



UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

NO: 56 VOL. 56

JANUARY 2026



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OPEN DAY**



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**THE MAKING OF A GREAT NATIONAL
PARADE**

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) on the 26th January 2026 joined the rest of the country to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of NRM/A Liberation Day at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala. The national event was colourful, well-organized and attended by leaders, security forces, and citizens from across Uganda and beyond.

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**UPS DEEPENS CIVIC EDUCATION, PATRIOTISM AND PROFESSIONALISM
TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**

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WISDOM CORNER

"The unexamined life is not worth living, for without inquiry we drift through existence unaware of who we are becoming."

– **Socrates**

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom, because self knowledge is the foundation upon which judgment and character are built."

– **Aristotle**

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity, and it is the disciplined mind that learns to perceive it."

– **Albert Einstein**

"Waste no more time arguing about what a good person should be; instead, commit yourself to embodying that goodness."

– **Marcus Aurelius**

"Happiness depends upon ourselves, for no external circumstance can substitute for a cultivated and virtuous mind."

– **Aristotle**

"It is not that I am so smart, but that I stay with problems longer than most people are willing to endure."

– **Albert Einstein**

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray for the strength to endure a difficult one with courage and composure."

– **Bruce Lee**

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

– **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do, because growth begins precisely at the edge of fear."

– **Eleanor Roosevelt**

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated through pride, desire, and distraction."

– **Confucius**

"Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited while imagination encircles the world."

– **Albert Einstein**

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how, because purpose fortifies the human spirit."

– **Friedrich Nietzsche**

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light and persist despite uncertainty."

– **Aristotle Onassis**



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Quote of the month

"Uganda Prisons Service has welfare officers who help inmates communicate with their relatives. The Service continues to implement a structured welfare programs to support the wellbeing of prisoners within our environment.

Prison is not a place for retirement. I encourage the public to avoid crime because life in prison is not comfortable. During the elections, the voting period was peaceful and there were no incidents involving prison personnel. Prison visits were only suspended the day before the elections because some of our staff had been deployed to support security operations, but visits resumed the following day.

There was no significant increase in the prison population during the election period. The Uganda Prisons Service also supported the Uganda Police Force at polling stations, where our staff served as polling constables to help maintain order."

Johnson O. R. Byabashaija
Commissioner General of Prisons

While appearing on NBS TV Spotlight program.



Chief Editor



FRANK BAINE MAYANJA

**SENIOR COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS
COOPERATION AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS/SERVICE SPOKESPERSON**

Welcome to the January 2026 Edition of Uganda Prisons Service NewsLetter. In this edition we highlight on the: 40 Years Of NRM/A Liberation Day At Kololo, Diamond Jubilee Medalist, National Court Open Day, UPS Deepens Civic Education, Inmates Excel In 2025 PLE, CGP Cup 2025 Champions In South Western Region, Memory Lane and obituary.

Enjoy!

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HAPPY *New Year* 2026

As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated officers, staff and all citizens who have been part of the UPS transformation in 2025. Your unwavering commitment, hard work, and resilience have made a significant impact on our mission.

This new year brings renewed hope, strength, and opportunity. Let's continue to uphold the values of justice, integrity, and service to our nation. Together, we will face the challenges ahead with courage and work towards a safer, more just society.

May 2026 be a year of peace, growth, and success for all of us!

Can. Dr. J.O.R Byabashaija
Commissioner General of Prisons



Congratulations

H.E GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI

PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

The Commissioner General of Prisons, on behalf of the entire Uganda Prisons Service, congratulates H.E. Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and Commander-in-Chief of Uganda's Armed Forces, on his election victory.

The people of Uganda are commended for participating peacefully in the democratic process and we renew our commitment, as the Uganda Prisons Service, to supporting national stability, the rule of law and the constitutional mandate of the Government.

We pledge our continued loyalty and professionalism in the service of our country under your leadership.

God bless Uganda.



HAPPY
LIBERATION DAY
Uganda

Today, we honor the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of men and women that liberated our nation. May we continue to stay together in peace and build a prosperous future together.

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UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE

MONTHLY STATISTICS SUMMARY

January, 2026

1. PRISONERS

1.1. Population Change

Table 1: Average Population of Prisoners for December, 2025 and January, 2026.

Categories	Dec-25			Jan-26			% change
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Convicts:	40,800	1,927	42,727	40,242	1,936	42,178	-1.3
Remands:	34,126	1,721	35,847	34,900	1,699	36,599	2.1
Debtors:	508	229	737	388	157	545	-26.1
Total:	75,434	3,877	79,311	75,530	3,792	79,322	0.01
Percentage (%)	95.1	4.9	100.0	95.2	4.8	100.0	
Approved Capacity			23,184			23,184	0.0
Occupancy Rate (%)			342.1			342.1	0.0

1.2. Percentage composition of remands, convicts and debtors for the month of January, 2026.

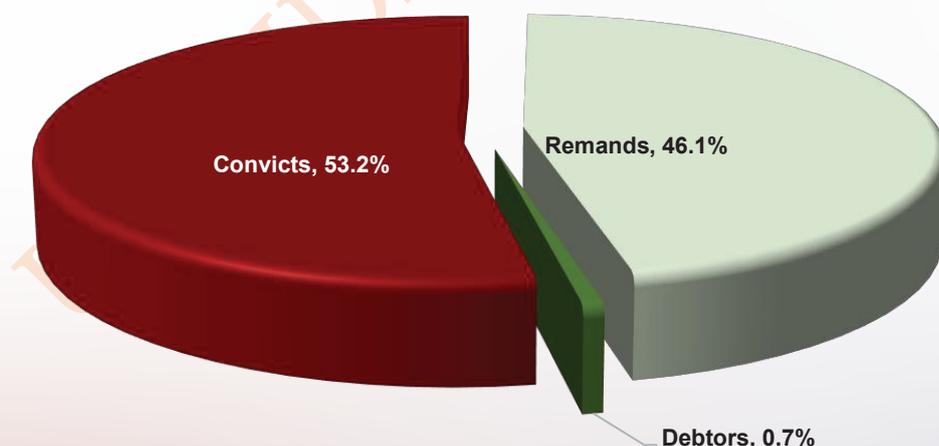


Figure 1: Composition of Prisoners' population



1.3. Monthly Population Trend of Prisoners for the period between July, 2025 and January, 2026.

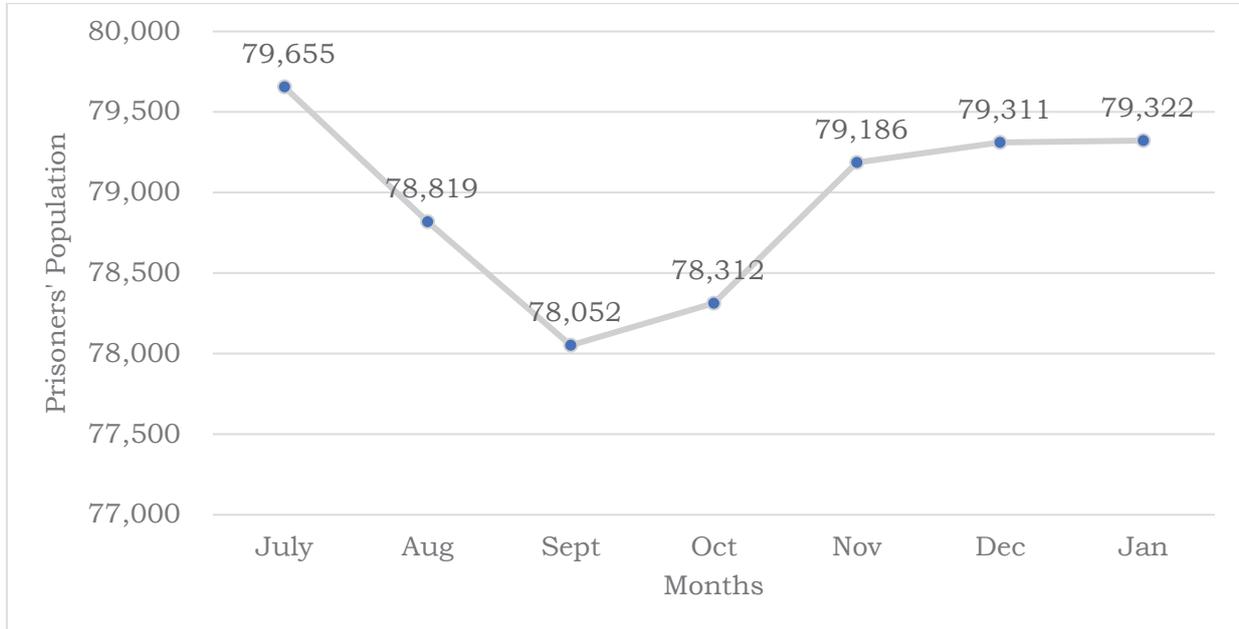


Figure 2: Trend of prisoners' population growth for the period (July 2025 and January, 2026)

1.4. Population Composition Trends for Convicts, Remands, and Debtors for the period between July, 2025 and January, 2026.

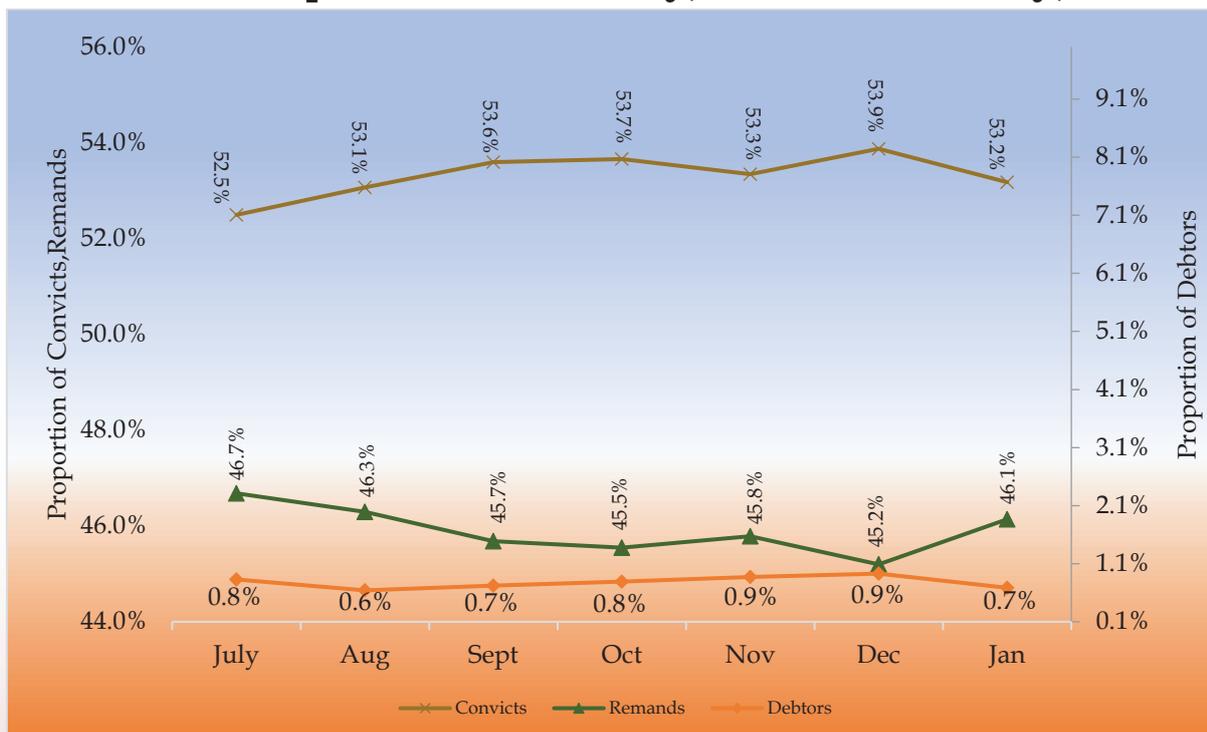


Figure 3: Monthly composition trends of convicts, remands, and debtors for the period between July, 2025 and January, 2026.



2. STAFFING POSITION

2.1 Staff Strength

Table 2: January, 2026 Staff Strength.

