

## UGANDA PRISONS INDUSTRIES: A PILLAR OF INMATE REHABILITATION AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION



**Uganda Prisons Industries** is a vital department of the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), dedicated to the transformative aim of rehabilitating inmates while generating revenue through a variety of industrial activities. Under the overarching mandate of custody and rehabilitation, UPS aims to convert prisons into productive spaces where inmates can acquire valuable skills, contributing to their own rehabilitation and supporting the financial sustainability of the prison system.

UPS operates with the ultimate development goal of **“transforming every prisoner into an abiding, responsible, and economically productive citizen.”** By engaging inmates in meaningful vocational training and industrial work, UPS fosters skill acquisition that enhances the prospects for successful reintegration into society, thereby reducing recidivism and contributing to national development.



## **Objectives of Uganda Prisons Industries**

### **Rehabilitation and Skill Development:**

The cornerstone is to provide inmates with vocational training in a diverse range of industrial and craft disciplines. This training equips inmates with practical skills that can lead to gainful employment upon their release. The goal is to aid in their successful reintegration into society, thereby reducing the likelihood of re-offending.

### **Revenue Generation and Economic Contribution:**

UPS plays a crucial role in generating Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) through the production and sale of goods manufactured within the prison industries. This revenue not only bolsters the financial stability but also contributes to government savings.



### **Enhancing Production Capacity and Quality:**

To meet the growing demands of its clientele and improve overall operational efficiency, UPS is committed to continuously improving its production capabilities and product quality. This includes investing in modern machinery, expanding production facilities, and innovating new product lines.

### **Employment and Occupation for Inmates:**

Providing meaningful employment opportunities to inmates, particularly those serving long sentences, is a key objective. Engaging inmates in productive work helps to occupy their time constructively, reducing idleness and promoting positive behavior within the prison environment.

### **Infrastructure and Technological Advancement:**

UPS consistently invests in developing and upgrading its infrastructure, including the procurement of new machinery and tools for various workshops. Recent advancements include the partial operationalization of new workshops dedicated to furniture production, leatherworking, and soap making, which have contributed to increased production capacity and improved product quality.

**Alignment with National Goals:**

UPS aligns its objectives with national directives and strategic goals, as outlined by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This includes specialized projects such as shoe production for armed forces, underscoring UPS's commitment to supporting national priorities and contributing to broader societal needs.

**Key Achievements and Developments****Increased Enrollment in Vocational Training:**

In the FY 2021/2022, 21,996 inmates participated in industrial vocational training across 122 prisons and vocational centers, reflecting a significant effort to provide widespread access to skill development programs.

**Enhanced Production and Quality:**

UPS has made notable progress in improving production volume and quality. Investments in new machinery and tools, such as garment-cutting machines and electric hand tools, have led to greater efficiency and output.

**Revenue Generation:**

In FY 2022/2023, UPS realized a total NTR of UGX 2,144,845,625. This includes cash NTR of UGX 543,878,030 from sales and non-cash NTR of UGX 1,453,752,095 from products made for service use, demonstrating effective revenue generation strategies.

**Expanded Vocational Training:**

Over 10,000 inmates have been trained and trade-tested in various vocational activities, including tailoring, crafts, carpentry, and leatherwork. This extensive training program is central to inmate rehabilitation and future employability.

**Infrastructure and Machinery Upgrades:**

UPS has procured a range of new machinery and tools, such as portable power saws, jig saws, and hand drills, to improve production processes. The establishment of new workshops, such as those for tailoring and carpentry, has further enhanced operational capabilities.



### **Operational Workshops:**

The successful operationalization of workshops at various prisons, including the new furniture workshop at Uganda Government Prison Upper and the tailoring workshop at Kitalya Mini Max, has significantly boosted production efficiency and product quality.



### **Strategic Guidance from the President**

In 2016, H.E. the President of Uganda issued a critical directive to the Uganda Prisons Service, tasking it with the revitalization of Prisons Industries. One of the key assignments was to produce furniture for all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments (LGs). This directive has been instrumental in shaping the strategic direction of UPS, further emphasizing its role in contributing to national development while ensuring the rehabilitation of inmates.



## PRISONS INDUSTRIES PRODUCTS IN PICTURES



