

UNAFRI



United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)

- Joint Activities and Strategies
- Advisory Services to Governments
- Information And Documentation
- Training And Human Resource Development
- General Direction and Management



BILINGUAL NEWSLETTER- ENGLISH

WELCOMING NEW STAFF

NEWSLETTER

July - September 2024

www.unafri.or.ug

UNAFRI



NEWSLETTER

July - September 2024

**UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME
AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (UNAFRI)**

"Empowering African States for crime prevention and criminal justice to ensure sustainable development".

"Renforcer la capacité des États africains dans la prévention du crime et la justice pénale pour assurer un développement durable".

«Fortalecer la capacidad de los Estados africanos en materia de prevención del delito y justicia penal para el desarrollo sostenible»

UNAFRI SECRETARIAT, P.O BOX 10590, NAGURU-KAMPALA (UGANDA).

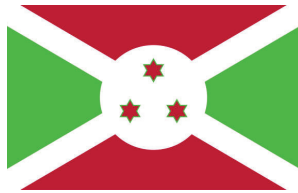
Phone :+256 414 221 119, +256 414 285 236 | Email : unafri@unafri.or.ug, unafriu@yahoo.co.uk

Official Website: www.unafri.or.ug

Member States



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cameroon



Congo Brazzaville



DR Congo



Equatorial Guinea



Gambia



Ghana



Guinea



Kenya



Libya



Malawi



Morocco



Mozambique



Niger



Nigeria



Rwanda



Senegal



Seychelles



Sierra Leone



Somalia



Sudan



Tanzania



Togo



Tunisia



Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe

We are excited to introduce three exceptional individuals who have recently joined our team. Their diverse expertise and dedication to the mission of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders will undoubtedly enhance our capacity to serve our member states and advance our collective goals.

Each of them brings a wealth of experience in their respective fields, which we are confident will strengthen UNAFRI's contributions to developing effective policies and strategies across Africa. Let's take a moment to get to know our new colleagues and the incredible journey that has led them to join our team.



MUNANURA ANDREW KAROKORA
Deputy Director General

Barrister Munanura Andrew Karokora, 55 years old, is a highly experienced international criminal justice consultant. His extensive career includes serving as a training and legal consultant with the United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). Notably, he played a pivotal role in reviving UNAFRI's participation in the United Nations Crime Prevention

and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes activities, demonstrating his leadership and initiative in the field.

Previously, Munanura served as a Deputy Registrar at the Tax Appeals Tribunal and as a lecturer at the Law Development Centre, where he broadened his legal training and pedagogical skills. He later switched to private practice as an advocate and practised law for 24 years.

Munanura's academic journey is distinguished by his significant achievements. He holds an LL.B from the University of Dar-Es-Salaam, Upper Second; a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from LDC; a Master's Degree in Law from UCL, Lond, where he went as a Chevening scholar; and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Makerere University. He is a doctoral fellow at Makerere University, School of Law, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to continuous learning and depth of knowledge in the field.

Munanura's influence in crime prevention and criminal justice is further demonstrated by his significant role as UNAFRI's representative on the United Nations Programme Network Institutes editorial board newsletter. In this role, he has made unique contributions to major thematic areas in crime prevention and criminal justice globally, showcasing his influence and contributions to the field.



DR. AHMED LINGA
Director of Training and Programmes

Dr. Ahmed Linga, a Tanzanian national aged 40, brings a wealth of experience to his newly appointed role as Director of Training and Programmes at the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). Before joining UNAFRI, Dr. Linga spent a decade at the Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations

(DSAS-CFR) in Tanzania, a prestigious think tank and higher learning institution dedicated to foreign relations and diplomacy, under the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

With an academic foundation of LL.D, LL.M and LL.B degrees' awards, Dr. Linga's career spans international criminal law and justice, corporate legal affairs, international legal relations, and diplomacy. His advanced research experience has centered in the methodological approach in interpreting and applying international criminal law instruments. He therefore aims to put this expertise into perspective in addressing the growing challenges related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in African region.

At UNAFRI, Dr. Linga is poised to make significant contributions to the Institute's mission of enhancing crime prevention and justice reforms across Africa. His work focuses on developing high-quality training programs and delivering policy and legal advisory services to member states and other stakeholders in the region. His dedication to innovative research and training methods reflects his commitment to addressing the unique challenges of Africa's criminal justice systems.