STAFF CATEGORY	GENDER		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Uniformed	9,244	3,971	13,215
Senior officers	498	113	611
Principal officers	655	171	826
Non-Commissioned Officers	8,091	3,687	11,778
Non-Uniformed	251	231	482
Senior officers	100	80	180
Junior officers	151	151	302
Total	9,495	4,202	13,697
Recruit Warders and Wardresses at PATS	863	291	1,154
GRAND TOTAL	10,358	4,493	14,851
Percentage	69.7	30.3	100.0
Approved Staff Establishment			39,462
% of filled positions			37.6

UGANDA PRISONS



2.2 Uniformed In-Service staff by Rank

Table 3: Uniformed In-Service staff by Rank

Rank	Gender		Total
	M	F	
Commissioner General of Prisons	1		1
Deputy Commissioner General of 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 Superintendent of Prisons	39	6	45
Superintendent of Prisons	93	29	122
Senior Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	32	8	40
Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	296	60	356
Principal Officer I	222	60	282
Principal Officer II	434	111	545
Chief Warder/Wardress I	175	49	224
Chief Warder/Wardress II	248	89	337
Chief Warder/Wardress III	492	203	695
Sergeant Warder/Wardress	1,176	566	1,742
Corporal Warder/Wardress	1,981	1,015	2,996
Lance Corporal	645	315	960
Warder/Wardress	3,374	1,450	4,824
Overall	9,244	3,971	13,215

UGANDA I



UPS JOINS THE NATION TO MARK 40 YEARS OF NRM/A LIBERATION DAY AT KOLOLO



H.E The President of The Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni inspects the parade during celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of NRM/A Liberation Day at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on January 26, 2026.

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) on the 26th January 2026 joined the rest of the country to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of NRM/A Liberation Day at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala. The national event was colourful, well-organized and attended by leaders, security forces, and citizens from across Uganda and beyond.

P Preparations started early in the morning. Flags were raised as different teams checked and prepared the grounds. Protocol and security officers were already on duty to make sure everything moved smoothly. As the day progressed, invited guests began to arrive. These included ministers, Members of Parliament, ambassadors, heads of government departments and agencies, cultural and religious leaders, and many members of the public who came to witness the historic celebration.

Among the top leaders present were the Vice President, HE. Jessica Alupo; the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja; the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Anita Among; and the Chief Justice, His lordship Alfonse Owiny-Dollo. Current and former government officials were also in attendance. The Service Chiefs were present to

mark the important day. These included Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, Deputy Chief of Defence Forces of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF); the Inspector General of Police, Abas Byakagaba of the Uganda Police Force (UPF); and the Commissioner General of Prisons, Johnson Byabashaija of UPS.

The joint parade was made up of officers from the UPDF, UPF, UPS, and UWA. The parade was ushered into the grounds by the band playing patriotic songs that filled the air with pride. The crowd responded with excitement and applause. When the parade formed up, the Colour Party entered in a smart and impressive manner. Many people cheered as the officers displayed high levels of discipline and coordination. A General Salute was sounded for the arrival of the Chief of Defence Forces. This was followed by the Roll of Drums to welcome the Chief Justice.



H.E. The President is received by service chiefs and senior government officials upon arrival for the 40th anniversary celebrations

The highlight of the day was the arrival of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, who presided over the 40th NRM/A Victory Anniversary. The President was received by the Vice President, the Prime Minister, Ministers, the Speaker of Parliament, the Chief Justice, senior NRM leaders, and the Service Chiefs. He proceeded to the saluting base where the national anthems were played. He then inspected the joint parade and the band before taking his seat.

Members of the clergy led prayers for the nation. They prayed for peace, unity, stability, and continued progress in Uganda over the 40 years of NRM leadership. The joint parade later marched in both slow and quick time. The troops moved with confidence, discipline, and unity. The band kept the spirit high as the officers marched past the President. After the march past, the parade fell out to allow the President to deliver his address.

In his speech, President Museveni explained that since 1986, Uganda has gone through five main phases of economic recovery and transformation. He said the first phase focused on restoring peace and stability after years of conflict. The next phases involved economic diversification, value addition, and expanding key sectors.

He noted that Uganda is now firmly in the knowledge economy, with growth supported by agriculture, manufacturing, services, and the oil and gas

sector. According to the President, manufacturing now supplies about 65% of goods in supermarkets. He also mentioned that vehicles from Kiira Motors are already on the roads and that oil production near Lake Albert is expected to begin this year.

The President added that although he received about 8 million votes in the last election, some supporters did not turn up due to intimidation, violence, and internal indiscipline. He emphasized the need to address these challenges to ensure full participation of all Ugandans in national development.

In line with the National Honours and Awards Act (Cap 173), the President awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal to persons who have shown outstanding service, loyalty, and dedication to Uganda. Among the recipients were five officers from the Uganda Prisons Service, a clear sign of the Service's contribution to national stability and development.

Reflecting on 40 Years of Progress

Uganda commemorated the 1986 transition that brought an end to the Bush War and marked the beginning of economic reconstruction. Over the past four decades, the country has seen growth in infrastructure, education, health services, security, and industrial development.



As the nation celebrates 40 years of liberation, it is a time to reflect on the journey made, the lessons learned, and the work that still lies ahead. The participation of the Uganda Prisons Service in this national celebration shows its continued commitment to safety, rehabilitation, and national development.

The anniversary was not only a celebration of the past but also a reminder of the responsibility to build a stronger, united, and prosperous Uganda for future generations.



H.E. President Yoweri Museveni congratulates officers of the Uganda Prisons Service awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal



The President at the saluting base as the anthems are observed



IGP Abas Byakagaba and CGP Dr. Byabashaija exchange greetings



The IGP and CGP in company of the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Anita Among at the event



DCGP Samuel Akena arrives at Kololo Independence grounds



Gen. Ivan Koreta and DCGP Samuel Akena exchange joyful greetings



Top Management Prison officers at the event



ACGP Robert Munanura arrives at Kololo ceremonial grounds



ACGP John Bosco Tumwebaze and CP Elly Tumuryame at the event



ACP Kituuma Rusoke and SSP Robert Naimuli arrive for the event



UPS Parade



The UPS band doing what it does best



UPS officers, smartly dressed, march and execute precise formations during the parade



FIVE PRISONS OFFICERS AWARDED DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALIST



H.E.The President in a group photo with UPS diamond Jubilee medalist at Kololo ceremonial grounds

In line with the National Honours and Awards Act (Cap 173), H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service, loyalty, and dedication to Uganda. Among the proud recipients were five officers from the Uganda Prisons Service, whose careers reflect commitment, discipline, and patriotism.

1. Mr. Yusuf Mukembo – Superintendent of Prisons



SP Yusuf Mukembo receives his Diamond Jubille medal

Mr. Yusuf Mukembo was born on 24th December 1973 in Wanyange Village, Butembe County, Jinja District. He enlisted into the Uganda Prisons Service on 13th April 1993 as a Recruit Warder and has rendered over 32 years of continuous, loyal, and distinguished service to the nation. He holds a Uganda Certificate of Education and professional certifications in Database Management and Computer Repair and Maintenance, reflecting his strong commitment to self-improvement and service excellence.

Throughout his career, Mr. Mukembo has served at key stations including Tororo Main Prison, Murchison Bay Prison, and Prisons Headquarters, where he has worked since 2004. In 2004, he undertook Military Science and Public Order Management training at Butiaba. He later completed the Junior Command Course at the Prisons Academy and Training School, Luzira,

leading to his commissioning in 2012. In 2025, he successfully completed the prestigious Prisons Intermediate Command and Staff Course.

At Headquarters, he has played a major role in strengthening fleet management, improving transport coordination, and promoting accountability and efficiency. He is widely respected for mentoring young officers, building strong teams, and managing critical situations with calm and decisive leadership. His service stands as a model of loyalty, integrity, and professionalism.



2. Mr. John Peter Opado – Assistant Superintendent of Prisons



ASP John Peter Opondo is decorated

Mr. John Peter Opado was born on 27th January 1967 in Bukedea District and enlisted into the Uganda Prisons Service on 15th August 1988. He has served the nation for over 37 years with dedication, discipline, and professionalism.

He holds a Diploma in Counselling and Guidance from Uganda Martyrs University, a qualification that strengthened his role as a mentor and trainer within the Service.

After his initial training, he was deployed to the Prisons Training School as an Instructor, where he trained many recruits and helped shape them into disciplined and competent officers. His contribution laid a strong foundation for generations of prison officers.

He later served at Murchison Bay, Kasangati, Jinja Remand, Bubulo, and the Mid-Eastern Regional Headquarters as Staff Officer. He has also performed national parade duties as Regimental Sergeant Major and Guard Commander with excellence.

Mr. Opado is known for firm leadership, integrity, and mentorship. His long and faithful service has shaped the character and professionalism of countless officers across the Service.

3. Mr. Anthanasious Nyawe Drichi – Assistant Superintendent of Prisons



ASP Anthanasius Nyawe Drichi receives his medal

Mr. Anthanasious Nyawe Drichi was born on 1st April 1967 in Moyo District and enlisted into the Uganda Prisons Service on 17th February 1995. He has rendered over 30 years of loyal, disciplined, and honourable service.

He served at Luzira Upper Prison, Kampala Extra Region, and later at Olia Prison, where he continues to serve with distinction.

Mr. Drichi is widely known for strong security management, professionalism, and mentorship. At Luzira Upper Prison, he ensured effective gate control, prevented contraband entry, and safeguarded institutional integrity. He has trained and mentored junior officers in escort duties, gatekeeping, and reception procedures.

His steady rise through the ranks reflects discipline, integrity, and devotion to duty. His service has greatly strengthened security and staff capacity at the stations where he has served.

4. Ms. Nassimbwa Harriet – Principal Officer II



P.O.II Nassimbwa Harriet is decorated with the Diamond Jubille medal

Ms. Nassimbwa Harriet was born on 25th December 1976 in Wakiso District and enlisted into the Uganda Prisons Service on 1st November 1994. She has served for over 31 years with consistency, integrity, and excellence.

She holds a Diploma in Secretarial Studies and has excelled in administrative leadership and records management. Her career includes service at Kitala Prison, Wakiso District Police Commander's Office, and Muduuma Prison, where she serves as Second-in-Command.

Ms. Nassimbwa is respected for calm leadership, reliability, and professionalism. She has effectively handled staff records and key documents, mentored junior officers, and supported inmate rehabilitation programmes.

Her service reflects discipline, resilience, and dedication to the core values of the Uganda Prisons Service.

5. Mr. Opikason Tarantino – Chief Warder II



C.W.II Opikason Tarantino is decorated with the Diamond Jubille medal

Mr. Opikason Tarantino was born on 3rd October 1969 in Arua District and enlisted into the Uganda Prisons Service on 3rd September 1994. He has completed over 31 years of loyal and exemplary service.

He is a skilled tailor and technical instructor who has served at Masaka, Luzira Upper, and Masindi Prisons. His technical expertise has strengthened prison industries and vocational training programmes.

Mr. Tarantino is respected for discipline, leadership, and productivity. He has trained many officers in tailoring and garment production, contributing to institutional self-reliance and skills development.

His dedication, planning ability, and integrity have made a lasting contribution to the Uganda Prisons Service and the Republic of Uganda.

The recognition of these five officers with the Diamond Jubilee Medal highlights the vital role the Uganda Prisons Service continues to play in maintaining security, promoting rehabilitation and contributing to national development.



INSIDE UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE: EXPLORING ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND HIERARCHY OF RANKS



Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Kahinda Otafiire, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Uganda, Lt. Gen. Joseph Musanyufu, and UPS top management in a group photo with successful Intermediate Command Course participants at PAT's Luzira .

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) is a semi-autonomous agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The governance and operations of UPS are regulated by the Prisons Act of 2006, which established two main organs to oversee its management: the Prisons Authority and the Prisons Council.

1. Prisons Authority

The Prisons Authority is the highest governing body within the Uganda Prisons Service. It is chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs, with its members including the Attorney General (or a representative), the Commissioner-General of Prisons (CGP), the Deputy CGP, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, a senior officer responsible for personnel at the UPS headquarters, and two presidential appointees. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs serves as the secretary to the Authority. Members of the Prisons Authority serve a two-year term, which is renewable once.

Key Responsibilities of the Prisons Authority:

- Advising the government on issues related to prison management, development, and administration.
- Advising the President on the appointment of the CGP and the Deputy CGP.
- Appointing and promoting prison officers of the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons and above, but below the rank of Deputy CGP.
- Discussing and approving programs for the social rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.



