

A BUSY FRIDAY AT UNAFRI

UNAFRI Secretariat hosts UDPAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) and First Fabian Luke Memorial Lecture

The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) has hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Uganda Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society (UDPAS).

The meeting which took place at the Institute secretariat in Naguru, Kampala, Uganda was held on Friday July 25th, 2008.

The programme of the meeting amongst others included a keynote address by J.O.R Byabashaija (Dr.), the Commissioner General of Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) and Patron of UDPAS.

He said the holding of the AGM has shown that UDPAS is still well on track and should be well supported. He then advised the AGM to, among other things, review the past year' set a strategic direction for UDPAS.

However, he challenged the society to find a solution to the high rate of recidivism in Ugandan Prisons which has continued to rise rapidly.

The Patron and Commissioner General of Prisons therefore pledged his continued support to UDPAS and wished them all a successful and memorable AGM.

In a related development, the Institute also hosted the First Fabian Luke Okware Memorial Lecture under the theme "Trends in the Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Aftercare of Offenders in Uganda" on same Friday July 25, 2008.

This was a memorial lecture, which was named after the Late Okware been the first African Commissioner of Prisons (1964- 1972), who was the brain behind the introduction and firm establishment of the welfare and Rehabilitation Section of the prisons' Service.

He was also known to have had the vision of having the discharged prisoners well resettled and reintegrated back into the community as law abiding citizens thus the introduction and inauguration of the Uganda Discharged Prisoners' Aid society (UDPAS). This was to curb recidivism, reoffending and promote safer communities.

UNAFRI's RPDA addresses participants' at the Uganda Discharged Prisoners' Aids Society (UDPAS) AGM

The Research and Policy Development Advisor UNAFRI, Dr. Alhas Maicibi has addressed participants during a one day Annual General Meeting of the Uganda Discharged Prisoners' Aids Society (UDPAS) that took place at UNAFRI's secretariat on July 25, 2008.

During the meeting where he represented the Institute, he welcomed participants to UNAFRI, and thanked the earlier speaker (the Chairman of UDPAS) for acknowledging

and praising the mutual cooperation of UNAFRI to the Ugandan Prison Service (UPS) in general and to UDPAS in particular.

Dr Maicibi stressed that UNAFRI was interested in activities of UDPAS because it is within its mandate – treatment of Offenders. He further stressed that re-offending and recidivism will continue when discharged prisoners were not properly rehabilitated, reintegrated, resettled and adequately looked after in the receiving communities.

It is due to this realization according to him, that UNAFRI in collaboration with other partners organized workshops in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Southern Sudan on early releases, social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners as well as diversion strategies of sentences.

The RPDA concluded by saying UNAFRI promised continued good working relationship with Ugandan Prisons Service; and also invited participants to always visit the Institute's library, which is also online, for reliable and updated information in Correction service.