

## **ACSA Chairman delivers lecture at Training Course in UNAFRI**

The Chairman, African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) and Commissioner-General, Zambia Prisons Services, Mr. Gibbie N. Nawa delivered a lecture at the Training Course for Correctional Officers in East Africa, held at the UNAFRI Secretariat. The lecture titled “Contemporary Challenges and Practical solutions of Modern Management of Prisons in Africa” was one of the key note addresses at the Training Course for Correctional Officers from Eastern Africa.

In his lecture, he reaffirmed the Prison Management varies from country to country due to the local culture and prevailing circumstances. He said one basic consideration in prison management however is that all prisoners are human beings and as such are entitled to inalienable human rights.

The ACSA Chairman further said the promotion and protection of prisoners’ rights while in custody is the foundation of modern prison management and should influence prisons staff in the way they carry out their duties.

He established the fact that Prisons in Africa are beset with a lot of challenges that inhibit prisoners from enjoying their basic human rights in line with standards and principles enshrined in various human rights instruments such as the UN Prisons Minimum Standard Rules. These challenges are:

- i) overcrowding;
- ii) poor living conditions;
- iii) inadequate prison staff, and
- iv) outdated prison legislation

However, he gave practical solutions where the prison system in Zambia has risen up to meet the challenges of modern prison management. These are: improving prison farms; enacting legislation; independent inspections of prisons; establishing of the specialized units; introduction of ‘Prison Day’ and developing partnership with NGOs.

He concluded that the need to manage prisons to ensure that prisoners enjoy the right to health is a universal requirement that is enshrined in various human rights instruments and that there is the need to identify and adopt best practices that will ensure that issues hindering prisoners from enjoying the right are adequately addressed.