H.E. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI TIBUHABURWA

President of the Republic of Uganda
Commander-in-Chief of the
Uganda Armed Forces





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



MAJ.GEN (Rtd) KAHINDA OTAFIIRE
Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs



GEN.DAVID MUHOOZI
Hon. Minister of State for Internal Affairs



LT.GEN.JOSEPH MUSANYUFU
Permanent Secretary



UPS TOP MANAGEMENT



CAN. DR. J.O.R BYABASHAIJA
Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP)



Mr. Samuel Akena
Deputy Commissioner
General of Prisons (D/CGP)



ACGP ELI MUHUMUZA
Research Policy & Projects Dev't



**ACGP JOHN BOSCO
TUMWEBAZE**
Prisons Administration



ACGP MILTON TIYO
Correctional Services



ACGP ROBERT MUNANURA
Production & Engineering



ACGP DR. GEORGE MUGE
Cooperation & Corporate
Affairs



ACGP HILLARY BISANGA
Human Resource
Management



SCP WILSON MAGOMU
Production & Engineering



SCP FRANK BAINE
Cooperation &
Corporate Affairs



SCP JUDE KALIISA
Research Policy &
Projects Dev't



**Ag.SCP PROSSY GERALDINE
NAJUUMA**
Industries



Ag.SCP Aliyo Naatukunda
Legal Advisory Services &
Human Rights



MR. SAMUEL BAKER EMIKU
Undersecretary – Finance &
Administration



UPS RANKING SYSTEM

COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS (CGP)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS (DCGP)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS/DIRECTORS (ACGP)

SENIOR COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS (CP)



**COMMISSIONER
OF PRISONS (CP)**



**ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER
OF PRISONS (ACP)**



**SENIOR
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PRISONS (SSP)**



**SUPERINTENDENT
OF PRISONS (SP)**



**SENIOR ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PRISONS (SASP)**



**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PRISONS (ASP)**



**CADET ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PRISONS (CASP)**



**PRINCIPAL
OFFICER**







H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, provides strategic guidance and issues directives to govern the Uganda Prisons Service from time to time, ensuring effective correctional services and national socio-economic transformation.

2. Prisons Council

The Prisons Council operates under the Prisons Authority and is chaired by the CGP. The Deputy CGP serves as the Vice-Chairperson, while the senior officer responsible for service administration acts as the secretary. The Council includes all heads of UPS directorates, Regional Prison Commanders, and heads of key departments such as legal affairs, finance, training, research and planning, welfare and rehabilitation, prisoners' administration, and personnel. Additional members, including an officer at the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons (ASP), one at the rank of Principal Officer, and three Non-commissioned officers, may be appointed by the CGP in consultation with other Officers in Charge of Prisons. A quorum for any council meeting requires the presence of at least ten members. The Prisons Council reports directly to the Prisons Authority.

Key Responsibilities of the Prisons Council:

- Making appointments and promotions of prison officers up to the rank of Principal Officer.
- Disciplining all prison officers of and below the rank of Principal Officer.
- Advising the Prisons Authority on the UPS rank structure.
- Formulating terms and conditions of service for staff.
- Establishing standards for recruitment and training within the service.
- Ensuring that the composition of the service reflects a national character.

3. UPS Administration

The administration of UPS is structured into two levels: macro and micro.

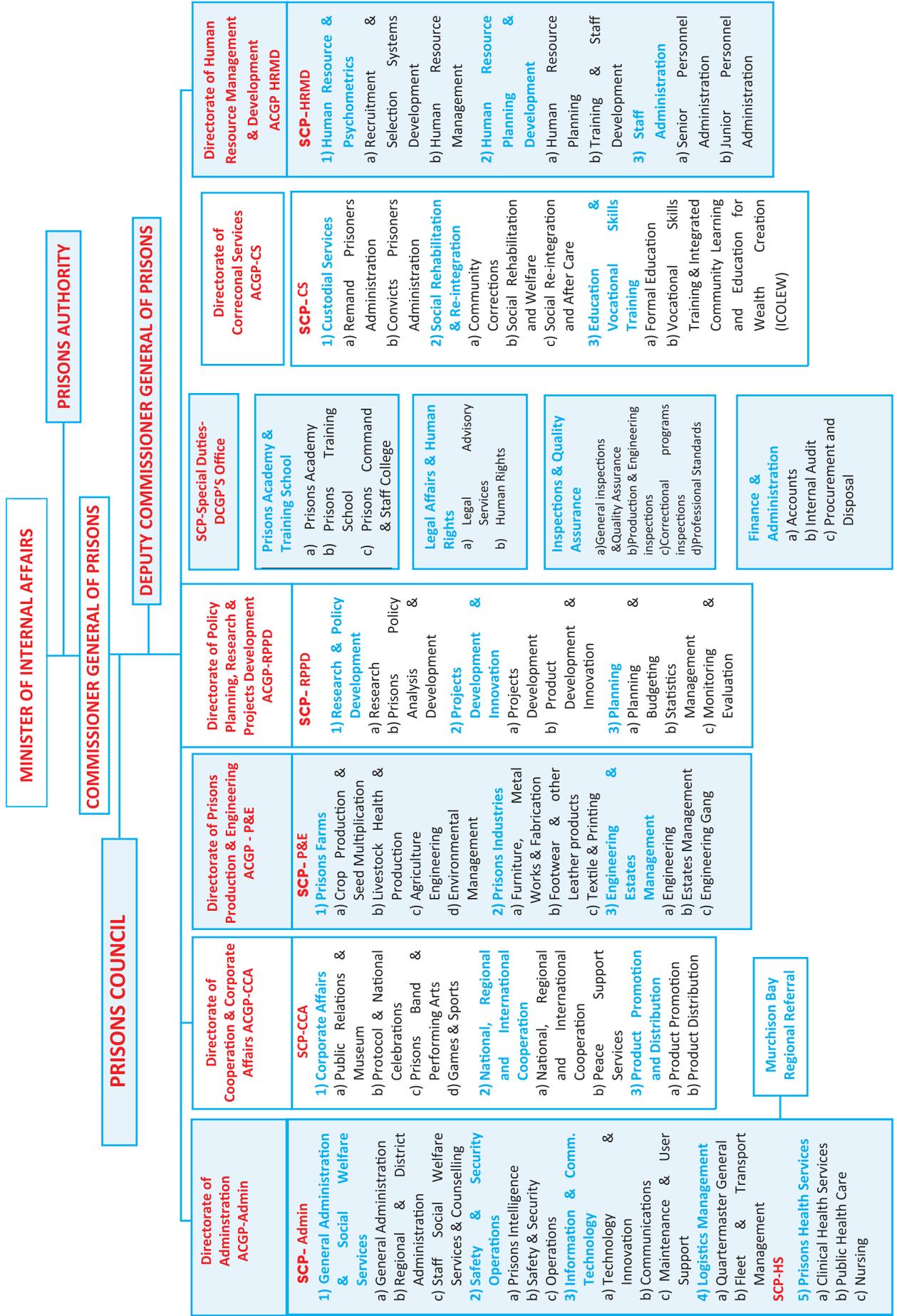
- Macro Administration: Deals with policy, administration, and overall management.
- Micro/Field Station Management: Focuses on the day-to-day management of individual prisons and field operations.

4. Office of the Commissioner-General of Prisons (CGP)

The CGP is the top executive position within UPS, appointed by the President of Uganda. The CGP is responsible for the overall supervision, administration, command, and control of the Uganda Prisons Service. As the ceremonial head of the service, the CGP represents UPS at the Prisons Authority and directly supervises the Deputy CGP and the six directorates.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





Core Responsibilities of the CGP:

- Supervising the Deputy CGP and the six directorates, which include Prisons Administration, Cooperation and Corporate Affairs, Prisons Production and Engineering, Policy Development and Research, Correctional Services, and Human Resource Management.
- Providing leadership and strategic direction for the effective delivery of prison services.
- Ensuring the security of both staff and prisoners, as well as the proper management of UPS equipment and assets.
- Overseeing the enforcement of prisons laws, guidelines, and rules.
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of directors, heads of departments, and sections under the CGP's supervision.
- Ensuring the humane treatment, safe custody, and rehabilitation of prisoners.

5. Office of the Deputy Commissioner-General of Prisons (DCGP)

The Deputy CGP, also appointed by the President, assists the CGP in the day-to-day management of UPS. The Deputy CGP oversees various directorates and technical departments, including finance and administration, procurement and disposal, inspectorate and quality assurance, legal affairs and human rights, and the Uganda Prisons Academy and Training School.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Deputizing the Commissioner General of Prisons in providing overall supervision, administration, command, and control of the Uganda Prisons Service.
2. Consulting with the Commissioner General of Prisons in initiating and developing strategies and policies essential for the effective and efficient delivery of prison services in the country.
3. Supervising the effective and efficient implementation of policies, strategic plans, programmes, and projects within the Uganda Prisons Service.
4. Enforcing adherence to prison legislation, guidelines, and other relevant regulations.
5. Monitoring and evaluating the performance of Directorates, Departments, Divisions, and Units directly supervised by the Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons.
6. Supporting the Commissioner General of Prisons in planning, mobilizing, and accounting for resources to ensure effective provision and development of prison services in the country.
7. Providing technical support in the implementation of resolutions and decisions of the Uganda Prisons Authority, the Uganda Prisons Council, and the Prisons Management Team.

According to the structure of the Uganda Prisons Service, several departments report directly to the Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons (DCGP). These departments support coordination, training, legal compliance, inspections, financial management, and administration within the service.

1. Prisons Academy and Training School

This department is responsible for training, professional development, and capacity building of staff in the prisons service.

Prisons Academy:

Provides advanced training and leadership development for senior and middle-level officers. It focuses on strategic management, correctional leadership, and modern prison administration.

Prisons Training School:

Conducts basic and refresher training for prison officers. It equips recruits and serving officers with skills in prison security, inmate management, discipline, and professional conduct.

Prisons Command and Staff College:

Offers specialized command and staff courses that prepare officers for higher leadership and command responsibilities within the service.

2. Legal Affairs and Human Rights

This department ensures that the activities of the prisons service comply with laws, regulations, and human rights standards.

Legal Advisory Services:

Provides legal guidance to the leadership and prison units, interprets laws and policies, and supports the service in legal matters.

Human Rights:

Promotes respect for the rights of inmates and staff while ensuring prison operations comply with national and international human rights standards.



3. Inspectorate and Quality Assurance

This department ensures professional standards, accountability, and effective service delivery through regular inspections.

General Inspections and Quality Assurance:

Conducts inspections of prison units to ensure compliance with policies, operational procedures, and service standards.

Production and Engineering Inspections:

Monitors prison farms, industries, and engineering works to ensure productivity and proper use of resources.

Correctional Programs Inspections:

Evaluates rehabilitation programs such as education, vocational training, counseling, and reintegration initiatives for inmates.

Professional Standards:

Ensures discipline, integrity, and professional conduct among prison officers.

4. Finance and Administration

This department manages the financial and administrative operations of the prisons service.

Accounts:

Handles budgeting, financial planning, and management of funds to support prison activities.

Internal Audit:

Ensures accountability and transparency in financial operations through regular audits.

Procurement and Disposal unit:

Manages the procurement of goods and services and ensures proper disposal of government assets in accordance with regulations.

These departments support the Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons in strengthening management, professionalism, accountability, and service delivery within the Uganda Prisons Service.

Directorates within UPS

The UPS is divided into six directorates, each headed by a Director at the rank of Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP). The directors are supported by deputies at the rank of Senior Commissioner of Prisons (SCP). This group forms the top management team of UPS.

Directorates:

- Prisons Administration
- Cooperation and Corporate Affairs
- Prisons Production and Engineering
- Policy Development and Research
- Correctional Services
- Human Resource Management

These directorates play a pivotal role in the administration, policy development, and operational management of the Uganda Prisons Service, ensuring that the service fulfills its mandate effectively and efficiently.



DIRECTORATE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Directorate of Administration is a key component of the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), playing a central role in ensuring the efficient management and welfare of prison staff. Headed by an Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP), this directorate directly impacts the overall effectiveness and morale within the service, ensuring that staff are well-supported and that operational needs are met.

Departments Under the Directorate

The Directorate of Administration and Welfare is composed of five key departments, each headed by a Commissioner of Prisons:

General Administration & Social Welfare:

- 1. General Administration:** Manages the day-to-day administrative functions of the UPS, ensuring that all operations are carried out smoothly and efficiently.
- 2. Regional & District Administration:** Oversees the administration at the regional and district levels, ensuring that local operations align with national policies and standards.
- 3. Staff Social Welfare Services & Counselling:** Provides welfare services and counseling to prison staff, ensuring that they are supported in both their personal and professional lives.

Safety & Security Operations:

- 1. Prisons Intelligence:** Manages intelligence operations within the UPS, ensuring that security risks are identified and mitigated.
- 2. Safety & Security:** Oversees the safety and security of both staff and inmates, implementing measures to prevent and respond to incidents.
- 3. Operations:** Coordinates security operations across the UPS, ensuring that all facilities maintain high standards of safety and order.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

- 1. Technology & Innovation:** Develops and implements technological innovations that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the UPS.
- 2. Communications:** Manages communication systems within the UPS, ensuring that information flows smoothly between different levels of the organization.
- 3. Maintenance & User Support:** Provides technical support and maintenance for all ICT systems within the UPS, ensuring that they operate without interruption.

Logistics Management

- 1. Quartermaster General:** Manages the supply of essential goods and services to UPS facilities, ensuring that they are adequately stocked and equipped.
- 2. Fleet & Transport Management:** Oversees the management of the UPS's fleet of vehicles, ensuring that they are properly maintained and used efficiently.