NAKIBUUKA ROBINAH
Finance and Administrative Assistant

Nakibuuka Robinah is a highly skilled Certified Public Accountant with 8 years of professional experience in Auditing, Grants management, financial management and project implementation. Throughout her career, Robinah finalized a number of Audits successfully and also ensured successful implementation of USAID-funded projects, where her financial attention to detail have been instrumental in maintaining compliance with donor requirements and optimizing resource allocation. Her experience spans across financial reporting, budgeting, and audits, making her a valuable asset to any organization. She is known for her commitment to excellence, strong analytical skills.





From left to right: Mrs. Sandra Karugu, UNAFRI; Dr. Flavian Zeija, Chief Justice of Uganda; Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI; Mrs. Kobusinge Bigirwa, UNAFRI.

The approach of the Ugandan Judicial System on the implementation of the Nelson Mandela rules.

Exclusive interview between Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, Principal Judge of Uganda representing the Ugandan Judiciary and Mr. Andrew Munanura Karokora, Deputy Director General of UNAFRI.

1. Long trial processes often lead to over-incarceration, a situation where the number of prisoners exceeds the capacity of the prison system, leading to prison overcrowding and other issues; what is the judiciary in Uganda doing to address this problem?

(a) The Judiciary has put in place measures to ensure speedy trials and fight case backlog across all Court levels. These include:

- **Establishment of a Case Backlog Monitoring Committee Chaired by the Hon. Deputy Chief Justice, to study case backlog trends and devise appropriate remedial measures.**

- **Enforcement of the rule that reserved Judgments must be delivered within 60 days after the close of the hearing,**
- **Enactment of the Bail Guidelines that, inter alia, provide that all bail rulings must be delivered within 30 days¹ after the hearing.**

As a result, we have steadily diminished case backlog from 48,696 cases in 2020, to 48,836 cases in 2021 and then to 44,339 cases in 2022. At the end of the year 2023, case backlog had reduced to 43,161, giving rise to a 2.66% decline (1,178 cases).

(b) On a wider perspective, we have ensured progressive improvement in Court Performance over the years. The Magistrates Courts progressively completed more cases than previously, as follows: 119,919 cases in FY 2020/21; 168,316 cases in FY 2021/22 and 202,460 cases in FY 2022/23. The High Court's performance was equally outstanding as follows: 35,350 cases were completed in FY 2020/21; 36,766 cases in FY 2021/22 and 62,702 cases in FY 2022/23.

(c) The Number of committed prisoners who have not been tried within two years is alarmingly high due to too much backlog at the High Court level. We are also in the process of amending the relevant laws to enhance the civil and criminal Jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts so that they are empowered to handle more cases, consequently reducing case backlog at High Court level, where it is highest.

(d) The Judiciary continues to provide modern tools of work to the staff. We have purchased and distributed more motor cycles (to ease service of witness summons and other court process) and ICT equipment to enhance quick processing of cases.

(e) We have also encouraged virtual hearings to ensure expedition in the hearing of cases and to reduce the risk and expense in moving prisoners.

(f) We have ensured the conduct of High Court quarterly performance review meetings where performance of each High Court Circuit and Division is discussed at a meeting of peers and strategies for improvement of performance agreed upon.

(g) In Magistrates Courts District Chain-Linked Meetings (DCCs) convened by Chief Magistrates and quarterly performance appraisals supervised over by the Chief Registrar have helped identify under-performing staff who need support.

(h) We have also promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution interventions especially Plea Bargaining, Probation Orders, suspended sentences and Community Service Sentences to reduce incidences of incarceration.

Plea Bargaining has since 2014 played a commendable role in delivering quick and acceptable justice to the parties and has undoubtedly helped in reducing case backlog and prison congestion. In the year 2023, a total of 1,806 cases were completed through plea bargaining at the High Court Level and 434 cases through plea-bargain camps at Luzira and Fort Portal (Katojo Prisons).

(i) Adoption of the Sentencing Guidelines: Judiciary adopted the Constitution (Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) (Practice Directions) 2013 which promotes restorative justice, re-integration and non-custodial sentences. Custodial sentences

are recommended for only imposed in deserving cases.

