

## UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE FOSTERS PARTNERSHIP WITH ACHOLI CULTURAL INSTITUTION



GULU CITY - In a historic royal visit, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) delegation, led by Mr. Samuel Akena, Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons paid homage to Rwot David Acana II, Paramount Chief of Acholi cultural institution, at his palace in Gulu City.

The royal visit aimed to strengthen ties between UPS and Acholi chiefdom, acknowledging the region's potential in Uganda's agricultural production. UPS donated 10,000 tonnes of quality maize seed for input distribution, 20,000 tonnes of commercial maize grain, and livestock (Boran breed) to enhance food security.

"We come in peace and partnership," Mr. Akena said. "As per the 1995 Constitution, we recognize cultural governance. Our agricultural production thrives in this region, with giant farms in Kitgum, Amuru, Nyoya, Gulu, and Pader."

He highlighted UPS' 20-year contribution to Northern Uganda's peace recovery and commitment to social-economic transformation of Uganda.



Mr. Akena stressed the service efforts in implementing presidential directives on maize seed multiplication and developing Aswa Ranch as part of the Food and Animal Feeds Security Initiative.

Rwot David Acana II welcomed the delegation, expressing gratitude for UPS' recognition of Acholi's values, potential and heritage. "This visit marks a new chapter," Rwot Acana said. "We've moved beyond conflict resolution, focusing on social-economic development. Land wrangles remain a challenge, but we're committed to gross sustainable development."

¶"We knew Uganda Prisons Service as an institution for custody of offenders, but I'm impressed with their community engagement strategies," Rwot David Acana II said.

The Paramount Chief of Acholi praised the presence of prison farms in the region, citing farming activities and outreach programs.



"We'll collaborate with prison farm managers for extension works and empowerment programs," he added. He also thanked the Commissioner General of Prisons for his generosity towards the Acholi people.

Rwot Acana praised UPS' corporate social responsibility and community engagement, particularly in operating farms and empowering local communities.

The strategic partnership between the Uganda Prisons Service and the Acholi Cultural Institution yields benefits for both entities. For UPS, this collaboration enhances its community engagement and social responsibility, fostering a positive public image beyond its traditional custodial role. Additionally, the partnership leverages the institution's agricultural expertise to boost food security and economic growth



in the region.

Conversely, the Acholi Cultural Institution benefits from UPS' technical assistance, capacity building, and resource mobilization, empowering the community to drive sustainable agricultural development and preserve cultural heritage. This synergy also creates opportunities for vocational training and rehabilitation of offenders, promoting reintegration into society. Ultimately, this partnership exemplifies



a mutually beneficial model of collaboration, driving socio-economic transformation and cultural preservation in Northern Uganda.