Prisons Health Services

- 1. Clinical Health Services:** Provides clinical health services to inmates and staff, ensuring that they receive necessary medical care.
- 2. Public Health Care:** Oversees public health initiatives within the UPS, promoting the health and well-being of the prison population.
- 3. Nursing:** Manages nursing services within the UPS, ensuring that all health facilities are adequately staffed and equipped.

Political Commissariat

The Political Commissariat promotes ideological orientation, patriotism, and discipline within the service. It educates staff and inmates on national values, government policies, and civic responsibility. The department also strengthens morale, unity, and commitment to national development through political education and awareness programs.



DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Periodic Intermediate Command Courses and other trainings continue to enhance the skills and professional knowledge of officers of the Uganda Prisons Service.

The Directorate of Human Resource Management in the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) is headed by an Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP). This directorate plays a crucial role in overseeing the effective management and development of the human resources within the service. It supervises various departments and ensures that policies and procedures related to human resource management, planning, development, and staff administration are effectively implemented.

Development of Policies: The directorate is responsible for initiating and developing policies that guide the management and administration of staff within the Uganda Prisons Service. This includes ensuring that the service's human resources are aligned with its strategic goals.

Strategic Guidance: The directorate provides strategic guidance to the Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP), management, and other relevant authorities on matters related to staff administration and counseling, among other responsibilities.

Departments Supervised by the Directorate

The Directorate of Human Resource Management supervises three key departments, each with specific functions:

Human Resource Management and Psychometrics

1. **Recruitment & Selection Systems Development:** This function involves developing systems and processes for recruiting and selecting suitable candidates to join the Uganda Prisons Service.
2. **Human Resource Management:** This includes managing the overall human resource functions within the service, such as employee relations, performance management, and compliance with employment laws and regulations.

Human Resource Planning & Development

1. **Human Resource Planning:** This involves forecasting the service's future human resource needs and ensuring that there are plans in place to meet those needs.
2. **Training & Staff Development:** The department is responsible for designing and implementing training programs that enhance the skills and competencies of the staff, ensuring that they are well-equipped to perform their duties effectively.

Staff Administration and Counseling

1. **Senior Personnel Administration:** This function focuses on the management and administration of senior personnel within the Uganda Prisons Service, ensuring that they are effectively managed and supported in their roles.
2. **Junior Personnel Administration:** This involves the administration of junior personnel, providing support and guidance to ensure that they perform their duties effectively and have access to the necessary resources.



DIRECTORATE OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



Prisoner skilling programmes have become a key tool in enhancing rehabilitation and reintegration efforts within the Uganda Prisons Service

The Directorate of Correctional Services within the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) is led by an Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP). This directorate is integral to the fulfillment of the UPS's mandate, focusing on the humane treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration of inmates, as well as maintaining security within Uganda Prisons Service.

Departments Under the Directorate

The Directorate of Correctional Services is composed of three key departments, each headed by a Commissioner of Prisons.

Department of Custodial Services:

- 1. Remand Prisoners Administration:** This section manages the administration of remand prisoners, ensuring their rights and needs are met while they await trial.
- 2. Convicts Prisoners Administration:** This section oversees the administration of convicted prisoners, focusing on their safe custody, welfare, and compliance with their sentences.
- 3.** This department is responsible for the general well-being of inmates during their sentence, ensuring they are treated humanely and that their basic needs are met.

Department of Social Rehabilitation and Re-integration:

- 1. Community Corrections:** Focuses on alternatives to incarceration, such as probation and community service, providing offenders with opportunities for rehabilitation within the community.
- 2. Social Rehabilitation and Welfare:** This section manages programs aimed at rehabilitating inmates during their stay in prison, addressing their psychological, social, and emotional needs.
- 3. Social Re-integration and After Care:** Prepares inmates for reintegration into society after their release, providing support to help them reintegrate successfully and reduce recidivism.

Department of Education & Vocational Skills Training:

- 1. Formal Education:** Provides educational programs for inmates, enabling them to gain basic literacy, numeracy, and further educational qualifications while in prison.
- 2. Vocational Skills Training & Integrated Community Learning and Education for Wealth Creation (ICOLEW):** Offers vocational training in various trades such as carpentry, tailoring, screen printing, metal fabrication, weaving, and handicrafts making. The ICOLEW initiative integrates community learning with vocational training, empowering inmates with skills that can help them secure employment or start businesses upon release.



DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, POLICY AND PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT



The Directorate has strengthened policy development, research, innovation, and project management within the Uganda Prisons Service, enhancing the Service's ability to respond to emerging challenges.

The Directorate of Research, Policy, and Projects Development within the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) is headed by an Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP). This directorate plays a crucial role in providing strategic guidance on matters related to policy, research, innovation, and project management, ensuring that the UPS remains responsive to both internal and external challenges.

Departments Under the Directorate

The Directorate of Research, Policy, and Projects Development executes its mandate through three primary departments:

Department of Research and Innovations:

- 1. Research:** This department is responsible for conducting research that informs the development of policies and practices within UPS. The research aims to understand the challenges facing the prison system and identify innovative solutions to address them.
- 2. Innovations:** The department fosters innovation within the UPS, exploring new ideas and approaches to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of prison services, from inmate rehabilitation programs to administrative processes.

Department of Prisons Policy Analysis and Development:

- 1. Prisons Policy Analysis:** This department analyzes existing policies within the UPS to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement, ensuring that policies are relevant, effective, and aligned with the broader goals of the UPS.
- 2. Policy Development:** The department develops new policies addressing emerging issues within the prison system, playing a key role in ensuring that UPS policies are proactive and responsive to the changing needs of the service.

Department of Planning:

- 1. Planning & Budgeting:** This section is responsible for ensuring that all projects and initiatives are adequately planned and budgeted for, aligning financial resources with the strategic priorities of the UPS.
- 2. Statistics Management:** This section handles the collection and management of data vital for decision-making within the UPS, providing critical insights that inform policy development, project planning, and program evaluation.
- 3. Monitoring & Evaluation:** This section tracks the implementation of projects and policies to assess their impact and effectiveness, ensuring that UPS efforts lead to tangible improvements in service delivery and operational efficiency.



DIRECTORATE OF PRISONS PRODUCTION AND ENGINEERING



The directorate has boosted productivity within the Uganda Prisons Service and equipped the force with the ability to supply quality products to other government agencies

The Directorate of Prisons Production and Engineering plays a vital role in maximizing the productivity of the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS). Under the leadership of an Assistant Commissioner-General of Prisons (CGP), this directorate oversees a range of production and engineering activities, ensuring that UPS's facilities are both productive and well-maintained.

Departments Under the Directorate

The Directorate of Prisons Production and Engineering is structured into four main departments, each focused on a specific area of production and engineering:

Department of Prisons Farms

- 1. Crop Production & Seed Multiplication:** Manages the cultivation of crops and the multiplication of seeds to ensure a steady supply of agricultural produce.
- 2. Livestock Health & Production:** Oversees the health and productivity of livestock, ensuring optimal conditions for animal welfare and production.
- 3. Agriculture Engineering:** Focuses on the technical aspects of agricultural operations, including the maintenance and development of farming equipment and infrastructure.
- 4. Environmental Management:** Implements practices to manage and mitigate environmental impacts related to farming activities.

Department of Prisons Industries

- 1. Furniture, Metal Works & Fabrication:** Produces furniture and other metal works, utilizing inmate labor to manufacture high-quality products.
- 2. Footwear & Other Leather Products:** Manages the production of footwear and other leather goods, providing vocational training and practical skills to inmates.
- 3. Textile & Printing:** Oversees textile production and printing activities, including the manufacture of clothing and printed materials.

Department of Engineering & Estates Management

- 1. Engineering:** Handles engineering projects and maintenance within UPS facilities, ensuring that all infrastructure is in good working order.
- 2. Estates Management:** Manages the estates and properties owned by UPS, including upkeep and development.
- 3. Engineering Gang:** Coordinates specialized engineering teams responsible for carrying out complex maintenance and construction tasks.



DIRECTORATE OF COOPERATION AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS



The Directorate of Cooperation and Corporate Affairs has kept the Uganda Prisons Service brand well-positioned and strengthened partnerships both locally and internationally.

The Directorate of Cooperation and Corporate Affairs is a pivotal entity within the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), charged with safeguarding and enhancing the institution's image and fostering partnerships both locally and internationally. The directorate is headed by an Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP), who plays a key role in the overall strategic leadership and management of UPS's public relations and cooperation efforts.

Promotion and Protection of UPS's Image:

1. The directorate is tasked with promoting the image of the UPS, ensuring that its reputation is upheld and strengthened across various platforms and audiences. This includes managing media relations, public appearances, and communication strategies that showcase the positive contributions of the UPS.
2. It also protects the UPS's image both locally and internationally by addressing any issues that may negatively impact the service's reputation.

Coordination and Liaison with Partner Institutions:

1. The directorate coordinates and liaises with sister institutions from partner states, particularly in the development and implementation of peace support and international programs. These collaborations are essential for advancing mutual goals and enhancing the UPS's role in regional and international peace-keeping efforts.
2. It also advises on protocol matters, ensuring that VIPs and other important visitors to UPS facilities are properly managed in accordance with established standards.

Promotion of Cultural and Recreational Activities:

The directorate oversees the development and implementation of strategies for promoting cultural activities such as music, dance, drama, sports, and games within the UPS. These activities serve both as a tool for staff welfare and as a method of sentence management for inmates, contributing to their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Departments Under the Directorate

The Directorate of Cooperation and Corporate Affairs is composed of three key departments, each headed by a Commissioner of Prisons.

Department of Corporate Affairs:

1. **Public Relations & Museum:** Manages the public image of the UPS, including media relations, press releases, and the operation of the UPS Museum, which preserves and showcases the history and achievements of the service.



- 2. **Protocol & National Celebrations:** Handles protocol arrangements for national events and VIP visits, ensuring that all ceremonial aspects are conducted smoothly and in accordance with protocol.
- 3. **Prisons Band & Performing Arts:** Promotes cultural activities within the UPS, including managing the prisons band and coordinating performing arts events. These activities enhance morale and provide a creative outlet for both staff and inmates.
- 4. **Games & Sports:** Organizes and promotes sports activities within the UPS, encouraging physical fitness and teamwork among staff and inmates.

Department of Cooperation Affairs:

- 1. **National, Regional, and International Cooperation:** Focuses on building and maintaining partnerships with other correctional institutions, governments, and international organizations. This includes collaborating on initiatives that support the development and reform of prison services.
- 2. **Peace Support Services:** Involved in peace support operations, coordinating the participation of UPS personnel in international peacekeeping missions and other related activities.

Department of Product Promotion and Distribution Unit:

- 1. This unit is responsible for promoting and distributing products made by inmates as part of their vocational training. The unit ensures that these products reach a wider market, generating income for the UPS and providing inmates with practical skills that can be used after their release



The competence and efficiency of Uganda Prisons Service officers have been fully harnessed.



UPS STRENGTHENS LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE AT 35TH PRISONS COUNCIL MEETING



UPS council members in a group photo at Kitalya Mini-Max Prison after the successful 35th Prisons Council meeting presided over by the CGP, Johnson O. R. Byabashaija.

Kitalya Mini Max Prisons became a centre of strategic planning and leadership as Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP), presided over the 35th Prisons Council meeting. The gathering brought together senior officers from across the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) to discuss key governance issues, strengthening professional standards, and swear in new members to the Council.

The meeting began with Dr. Byabashaija acknowledging officers who recently attended the annual Kacoke Madit meetings, which unite top, senior, middle, and lower-level managers. He officially declared Kacoke Madit an annual event, noting that it plays a critical role in building cohesion, improving communication, and aligning the Service's operations with its strategic goals.

In his address, the CGP emphasized professionalism, transparency, and accountability as the foundation of UPS operations. He praised officers for their dedication, discipline, and hard work, noting that their commitment to state duties has enhanced the Service's reputation and visibility across the country.

A major highlight of the 35th Prisons Council meeting was the swearing-in of four junior officers appointed to the Council. These new members bring fresh perspectives from the non-commissioned ranks and a principal officer to the Service's second-highest decision-making body.

The officers, who took both the Oath of Member of the Prisons Council and the Oath of Allegiance, include:

- P/N/458 PO I Nankunda Jerald Owen
- No. Ch/Wdr II Higenyi Paul
- No. 13896 Sgt/Wdrss Akullo Sharon
- No. 13827 Cpl/Wdrss Namujju

Dr. Byabashaija congratulated the new members and urged them to serve with integrity, diligence, and commitment, emphasizing that the Council plays a vital role in shaping the Service's future.

Established under Section 13 of the Prisons Act, 2006, the Prisons Council is the second-highest decision-making body of UPS after the Prisons Authority. It comprises the Commissioner General as Chairperson, the Deputy Commissioner General as Vice Chairperson, all Heads of Directorates and Departments, all Regional Prisons Commanders, and five additional members appointed by the CGP, including one ASP, one Principal Officer, and three Non-Commissioned Officers. The Assistant Commissioner General in charge of Prisons Administration serves as Secretary.