(j) Courts have been encouraged to grant bail in appropriate cases as a key tool used to ensure accused persons attend trial from their homes as opposed to being detained. To streamline the grant of bail, the Judiciary adopted the Constitution (Bail Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) The Guidelines provide for procedures and considerations for the grant of bail by all the Courts of Judicature.

(k) Courts also grant Mandatory bail to accused persons who have spent more than 60 days (for non-capital offences) and 180 days (for offences triable only by the High Court) before the commencement of trial. This is to ameliorate on the effects of imprisonment in cases where evidence is not readily forthcoming leading to a longer investigation period.

(l) The trial Courts are focusing on imposition of non-custodial sentences such as Community Service, Cautions, Probation Orders and payment of Fines for non-serious criminal offences. Moreso, whenever the law provides for prison terms and fine options, the approach preferred is to impose the fine and only go for a prison sentence where the offender fails to pay the fine.

2) Are there any specific steps you take as the judiciary to ensure that detainees' rights are not abused, that they are not ill-treated, and that their access to justice is not hindered?

The Ugandan Judiciary has taken the following measures to protect detainees from human rights abuses and to ensure access to justice.

(a) Anti-Torture Measures: Whenever it is proved before Court that a person facing trial was subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, the Court is obliged to halt the trial and discharge the accused person in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012. This has been done in several trials before both the High Court and Magistrates Courts.

(b) Award of Compensation: Victims of human rights violations in Uganda Prisons and Uganda Police detention facilities have often petitioned the

Courts for redress. Redress takes the form of issuing of appropriate Declaration Orders and award of monetary compensation to the victims, among others.

(c) Personal liability: The Courts impose personal liability on State agents including officers of Uganda Police and Uganda Prisons who abuse the human rights of people in their custody. Personal liability in addition to the vicarious liability of the Government was introduced through the Human Rights Enforcement Act 2019 to hold perpetrators of human rights violations personally accountable, as opposed to hiding behind the State.

(d) Augmenting the right to legal representation: The right to legal representation is an integral part of access to justice and the right to a fair hearing guaranteed under article 28 of the Ugandan Constitution. All cases of a capital nature, including those carrying a maximum sentence of death or life imprisonment, are tried only when the accused person has legal representation.

The Judiciary pays private lawyers under the State Brief Scheme² to ensure legal representation for these accused persons. These lawyers are obliged to visit the accused in prisons, take instructions, coordinate them with their families, witnesses and sureties and handle both trial and post-trial matters such as prosecuting bail applications and filing notices of appeal.

3) What measures/steps are you taking to change the focus of penitentiary measures from punishment and isolation to prevention, restorative justice, and social reintegration?

(a) The Constitution (Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) (Practice Directions) 2013 provide for the promotion of the imposition of non-custodial sentences such as community service, cautions and fines. There are also categories of accused persons for whom non-custodial sentences are recommended including people of advanced age, children, pregnant women and those suffering from grave illness.

(b) The trial Courts focus on imposition of non-custodial sentences such as Community Service,

Cautions, Probation Orders and payment for Fines for non-serious criminal offenses to reduce on incarceration.

See: The Judicature (Legal Representation at the Expense of the State) Rules, 2022

(C) Plea Bargaining has been instrumental in promoting social reintegration. The offender is involved in a bargain with the prosecution and the victims of crime. Upon agreement on the sentence the victims of crime are usually satisfied that the offender has been duly punished. The negotiations often bring the families together and involve apology, reconciliation and remorse.

(d) The International Crimes Court has practically visited the communities where the effects of war were grossly suffered and involved the members in the trial process to ensure that they understand and accept the results of the Court decision.

(e) In matters involving Children, the Probation Officers are ordered by Courts to personally visit the communities and take positive steps to reintegrate the Offender with the family and community members.

4) Does Uganda's judiciary comply with the numerous international instruments that recommend rationalization in sentencing policy, including the use of non-custodial measures?

The Judiciary of Uganda has taken various steps to comply with sentencing standards incorporated in the relevant international human rights instruments.

(i) The Judiciary has put measures to support non-custodial sentences as discussed in section (1) above.

(ii) The Judicial officers conduct quarterly prisons inspection visits to assess the conditions of inmates and thereafter issue appropriate orders.

