

## **INAUGURAL TRAINING ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) IN GULU CITY**



The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) today Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 launched an inaugural training on Restorative Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Gulu City, a landmark effort to transform the justice system. The program, designed to reduce recidivism and promote reintegration of ex-prisoners, convened Officers in Charge Prisons from the Northern Region, welfare and reception staff, and representatives from the Acholi Cultural Institution.

Mr. Julius Aloka, Commissioner of Prisons (RPC - Northern Region), emphasized the program's role of strengthening community acceptance to ensure successful reintegration.

Ms. Nuru Mbalyowere, Principal Rehabilitation and Reintegration Officer (Community Corrections) from Prisons Headquarters, highlighted the broader impact of such initiatives. Restorative justice and ADR not only reduce reoffending but also heal community wounds by facilitating victim-offender reconciliation, strengthening social bonds, and alleviating prison overcrowding through non-judicial resolutions.



Communities play a key role in facilitating reconciliation by engaging in open and honest dialogue with offenders, promoting healing, understanding, and forgiveness.

This process involves providing emotional support, guidance, and practical assistance for rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.





These programs empower communities to resolve conflicts collaboratively, promoting peace and reducing reliance on punitive measures.

The Acholi Cultural Institution pledged full support, committing to drive the program's adoption across the region. UPS plans to roll out the initiative nationwide, furthering its Community Corrections efforts, including parole integration. All stakeholders, communities, and institutions were urged to embrace these initiatives, while exploring their potential to create a more inclusive, rehabilitative justice system that benefits society as a whole.