The Council has a wide range of responsibilities, including making appointments and promotions up to Principal Officer, exercising disciplinary control, advising on rank structures, establishing recruitment and training standards, overseeing policy implementation, and ensuring efficient administration. Committees may also be formed from among its members to support these functions.

Under the Prisons Act, the Council must meet at least once every three months. Decisions are made by a simple majority, with the Chairperson holding a casting vote in case of a tie, and accurate records of proceedings are maintained.



JUSTICE FLOWS FREE: UPS SHINES AT NATIONAL COURT OPEN DAY



The Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo appreciates leather products produced by Uganda Prisons

On the 15th December 2025, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) showcased its role in justice, rehabilitation and national development at the Judiciary's Second National Court Open Day, held at the Kololo Independence Grounds. The event, organized under the theme "Enhancing Judicial Accountability and Access to Justice," aims to bring the courts closer to the people and strengthen transparency, public trust, and civic engagement.

The day began with a lively parade led by the Prisons Brass Band, moving from the Judiciary Headquarters along Kampala Road, Jinja Road, and Wampewo Avenue. Citizens gathered along the route to witness the march, which symbolized the partnership between UPS and the Judiciary, two pillars of the criminal justice system.

Representing the Commissioner General of Prisons, Mr. Jacob Kivumbi, Commissioner of Prisons in charge of Custodial Services, led UPS's participation at the exhibition. The Service displayed a variety of products from inmate rehabilitation programs, including office and home furniture, leather goods, fabrics, and other artisanal crafts. The public expressed deep impression and appreciation, noting the high quality of the products and leaving confident that the people entrusted to UPS are under safe, secure, and humane custody. Officers explained that the vocational skilling

initiatives showcased are not just production programs but essential rehabilitation tools, equipping inmates with skills to reintegrate successfully into society.

UPS's mission—to secure custody of offenders, rehabilitate and reform them, and provide quality services to the public—was highlighted throughout the exhibition, showing how the Service contributes to both human capital transformation and national development.

Addressing the gathering on behalf of the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija highlighted the Judiciary's mandate to serve the people and uphold the rule of law. He noted that the Open Court Day was deliberately designed to take justice beyond courtrooms, allowing citizens to ask questions, access information, and provide feedback on how justice is administered. He emphasized that judicial power belongs to the people of Uganda, and accountability must flow both ways—courts explain their work, and the public actively engages in the process.



UPS officers stand in front of a display of woven artifacts on showcase at Kololo ceremonial grounds.

Chief Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo updated the public on key reforms, including the operationalization of the new Judiciary Headquarters for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, the rollout of the Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS), and the Judicature (Electronic Filing, Service and Virtual Proceedings) Rules, 2024, which enable e-filing, virtual hearings, and electronic delivery of judgments. He further highlighted the expansion of court infrastructure, with High Court circuits rising from 20 to 38 and Magisterial Areas increasing from 80 to 157, easing access to justice for citizens nationwide.

The Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, praised the initiative as transformative, describing it as a platform that opens up the Judiciary to scrutiny, dialogue, and public engagement. She emphasized that continuous interaction with citizens builds trust, strengthens accountability, and ensures that justice services meet the real needs of the people.

UPS's exhibition reinforced its role in the criminal justice system, showing how custodial services, rehabilitation, and production contribute to broader justice sector reforms. Mr. Kivumbi underscored that UPS works hand-in-hand with the Judiciary to ensure safe and humane custody, upholding human rights, and providing skill-building opportunities for inmates, which support their rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into society.

The day also featured interactive Q&A sessions, exhibition stalls, live demonstrations of court procedures, and feedback collection via QR codes, engaging the public directly in understanding judicial processes. International partners, including UNDP and UNODC, lauded the initiative for promoting legal awareness, inclusivity, and public participation, while supporting sustainable justice reforms under SDG 16.

The Open Court Day further highlighted UPS's contribution to national development, showing how inmate skills programs, production of furniture and fabrics, and community engagement efforts complement the Judiciary's work. The event also served as a reminder of the importance of inter-agency collaboration among all criminal justice actors—including the Police, UPDF, and the Prisons Service—to maintain stability, uphold human rights, and strengthen the justice system.

By bringing justice closer to the people and demonstrating the quality of its rehabilitation programs, the National Court Open Day reinforced the message that justice is not distant or hidden—it flows freely when institutions like UPS and the Judiciary work together in service of the nation.



Deputy Chief Justice Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija and The Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo at the event



CP Jacob Kivumbi represented the CGP at the event



The Deputy Chief justice tours UPS high quality furniture on display



A foldable African stool produced by UPS being displayed



High quality living-room furniture on display



The UPS band doing what it does best

THE MAKING OF A GREAT NATIONAL PARADE: DISCIPLINE, PREPARATION AND NATIONAL PRIDE



Deputy Chief of Defence Forces, Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, is received by representatives of service chiefs upon arrival to inspect parade rehearsals at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds ahead of the NRM/A Liberation Day celebrations.

One of the reasons the NRM/A Liberation Day parade was spectacular is the seriousness given to preparation. A great parade is not built in a single day – it is the result of weeks of rehearsals, corrections, coordination, and strong leadership. In Uganda, national parades are more than ceremonial events; they are symbols of unity, discipline, peace, and institutional strength.

As preparations intensified for the 2026 NRM/A Liberation Day celebrations, Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, Deputy Chief of Defence Forces, inspected the parade rehearsals at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds. The drills brought together officers from the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs / Uganda People's Defence Force, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority – demonstrating inter-agency coordination at the highest level.

He was received by Maj. Gen. James Kinalwa and Maj. Gen. Felix Kulaigya. The Inspector General of Police was represented by AIGP Jesse Kamunanwire, while the Commissioner General of Prisons was represented by ACP John Bosco Tumwebaze. Also present from Prisons were SCP Frank Mayanja Baine, ACP Mary Centenary, and SP Ambrose Tugume, alongside other senior Police and Army officers.

The inspection focused on discipline, coordination and readiness for a flawless Liberation Day parade. While addressing participants, Lt. Gen. Okiding noted that simple mistakes identified earlier had been corrected and that the drill was now “good, precise and beautiful.” He encouraged officers to maintain momentum, emphasizing that continued rehearsals would ensure Uganda delivers its best parade on Liberation Day. He thanked the forces for being patriotic Ugandans with a clear vision for the future and urged them to remain proud of their service.

Describing Uganda as a God-fearing nation, he emphasized discipline, citing Proverbs 19:3 and reminding officers that many conflicts arise from human actions. He concluded by noting that every corner of Uganda remains peaceful and calm because of the collective sweat and sacrifice of those who serve.



Prisons officers conduct parade rehearsals at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds

Uganda adopted a new parade drill formation during the 2023 Independence Day celebrations. This modern structure has since enhanced uniformity, balance and command efficiency.

Under the new arrangement:

- Each guard consists of 48 members.
- Each guard is led by two commissioned commanders positioned at the front.
- Two Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) are positioned at the rear of each guard to maintain alignment, spacing, and discipline.

This structure strengthens supervision and control within each formation. The presence of commissioned officers in front ensures confident command delivery, while NCOs at the back maintain dressing, synchronization, and correction of movement. The result is sharper coordination and improved visual appeal.

Key Roles That Make a Parade Great

A great parade depends on clearly defined responsibilities at every level:

1. Parade Commander

The Parade Commander has overall control of the ceremony. They give executive commands, manage transitions, and ensure timing is exact. Their voice projection, confidence, and composure set the standard for the entire parade.

2. Parade Second-in-Command (2IC)

The 2IC oversees organization and readiness. They supervise contingents, ensure corrections from rehearsals are implemented, and coordinate movements behind the scenes to prevent delays or confusion.

3. Parade RCM (Regimental Sergeant Major)

The Parade RCM is the senior-most disciplinarian on parade. They ensure impeccable turnout, correct bearing, and strict adherence to drill standards. The RCM enforces uniformity and maintains the highest level of discipline before, during, and after the ceremony.

4. Parade Adjutant

The Parade Adjutant acts as the link between the Parade Commander and the guards. They transmit orders, align formations, confirm readiness of units, and ensure commands are executed uniformly. Their coordination ensures smooth flow throughout the ceremony.

5. Guard Commanders

Each Guard Commander leads a 48-member guard. They are responsible for discipline within their formation, precision in movement, and immediate correction of errors. Their leadership determines how sharp and synchronized each guard appears.

6. Guard NCOs

Positioned at the rear under the new drill structure, Guard NCOs maintain spacing, dressing, and alignment. They ensure boots strike the ground in unison and formations remain straight. They are the backbone of parade discipline.

7. The Colour Party

The Colour Party carries and protects the national and regimental colours. This is one of the most prestigious roles on parade. The Colours symbolize national sovereignty, sacrifice, and institutional honor. The steadiness, coordination, and dignity of the Colour Party add ceremonial prestige and emotional significance to the parade.



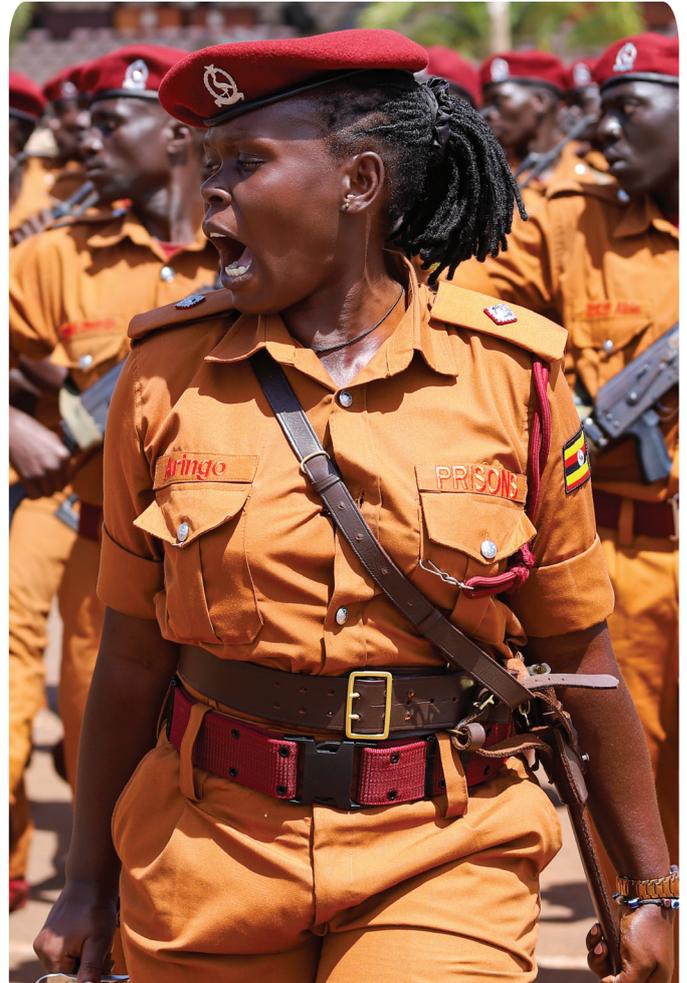
8. Parade Participants

Every participant contributes to excellence. Long hours of rehearsal build endurance, synchronization, and confidence. Their discipline transforms individual officers into a single, unified symbol of national strength.

9. The Brass Band

The Brass Band plays a central role in setting the tempo, mood, and rhythm of the parade. Every march, salute, and transition is guided by musical timing. The band ensures synchronized steps across all guards and adds ceremonial grandeur to the occasion.

Beyond coordination, the music stirs national pride and emotion. When the national anthem and slow marches are played, they deepen the symbolic meaning of the ceremony. The Brass Band transforms a structured drill into a moving national spectacle, reinforcing unity and patriotism



Guard Commanders lead a 48 member guard, ensuring discipline, precision in movement, and coordinated execution during the parade.



Modern parade drill formations enhance uniformity, balance, and command efficiency

The leadership of guard commanders determines how sharp and synchronized each guard appears.



PRINCIPAL JUDGE LAUNCHES PLEA BARGAINING CAMP AT JINJA REMAND PRISON, STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PRISON REFORM PROGRAMMES.



Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, arrives at Jinja Remand Prison to officiate the opening of a plea bargaining camp aimed at fast tracking case disposal and reducing prison congestion.

Jinja Remand Prison in the Busoga sub-region became the center of a transformative judicial intervention as the Principal Judge, Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, officially opened a plea bargaining camp aimed at fast-tracking case disposal and reducing prison congestion. The initiative provides hope to thousands of remand inmates and underscores the importance of collaboration between key criminal justice actors.

