

## **UNAFRI Director presents a paper at a Prisons Reform Conference in Kampala, Uganda**

The Ugandan Prisons Service (UPS) held a National Prison Reform Conference under the theme: Implementation of the Prisons Act, 2006: Challenges and Opportunities, from 16 – 18 March 2008.

The Director of UNAFRI, Dr. Masamba Sita represented the Institute during the conference, and presented a paper titled **The Uganda Prisons Act 2006; Implementation framework and emerging opportunities.**

This paper focused on socio rehabilitation and reintegration of Prisoners as these appeals to be a very important aspect of the objectives of the Ugandan Prison Service, and is stipulated in section 4 of the Prison Act 2006.

He said that the Institute has always been interested in the issue of Social Rehabilitation and Reintegration of prisoners, adding that the success of that programme prevents crime as it reduces recidivism in ex-prisoners.

In addition, the programme enables the Service to protect the society as well as getting the involvement and commitment of local communities to the successful fulfillment of the Service objective.

The director said that UNAFRI considered that the project “From Prisons Back Home” launched in 1994, had become a legal framework, which gives legitimacy to the implementation of the Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Section’s Programmes.

This programme includes “From Prison Back Home” which constitutes its bedrock, and at the same time, sketches an effective implementation framework and creates a conducive social environment that offers a lot of opportunities for a successful implementation of the Act.

Further, he invited all the Prison Officers to consider themselves among key partners for a successful implementation of the Act by inter alia shifting from the exclusively punitive logic of the Penal style to Compensatory and conciliatory styles of socio-control, as the latter gives room to members of communities to contribute to the process of social rehabilitation and reintegration.

Dr Masamba recommended that the Programme “From Prison Back Home” becomes the basis for an effective implementation framework for the Ugandan Prison Act.

He therefore encouraged Prison authorities to facilitate the implementation of the programme for an effective translation of the Provisions of the Act into reality.