

Two officials of UNAFRI on a Mission visit to Kenya

The Deputy Director, Mr. John Kitembo and the Research and Policy Development Advisor, Dr. Alhas Maicibi were on a Mission visit to Kenya recently.

The officials met with the Director of Probation in Kenya and his colleagues, and also, the Commissioner of Kenya Prisons Service.

The meetings with the Probation officials were on how UNAFRI could help to evaluate their Community Service Order and Aftercare Programme. They all agreed on a formal arrangement with UNAFRI for a discussion, where details concerning the research would be well spelt out.

In the meeting with the Commissioner of Kenya Prisons Service, the UNAFRI officials briefed him on the mandate and activities of the Institute which emphasized provision of technical support to the Prisons Service through collaboration. He was also informed about the projects carried out with the Uganda Prisons Service which can be replicated in Kenya.

The Commissioner Mr. Osango expressed his delight to the officials visit to his office. He shared an experience while reacting to the role of Social Workers in the Project “ From Prisons back Home”, where he stated that a recent visit to the Prisons in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), showed him that Social Workers ran the Prisons in that country.

Mr. Osango stated that the prison security was peripheral- prisoners were allowed visitors; and in fact their spouses were allowed in prisons and cooked for their partners. He concluded by assuring UNAFRI of his committed support on identified joint projects.

UNAFRI to Evaluate the Community Service Orders Programme of Kenya

The Kenya Probation and Aftercare Services have requested the Institute to conduct an Evaluation of the Community Service Orders Programme in their country.

This was reaffirmed by the Director of Probation Kenya, Mr. Jerim Oloo, who led a three man delegation to the UNAFRI secretariat in Naguru, Kampala from 1 – 6 June 2009.

Mr. J. Oloo said the research would be an evaluation study in which all the elements of service delivery will be measured against the programme objectives i.e. the inputs, processes, output and outcome/ impact assessment.

He further said the exercise would cover the entire country because the programme is administered in the whole country. He said that this would eventually pave the way for sharing of experiences and identified practices with counterparts in the regions of Africa.

The Director of Probation identified some of the challenges the evaluation should consider. These are: the number and type of placement agencies; frequency of providing offenders to placement agencies; the employment opportunities for offenders

arising from placements; perception of the probation officers on programme delivery, amongst others.

He said UNAFRI was chosen because the Probation office in Kenya appreciated the work of the Institute; and believed it has the capability and capacity to deliver considering the number of researches it has carried out in the past in different countries of the continent.

Responding on behalf of UNAFRI, Dr. Alhas Maicibi, the Research and Policy Development Advisor (RPDA) expressed gratitude to the delegation for choosing and believing in the ability of the Institute to deliver a credible evaluation.

He said the Institute will come out with a report that will be acceptable by relevant stakeholders in the Community Service Programme and the general public.