Plea bargaining allows offenders to accept responsibility in exchange for lighter, more predictable sentences. By encouraging quick resolution of cases, the process reduces the backlog in courts, eases prison overcrowding, and strengthens fairness in criminal justice. With remand prisoners often outnumbering convicted inmates, this approach is a critical tool for Uganda's criminal justice system.

Lady Justice Abodo emphasized that the camp ensures fairness for all inmates while speeding up justice delivery. "We are going to be fair because we know we are the ones to give you hope," she said, urging remandees to participate and take advantage of the process.

The camp was staffed by five High Court judges, including the Principal Judge, running alongside full criminal sessions for the first time. This arrangement maximizes case disposal and ensures that justice is served efficiently.

Mr. Andrew Ochwo, Superintendent of Prisons and Officer-in-Charge at Jinja Remand, noted that the prison currently holds 3,049 inmates across the Kirinya units, highlighting the urgent need for interventions that reduce congestion and improve living conditions.

The initiative forms part of the continuous partnership between the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) and the Judiciary, two central pillars of the criminal justice system. Through close collaboration, UPS provides secure custody, facilitates access to courts, and ensures that inmates are handled humanely, while the Judiciary ensures timely, fair, and lawful adjudication of cases. This partnership is key to enhancing public trust, reducing case backlogs, and improving the overall efficiency of the justice system in Uganda.

Plans for 2026 include at least ten additional criminal sessions and expanded plea bargaining circuits in Jinja and Iganga, reflecting the



Government’s commitment to sustained reform. Lady Justice Abodo assured inmates that pre-plea meetings with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and defence lawyers would safeguard fairness and transparency.

Plea bargaining also aligns with UPS’s broader mandate of rehabilitation and human rights observance. By reducing remand congestion, the process enables better inmate management, creates safer prisons, and opens space for rehabilitation programs, contributing to long-term social and economic development.



The plea bargaining camp underway



Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo is welcomed to Jinja Remand Prison



The camp aimed at fast tracking case disposal and reducing prison congestion.



WHEN THE ROOTS ARE STRONG, THE TREE WITHSTANDS THE STORM: UPS DEEPENS CIVIC EDUCATION, PATRIOTISM AND PROFESSIONALISM TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Deputy RCC for Ayivu Division, Mr. Godfrey Jonah Mbigiti, together with ACGP Milton Tiyo join trainers and training participants for a group photo after the civic education training of officers from the North Western Region convened in Arua City

As part of the ongoing Civic Education training conducted countrywide, the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) recently held a training session in Arua City for officers from the North-Western Region. The training brought together a diverse group of participants, including District Prisons Commanders, Staff Officers, Health Coordinators, Welfare Officers, Prisons Intelligence Officers, Officers in Charge and their deputies, as well as opinion and local council leaders.

Representing the Resident City Commissioner of Arua, Mr. Godfrey Jonah Mbigiti, the Deputy RCC for Ayivu Division, commended UPS for its improved service delivery and professionalism. He noted that government appreciation for the Service is reflected in the gradual enhancement of the budget, aimed at meeting UPS's growing operational capacity.

The training guided and sensitized officers on the critical role of UPS in the management of pre-, during- and post-election activities. Officers were strongly advised to remain focused and alert during this sensitive period and to act tactically, strictly avoiding the use of excessive force when engaging the public during public order management.

Mr. Milton Tiyo, the Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Correctional Services), addressed the officers, stressing that their work

must be guided strictly by the law and a deep sense of patriotism. Drawing from his personal experience as an Officer in Charge for 11 years, he highlighted two key factors for success:

1. Staff Management: An Officer in Charge must understand the needs, concerns, and challenges of the staff under their command. He urged leaders to stand with their staff during both happy and difficult times, offering continuous encouragement and support for their growth.

2. Inmate Administration and Community Engagement: Success also depends on the professional administration of prisoners, ensuring safe custody and strict observance of human rights.

Officers were advised to protect the image of the Service and to be friendly and considerate toward neighboring communities to promote positive engagement. Mr. Tiyo emphasized that good public relations start from within the Service, urging officers to effectively communicate government achievements and promote the value of patriotism among citizens.



The training sensitized UPS officers on their critical role in managing pre, during and post election activities.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining good health through regular medical check-ups to enable officers to effectively carry out their duties.

Mr. Moses Kamugisha, the Commissioner of Prisons (Service Political Commissariat and Chief Intelligence Officer), outlined the four enduring pillars of the NRA/M ideology, which evolved from the original 10-Point Programme:

- 1. Patriotism:** Defined as placing love for Uganda above personal and sectoral interests. Officers were encouraged to promote civic awareness, educate staff and inmates on national values, and foster unity.
- 2. Pan-Africanism:** This pillar emphasizes that Uganda's strength is linked to Africa's political and social unity, as demonstrated by Uganda's participation in peacekeeping missions and its active role in the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU).
- 3. Socio-Economic Transformation:** This involves moving Uganda from a subsistence economy to a money economy. Government programs such as Emyooga and the Parish Development Model (PDM) were highlighted as key strategies. Officers were urged to encourage their families and communities to engage in income-generating activities.
- 4. Democracy:** Described as the voice of the people in governance, ensuring inclusivity and equal representation, including special interest groups in Parliament. During elections, officers have a duty to protect the democratic process by safeguarding

electoral materials and maintaining law and order to ensure peaceful voting.

Mr. Kamugisha linked these principles to Uganda's broader development agenda, explaining that progress is driven by key sectors already showing visible impact. He highlighted agricultural modernization through irrigation, improved seed systems, value addition, and programs such as PDM and Emyooga, which are helping households transition from subsistence to commercial farming.

He noted that industrialization is advancing through industrial parks in Namanve, Soroti, and Mbale, where factories are creating jobs and adding value to local raw materials. In tourism, he cited the protection of national parks and attractions such as Bwindi's mountain gorillas and Murchison Falls' elephants, buffaloes, and giraffes, which continue to attract visitors and generate national revenue.

Mr. Kamugisha also emphasized progress in mineral development, particularly in the Albertine region, and the exploration of minerals such as gold, iron ore, and rare earth elements. In science and technology, he highlighted the growth of ICT hubs, digital innovation, and locally developed technologies supporting economic transformation.

He stressed that these achievements are possible because of the stability provided by disciplined security institutions, including UPS, the Uganda Police Force, and the UPDF, which safeguard communities, secure investments, and maintain peace.



Officers were urged to remain vigilant and exercise restraint, avoiding excessive force when engaging the public during public order management.

He further noted with pride that Uganda’s national budget has grown from USD 34.7 billion to over USD 61.3 billion, underscoring the need to appreciate the country’s progress. He also cited benefits such as salary enhancement, the Prisons SACCO, and the tax-free shop offering affordable building materials as positive developments for staff.

Mr. Ndori Leni, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (RPC – North Western), concluded by reaffirming UPS as a vital pillar of the state, working alongside the UPDF, UPF, and the wider civil service. He stressed the importance of fulfilling presidential directives, aligning with the National Development Plans, and actively participating in national protocol events and celebrations.

He added that UPS’s role extends beyond custody and rehabilitation to include national security, support to government programs, and institutional visibility, and encouraged officers to maintain professionalism and project a positive image of the Service at all times.



ACGP Milton Tiyo is welcomed to the event



ACGP Milton Tiyo represented the CGP at the event



FAITH AND HOPE AS TOOLS FOR ENHANCING RELIGIOUS EMPOWERMENT OF INMATES AT SOROTI GROUP OF PRISONS



Church leaders from the Soroti Catholic Diocese serve meals to inmates during a joyful festive celebration at Soroti Main Prison

Soroti Group of Prisons was filled with joy as festivities were celebrated through a religious outreach organised by the Soroti Catholic Diocese under the Uganda Prisons Service religious empowerment programme. The celebration brought together inmates, prison staff, clergy and families, giving inmates a sense of belonging and renewed hope.

A Catholic Mass was celebrated for inmates from the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Soroti. Holy Communion was shared as a sign of care, forgiveness and new beginnings, offering spiritual strength to inmates and reminding them that they are not forgotten while in custody.

The Diocese also supported inmates with essential items that improve daily living in prison. All 1,400 male inmates and 200 female inmates benefited from the donation. Each male prisoner received a bar of soap, smearing oil and a toothbrush with toothpaste, while each female inmate received a bar of soap, sanitary pads and smearing oil. Children staying with their mothers were given pampers. Each prisoner received the items, which were personally handed over by the Bishop.

In his message, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Echiru Oliach, Bishop of Soroti Catholic Diocese, encouraged inmates to forgive, avoid revenge and heal from their past. He preached love,

reconciliation and trust in God, reminding inmates that every day that passes brings them closer to freedom. He urged them not to give up, to share their burdens with God and to walk in the ways of the Lord as they prepare for a better future.

The Bishop thanked the Soroti Prisons administration for taking good care of inmates, supporting rehabilitation and respecting their rights. He later shared a meal with the inmates and joined them in cutting a cake, an act that highlighted unity and compassion.

The inmates were visibly happy, showing the strong impact such engagements have on their emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Superintendent of Prisons Papus Muhirizi appreciated the Diocese for its continued support, noting that it has improved the welfare of inmates and strengthened rehabilitation efforts. The event also highlighted the Uganda Prisons Service open-door policy, which promotes partnerships that support inmate reform.

More items were also donated to Nakatunya Prison in Soroti, where a mini Christmas celebration was equally organised for inmates, extending the festive spirit beyond Soroti Main Prison.



Church leaders, inmates, and prison staff in a group photo after the mass at Soroti Main Prison

The celebrations for prisoners continued in all prison units across the country. As part of this annual tradition, the Commissioner General of Prisons has provided Christmas meat for all staff and inmates, ensuring that the festive season is marked with care, dignity and inclusion throughout the Uganda Prisons Service.

Catholic clergy and staff families also joined the celebrations, further strengthening the bond between the Church, the prison and the wider community.

For the inmates, the day brought rare happiness and relief from the routine of prison life. Many felt valued and remembered, seeing people from outside take time to pray, celebrate and share a meal with them. The personal interaction, gifts and words of encouragement lifted their spirits and eased the weight of confinement. In appreciation, the

Officer in Charge led staff and inmates in presenting souvenirs to the Bishop as a sign of gratitude for the visit, support and shared celebration, making the moment even more meaningful for everyone present.

The festive celebration is important because it restores dignity, strengthens faith and improves welfare. It promotes peace within the prison and supports the goal of rehabilitation, preparing inmates for positive reintegration into society.



Mass underway



The cake cutting session



Exchange of presentaries



Mass underway



Inmates receive blessings from the main celebrant



Religious leaders cheerfully serve the day's meals



Inmates with the main celebrant after the mass at Soroti Main Prison



Soroti Main Prison staff led by the O.C proceed for mass



A MEAL SHARED IS A JOY DOUBLED: UPS BRINGS CHRISTMAS JOY TO STAFF, STAFF FAMILIES AND INMATES



Cows slaughtered and meat prepared for distribution as part of the Uganda Prisons Service annual Christmas celebrations

The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) successfully carried out its annual Christmas celebrations, spreading festive joy to over 79,000 inmates and 14,000 staff across all 269 prison units in the country. The hallmark of this year's celebrations was the provision of meat and festive meals, allowing staff to celebrate with their families and inmates to enjoy the holiday within their prison environments.

The tradition, initiated by the Commissioner General of Prisons, continues to symbolize the Service's commitment to care, inclusion and morale. By ensuring that all staff and inmates are part of the celebrations,

the initiative recognizes the dedication of officers who remain on duty during the festive period and provides inmates, who cannot leave the facilities, a chance to participate in the holiday spirit.

At Luzira Prisons Complex, the central hub for slaughtering and distribution, UPS allocated over 533 cows and more than 400 goats and sheep. The careful planning ensured that each staff household would receive an average of five kilograms of meat, while alternatives such as chicken and turkey were also provided for those who do not consume red meat. The distribution successfully covered all prisons nationwide, demonstrating the Service's organizational efficiency and dedication to welfare.

Mr. Frank Baine, Senior Commissioner of Prisons (Cooperation and Corporate Affairs and Service Spokesperson), explained that the celebrations are about more than providing meals. They reflect the values of recognition, care and community that underpin the UPS. He emphasized that the initiative allows staff to share the festive season with their families while ensuring that inmates are included in meaningful ways, strengthening morale and a sense of belonging across all units.

Around Luzira, staff expressed joy at being able to celebrate with their families despite being on duty. Many highlighted that receiving meat for their homes allowed them to prepare festive meals, enjoy quality time with loved ones and feel appreciated by the Service. Families of staff welcomed the gesture, noting that it strengthened bonds and added a sense of warmth to their holiday celebrations, even amid the responsibilities and pressures of prison service life.



The animal slaughtering tradition initiated by the CGP, continues to symbolize the Service's commitment to care, inclusion and morale.

