and contributed to the growth and professionalisation of the sport across the country.



Precision, aim, and focus



Action time!



Uganda Prisons Darts Club members showcasing their talents

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE



ORBITUARY

The Commissioner General of Prisons announces the deaths of fallen Comrades



F/NO: P/R/57 PO.II
JAMES RUTAHABA
U.G Prison FortPortal (M)
B: 02nd July 1988
D: 08th August 2025



F/NO: 14390 Cpl/WDR
DAVID AYESIGA
U.G Prison Kyanamukaka
B: 20th August 1990
D: 31th August 2025



F/NO: p/o/952 Clinical Officer
ODUKATUM OKIROR
U.G Prison Soroti (M)
B: 30th March 1991
D: 16th August 2025

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