Inmates also experienced the holiday spirit within their units. They were organized to enjoy communal meals that provided a rare sense of inclusion and dignity. Officers observed that the celebrations created a lively and uplifting atmosphere, with shared meals, stories and moments of laughter. Inmates acknowledged that being remembered during Christmas gave them a sense of care and boosted morale, offering comfort during a time when most Ugandans were with their families.

Dr. Generous Betunga, Superintendent of Prisons and Veterinary Surgeon, oversaw the health and safety aspects of the initiative. He ensured that all meat underwent thorough inspections to confirm quality and safety, demonstrating the UPS's commitment to the welfare of staff and inmates. The careful checks reassured families and the public that the meals provided were safe, nutritious, and of high quality.

This celebrations were particularly significant because they coincided with the Standby Class One period, a time when operational readiness and security alert are heightened. Despite the additional challenges, the Service successfully coordinated slaughtering, distribution and festive arrangements, proving its ability to balance operational duties with staff and inmate welfare.

Across Luzira and other prison units, the celebrations created a sense of togetherness and community. Staff enjoyed the holiday with their families, while inmates celebrated within their units, sharing meals, songs and moments of laughter. Families reported feeling reassured that their loved ones were recognized and valued, which contributed to a sense of pride and happiness among all involved.

The annual Christmas meat provision continues to carry deep meaning. For staff, it serves as recognition of their dedication and a way to participate in the festive season with their families. For inmates, it is a symbol of care, inclusion, and dignity, reminding them that they are not forgotten during the holidays. For families, it affirms the Service's acknowledgment of the sacrifices of officers and strengthens community ties.

This celebrations were widely described as successful, inclusive and heartwarming. By blending prisons operations with care for staff, families and inmates, the Uganda Prisons Service demonstrated that even in highly secure and disciplined environments, the spirit of Christmas can be shared broadly. Staff, inmates, and their families were left with lasting memories of joy, appreciation, and festive cheer, reinforcing the values of unity, respect and service that define the UPS.



28 UGANDA PRISONS OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM JOINT POLITICAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP COURSE AT KAWEWETA



Graduates of the Joint Political Education and Leadership Course in a group photo after completing training at the Oliver Reginald Tambo School of Leadership and African Centre of Excellence.

A total of 28 officers from the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) have successfully completed the Joint Political Education and Leadership Course at the Oliver Reginald Tambo School of Leadership and African Centre of Excellence in Kaweweta. The course brought together officers from different security and government institutions with one common goal—building unity, patriotism and strong leadership for national development.

The training was attended by senior and middle-level officers from the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), External Security Organisation (ESO), National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), Wazalendo SACCO, and the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps.

UPDF participated with 25 Captains, 128 Lieutenants and 4 Second Lieutenants. The Police had 24 Assistant Superintendents, while UPS was represented by 14 Assistant Superintendents, 9 Principal Officers II and 5 Principal Officers I. Other participants included 8 officers from ESO, 4 from NEC, 5 from Wazalendo SACCO, and 5 from the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps.

The course focused on ideological awareness, patriotism, discipline, unity and leadership skills. Officers were trained to understand Uganda’s history, national values and the importance of working together as one team in

service of the country. Strong emphasis was placed on Pan-Africanism, reminding participants that Uganda’s progress is closely linked to the unity and development of Africa.

The training aimed at producing officers who can act as positive change agents, supporting peace, stability and Africa’s economic transformation. The curriculum covered national unity, leadership ethics, basic military skills and an understanding of global and regional issues that affect security and development.

Outstanding performance was also recognised during the course. Mr. Robert Mugabyomu, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, was awarded Best in Leadership for his exceptional conduct, teamwork and leadership qualities demonstrated throughout the training. Other best performers from sister security agencies were also recognised, highlighting the spirit of healthy competition, excellence and mutual respect among the joint forces.



ASP Robert Mugabyomu was awarded Best in Leadership for his exceptional conduct, teamwork and leadership qualities

For the Uganda Prisons Service, the course is highly significant. It strengthens the Service's human resource capacity by producing officers who are disciplined, patriotic and guided by national values. The knowledge and skills gained support UPS's mandate of safe and humane custody, rehabilitation of offenders, professionalism and respect for human rights.

The joint nature of the course further strengthened unity and cooperation between UPS and other security agencies. Training together improves understanding of each institution's role, enhances coordination and builds trust—key elements for national security, effective service delivery and a strong criminal justice system.

Overall, the Joint Political Education and Leadership Course continues to build a united, disciplined and people-centered security sector. The graduation of the 28 UPS officers, and the recognition of outstanding performers, reflects the Service's commitment to teamwork, unity and continuous human resource development in support of Uganda's peace and development.



The Joint Political Education and Leadership Course continues to build a united, disciplined and people-centered security sector.



INMATES EXCEL IN 2025 PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATIONS, SIGNALING HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION



Inmates celebrate their success in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations, highlighting hope and transformation even with in custody

The Commissioner General of Prisons has congratulated all inmates who successfully sat for the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), describing their performance as a clear sign that education is transforming lives behind prison walls.

A total of 313 inmates registered for the examinations across various prison schools in Uganda. Out of these, 280 inmates sat for the exams, while 19 were absent due to earlier release from custody.

The candidates were registered at different prison centres including Mbarara Main (40), Upper Prison Luzira (61), Mbale Main (23), Soroti Main (23), Moroto (15), Masaka Main (9), Kitalya Mini Max (17), Ndorwa (10), Nakasongola (7), Lira Main (6), Gulu Main (7), Kitalya Farm (8) and Masindi Main (7), among others.

The results show remarkable improvement compared to 2024:

- 15 candidates attained Division I
- 159 candidates attained Division II
- 75 candidates attained Division III
- 31 candidates attained Division IV
- 19 candidates were ungraded.

These results reflect hard work by the learners, strong support from dedicated teachers and commitment from key stakeholders who believe in rehabilitation through education.

While officially releasing the 2025 PLE results at State House, Nakasero, the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Museveni, commended the Uganda Prisons Service for prioritizing education in prisons.

She emphasized that giving inmates an opportunity to study while serving their sentences is a powerful tool for rehabilitation. According to her, the knowledge and skills gained in prison classrooms prepare inmates for successful reintegration into society. She noted that education helps former offenders become responsible and productive citizens who can contribute positively to their families and communities.

Many of these learners are persons who once wronged the community, were neglected, came into conflict with the law, and were convicted. Now under safe, secure and humane custody, they made a personal decision to return to school. For some, this was their first time sitting in a classroom in many years. Others had dropped out of school in childhood due to the environment they grew up in or bad choices. Prison education has given them a second chance.



In mates and staff at Mbale main prison celebrate the PLE results

Through structured learning, guidance from teachers and a disciplined environment, many inmates have changed their mindset. Education has restored their confidence and helped them rediscover their potential.

The success in the 2025 PLE shows that prisons are not only places of custody but also centres of correction and rehabilitation. Education is playing a central role in this transformation. Inmates who once felt rejected by society are now proving that change is possible. By accepting to go back to school, they are taking responsibility for their future. They are preparing themselves for a better life after release. When they leave prison, they will not only carry their certificates but also new knowledge, discipline, and hope.

The Uganda Prisons Service continues to focus on education as a key pillar of rehabilitation. These results demonstrate that when given opportunity, guidance, and support, individuals can reform and rebuild their lives.



Inmates jubilate after receiving their 2025 Primary Leaving Examination results



“WHERE TEAMWORK SHINES, STRENGTH GROWS”: SOUTH EASTERN REGION CLOSES CGP CUP WITH CELEBRATION OF STAFF UNITY, HEALTH AND SPORTSMANSHIP



Officers celebrate their victory at the finals of the Commissioner General of Prisons Cup held at the Lakeside Arena, Jinja Prison Complex.

The Lakeside Arena at Jinja Prison Complex was full of excitement as the South Eastern Region held the finals of the Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP) Cup. Officers from different prison units turned up in big numbers, creating a lively atmosphere with cheers, music and celebration.

Jinja Main Prison emerged as the overall winners after strong performances in both netball and football. In the netball final, Jinja Main narrowly defeated Jinja Remand 33–32 in a very tense match. In football, they beat Buyende Prison 2–1 to complete a successful day. Jinja Women Prison and Kamuli Prison finished third and fourth in netball, while Jinja Remand and Kamuli took third and fourth positions in football.

The CGP Cup finals were not only about winning matches. The day included many other activities such as fun games, a medical camp, fitness sessions, nyama choma, tree planting, community activities and classification matches. These activities kept the arena active from morning to evening and gave officers time to relax and interact freely.

Officers across the South Eastern Region thanked the Commissioner General of Prisons for his continued care and support for staff welfare.

The CGP Cup is seen as a clear sign of his commitment to unity, health and morale among officers. Through sports, officers are able to reduce stress, build friendships and strengthen teamwork across different prison stations.

The tournament is especially important to staff in the South Eastern Region because all prisons in the region took part in both football for male officers and netball for female officers. This has promoted inclusion, teamwork and equal participation, while encouraging officers to stay physically fit and mentally strong.

Mr. Jimmy Anguzu, Senior Superintendent of Prisons (Service Sports Officer), congratulated all the teams and especially the winners. He said the CGP Cup will continue to grow and that more sports will be added in future tournaments. He also announced that a National CGP Cup will be held, bringing together teams from all regions.

Mr. Deogracious Ogwapit, Senior Superintendent of Prisons (Regional Prisons



Female UPS officers smart in their netball uniforms, ready for action.

Commander for the South Eastern Region), praised officers for their discipline, teamwork and good conduct throughout the competition. He said the successful tournament shows how sports help build unity, improve staff welfare and strengthen the Service.

As the South Eastern CGP Cup comes to an end, it leaves officers more united, healthier and motivated. The tournament has once again shown that when staff are cared for and brought together, they are better prepared to serve the country with dedication and pride.



The tournament showcased how sports foster unity, enhance staff welfare, and strengthen the UPS



The tournament promoted inclusion, teamwork, and equal participation, while encouraging officers to maintain physical fitness and mental resilience.



MBARARA MAIN AND BUSHENYI WOMEN CROWNED CGP CUP 2025 CHAMPIONS IN SOUTH WESTERN REGION



Female officers from Bushenyi Women Prison jubilate after winning the netball title at the CGP Cup 2025 South Western Region tournament.

The CGP Cup 2025 South Western Region tournament concluded successfully on Sunday, December 14, 2025, with Mbarara Main Prison emerging as football champions and Bushenyi Women Prison winning the netball title. The regional tournament brought together all prison units in the South Western Region, including Mbarara Main, Bushenyi, Nyabuhikye, Kakika, Ntungamo, Kiruhura, Sheema and other prisons across the region. Male officers competed in football, while female officers participated in netball, making the competition inclusive and region-wide.

In the football final, Mbarara Main Prison secured the title after a narrow 1–0 victory over Nyabuhikye Prison, following a disciplined and well coordinated performance. Mbarara Main also dominated individual awards, with their lead striker finishing as the top scorer of the tournament after scoring seven goals, earning the Golden Boot award.

The netball final saw Bushenyi Women Prison defeat Nyabuhikye Women 40–36 in a closely contested match that kept spectators engaged until the final whistle. Winners in both football and netball received trophies, medals, bulls and individual awards, recognizing excellence, teamwork and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament.

The Service Sports Officer, Mr. Jimmy Anguzu, Senior Superintendent of Prisons, commended officers from all participating prisons for their discipline, teamwork, and commitment. He highlighted that the CGP Cup is an important

platform for promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, and unity among staff, especially in regions where officers face demanding work conditions. He also noted that sports help officers build strong working relationships that improve coordination at duty stations.

Mr. Anguzu further emphasized ongoing efforts to expand the CGP Cup by introducing more sporting disciplines and strengthening participation, with plans underway to organize a National CGP Cup that will bring together officers from all regions of the country.

The Regional Prisons Commander for the South Western Region, Mr. Walter Atuzo, Senior Superintendent of Prisons, expressed appreciation to the Commissioner General of Prisons, for the financial and logistical support that enabled the tournament to take place. He noted that the CGP Cup has become a key staff welfare initiative that boosts morale, strengthens unity, and promotes a healthy workforce.



Sports is unity



CGP Cup 2025 outperforming officers receive accolades



BREAKING THE CYCLE: TRANSFORMING LIVES OF INMATE MOTHERS AT LUZIRA WOMEN PRISONS



Ms. Rhina Nabwire, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons (Deputy Officer in Charge - Luzira Women's Prison) receives gifts from the Inner Wheel Club of Kampala during a programme supporting inmate mothers at Luzira Women Prison.

For the past three years, Inner Wheel Club of Kampala, in partnership with the Uganda Prisons Service, has been transforming the lives of inmate mothers at Luzira Women Prison.

The Inner Wheel Club of Kampala, chartered in 1985 and operating under District 900 Uganda, is a respected women-only service organization. The club focuses on helping vulnerable groups, improving healthcare, supporting education, and empowering women and children. Under the leadership of Club President Rose Kasule, the organization has extended practical and emotional support to mothers living in prison with their children.

Life in prison can be difficult, especially for mothers raising young children. The Inner Wheel Club regularly donates essential items to support their daily lives. These include clothes, blankets, baby diapers, sugar, nutritional supplements, detergents, and other basic necessities. These items ease the burden on inmate mothers and help improve the welfare of children living with them inside the prison.

The organization also supports maternal health programs within Luzira Women Prison. Through health-related donations and awareness efforts, inmate mothers receive support during pregnancy and after childbirth. This ensures safer motherhood and healthier children. Beyond material support, the Inner Wheel Club provides legal representation to inmate mothers through pro

bono services. This helps those who cannot afford lawyers to access justice.

It also supports after-care programs. When mothers are released, they receive guidance and support to reintegrate into their communities. Through community corrections and follow-up support, the goal is to reduce repeat offending and help mothers rebuild stable lives.

At Luzira Women Prison, Ms. Proscovia Atim, Senior Psychological Social Worker, works closely with partners to support the emotional well-being of inmate mothers. Counseling and psychosocial support help women cope with stress, separation from family members, and the challenges of incarceration.

In 2025, the Inner Wheel Club launched a pilot project for the manufacturing of Reusable Menstrual Pads (RUMPS) for female prisoners. This initiative will promote dignity, hygiene, and sustainability. It will also provide skills training, giving inmates practical knowledge that can help them earn income after release. The club also supports education for children living with their mothers in prison. By providing learning materials and basic scholastic support, the organization ensures that children continue to grow and learn despite their circumstances.



The Inner Wheel Club regularly donates essential items to support inmate mothers with daily lives



The organization also supports maternal health programs within Luzira Women Prison



Children born in custody stay with their mothers at Luzira Women Prison until the mothers' release



Through health-related donations and awareness efforts, inmate mothers receive support during pregnancy and after childbirth.



PRISONS LADY SPEARS WIN SILVER AT EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Lady Spears, Uganda Prisons Handball Club Women's team, celebrate winning the silver medal at the 43rd East and Central African Handball Club Championship

The Uganda Prisons Handball Club Women's team, popularly known as the Lady Spears, put up a brave and inspiring performance at the 43rd East and Central African Handball Club Championship (ECAHF) held in Kampala in December 2025, finishing the tournament as silver medalists.

The championship brought together strong clubs from across the region. Uganda Prisons HC Women were drawn in Group B alongside Nairobi Water of Kenya and Muzinga (Muringa) of Burundi. Meanwhile, their long-time rivals Uganda Police and UPDF were placed in Group A together with NCPB Cereals of Kenya.

The Lady Spears opened their campaign on 28th December 2025 against Nairobi Water. Despite a spirited fight, Prisons lost the match 27–41, facing a tough and experienced Kenyan side. The loss, however, did not shake the team's confidence or unity.

On 29th December 2025, the Lady Spears returned to the court with determination and purpose. They delivered a dominant 63–21 victory over Muringa of Burundi, a result that secured them a semi-final place. The match clearly showed the team's strength, discipline, and hunger to succeed, as they controlled the game from start to finish.

With this emphatic win, Uganda Prisons HC Women qualified for the semi-finals, setting the stage for a thrilling knockout encounter. In the semi-final, the Lady Spears faced NCPB Cereals of Kenya. In a closely contested and exciting match,

Prisons edged their opponents to book a place in the ECAHF Championship Final, earning praise for their resilience and teamwork.

In the final, Uganda Prisons met Nairobi Water once again. The Kenyan side emerged champions after winning 33–24, but the Lady Spears fought bravely until the final whistle. With this result, Uganda Prisons HC Women finished as runners-up, proudly taking home the silver medal.

Individually, the tournament brought special recognition for Claire Tabingwa, who was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) after an outstanding performance throughout the championship. Playing as a left half player, she showed great skill, leadership, and consistency in both attack and defense.

Several players stood out for their strong contributions. Team captain Scovia Lamunu was solid as a pivot, Gloria Ocokuru impressed on the left wing, and Brenda Adokorac made crucial saves as goalkeeper. Prishelia Aber performed well as a right half player, Peace Acangome controlled play from the centre, and Obadiah Niyingenera added speed and precision on the right wing.



Players of the Lady Spears jubilate, celebrating their silver medal win

The bench also played an important role in the team's success. Players who regularly came on to support the team included Evelyn Adokorac (wing), Brenda Ajalette (wing), Viola Achaya (substitute goalkeeper), Linda Lamwaka (centre), Mary Piira (pivot), Abiria Kalsum (half player), and Mary Aketch (half player). Their energy and commitment helped maintain the team's high level of performance throughout the tournament. With the ECAHF Championship now concluded, the Prisons Lady Spears turn their attention to the Uganda Handball Super League, carrying with them confidence, experience, and pride from a successful regional campaign. Their silver medal finish in Kampala stands as a strong statement of their growing strength and ambition in women's handball.



Lady Spears in action, displaying skill and determination against Nairobi Water in the ECAHF final.



Catch me if you can!



A Uganda Prisons player attempts a goal in a pre-match warm up session in preparation for an intense ECAHF final match.



Victors at long last



UPS team supporters cheer passionately, boosting morale during the Lady Spears' silver medal campaign.



KNIGHT ACIRU: A RISING FORCE IN UGANDAN MIDDLE-DISTANCE AND CROSS-COUNTRY ATHLETICS



Knight Aciru of the Uganda Prisons Athletics Club showcasing skill and determination on the track during a middle-distance race

Knight Aciru (born 3 September 1998) is a Ugandan middle-distance and cross-country runner who has steadily risen to prominence through discipline, consistency, and competitive excellence on both the continental and global stage. She competes for the Uganda Prisons Athletics Club, one of the country's key institutional teams nurturing elite athletic talent.

Aciru specializes primarily in the 800 metres and 1500 metres, events that demand a rare blend of speed, endurance, and tactical intelligence. From the early stages of her career, she has demonstrated strong competitive instincts and resilience, qualities that have enabled her to transition successfully between track and cross-country disciplines.

Her international breakthrough came at the delayed 2021 Summer World University Games, held in Chengdu, China, in August 2023. Competing against top university athletes from around the world, Knight Aciru won the silver medal in the 800 metres, clocking 2:04.34. This historic achievement made her only the third Ugandan woman to win a medal at the World University Games, marking a significant milestone for both her personal career and Ugandan women's athletics.

In 2024, Aciru further proved her versatility by representing Uganda at the World Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, where she placed fifth in the mixed relay as part of the national team. Her contribution highlighted her adaptability and strength beyond the track, reinforcing her value as an all-round distance

runner.

That same year, she featured prominently in major continental competitions. At the delayed 2023 African Games, held in Accra, Ghana, in March 2024, Knight Aciru placed sixth in the 1500 metres final, competing against Africa's elite middle distance runners. She later delivered an even stronger performance at the 2024 African Championships in Douala, Cameroon, where she qualified for the 1500 metres final and finished fourth overall. Her times of 4:15.39 in the heat and 4:08.09 in the final reflected significant progression and placed her among the continent's top performers in the event.

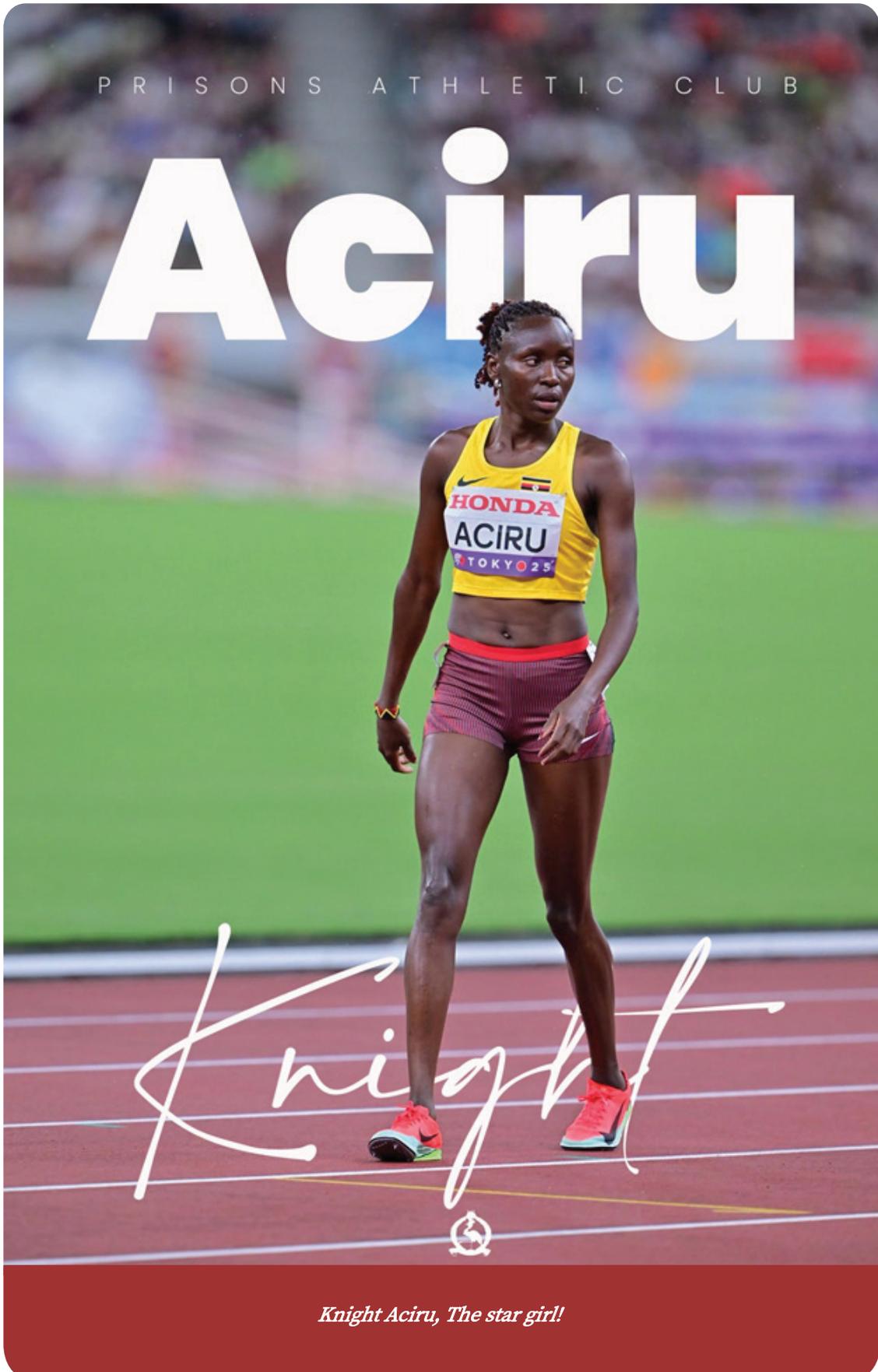
In 2025, Knight Aciru reached another major career milestone by competing at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan. She qualified through the world ranking system, posting a season's best of 4:09.69 in the 1500 metres. Although she did not advance to the semi-finals, her participation underscored her status as a world-class athlete capable of competing at the highest level of global athletics.

Beyond medals and placements, Knight Aciru's journey reflects the growing impact of institutional sports structures such as the Uganda



Prisons Athletics Club in developing elite talent. Her career stands as an inspiration to young Ugandan athletes, particularly women, demonstrating that dedication, structured support, and perseverance can open doors to international success.

Knight Aciru continues to be a key figure in Uganda's middle-distance running landscape, with her best competitive years still ahead and the potential to achieve even greater milestones on the African and world athletics stage.



DOWN THE MEMORY LANE



From the uncertainty of the bush war, to the hard-won victory that reshaped our nation's trajectory, the revolution has impacted greatly on Uganda's journey. Over the past 40 years, focus has been on building stability and a functioning state up from the ruins of conflict, but also enhancing the vigilance demanded to preserve and protect the gains achieved against the test of time.

ORBITUARY

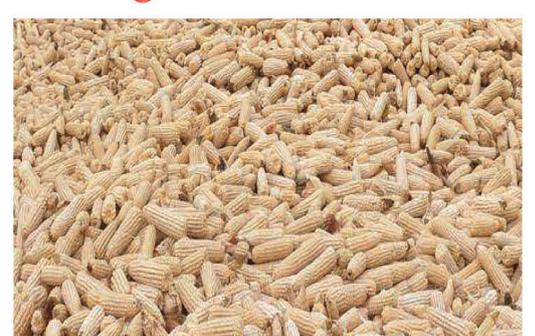
The Commissioner General of Prisons announces the deaths of fallen Comrades



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