(iii) The courts have put stern measures against torture, including rejecting the evidence extracted through torture; and discharging the offender(s) without punishment, on this account only.

(iv) We enacted the Constitution (Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature)

(Practice Directions) 2013 to guide the Courts on appropriate sentences taking into account the different offence categories, the circumstances of the offender and the circumstances of the offence.

5) The Kyoto rules on pre-trial detention provide that it should only be used as a last resort in criminal proceedings and only when certain conditions are met. What steps has the judiciary in Uganda taken to comply with the Kyoto rules?

In Uganda, it is only in exceptional cases, that accused persons are held for a longer time in custody pending trial.

(a) The Courts regularly inspect Police Cells to ensure that the Police comply with the 48-Hour Rule: **They either release the Suspect(s) on Police bond or formally charge them before the Courts within 48 hours.**

(b) The Courts before whom any prisoner appears have a duty to explain to them their right to apply for bail. Every judicial Officer is aware of this requirement and we have ensured that they do implement it.

(c) Accordingly, the Courts have always granted bail to the deserving accused persons as explained in section (1) above to prevent lengthy pre-trial detentions.

(d) Where the Prosecution is not ready for hearing within two months for non-capital cases and 6 months for cases triable by the High Court, the Courts have often granted mandatory bail to the prisoners.

6) Can anything be done to provide further gravitas to cooperation between courts and prisons to speed up case processing?

(a) The Judiciary is working closely with Uganda Prisons and other stakeholders under the Justice Family to promote cooperation and speed up case processing. The linkages can further be strengthened through the JLOS umbrella.

(b) There are existing mechanisms such as Plea Bargaining, Community Service and Probation

Sentences which need to be supported and facilitated.

(c) The Judiciary adopted the use of Judicature (Visual-Audio Link) Rules 2016 which enable Courts to hear cases and take evidence through audio-visual devices without the parties and witnesses being required to be physically present at Court premises. Whereas the Uganda Prisons is always struggling with transportation of prisoners with few buses serving several courts and causing delays, this initiative has been deployed to aid the conduct of trials without the requirement for physical transportation of prisoners to Court premises.

(d) In addition, Courts can also work with prisons to hold regular Court Sessions in prison facilities and ease the pressure on transportation of prisoners.

(e) Good practices such as sharing of cause lists ahead of session time and appointing State Brief Lawyers in good time before the scheduled hearings should be encouraged and supported.

(t) There is need to integrate Uganda Prisons onto the Judiciary case management system (ECCMIS) in order to reduce time wasted in filing cases, tendencies of corruption in document processing and loss of documents or files,

(g) The Prisons authorities should quickly process communication between prisoners and the Courts including using electronic means to pass on messages, appeals and applications to the Courts.

7) From the judiciary's perspective, what support can be given to offenders to assist the most vulnerable members of society in leading life without relapsing back into criminal behavior patterns?

(a) Rehabilitation and social integration of offenders should start as soon as they are convicted to ensure that they are not cut off from their families and the community.

(b) Offenders serving sentences for minor to moderate offences should be incarcerated in separate facilities from those convicted of serious offences.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI, Mrs. Kobusinge Bigirwa, UNAFRI, Mrs. Sandra Karugu, UNAFRI; Dr. Flavian Zeija, Chief Justice of Uganda.

(c) Uganda Prisons should enhance partnership with more education institutions to provide education and vocational skills to the inmates. The knowledge and skills obtained should be relevant to transform the inmates into productive citizens once they are released back to society.

(d) The offenders need economic empowerment to pick up their lives and families and start a new life.

(e) There is also need for rehabilitation and psycho-social counseling and support for both the offender and the family member in order to accept the realities and move into a new life.

8) How early should offenders' rehabilitation and social reintegration start within the criminal justice system in Uganda?

Rehabilitation and social integration of offenders should start as soon as one is convicted of a criminal offence. The offender should be accorded opportunity to keep in constant communication and physical interaction with their family members and social networks through regular prison visitations, telephone communications including audio-visual facilities. This will ensure that the offender is not totally uprooted from the community hence easing their return and reintegration into society upon completion of their sentence.

9) From the judiciary's perspective, experience and practice, does incarceration have any reformative effects on an offender?

In Uganda, incarceration has been found to be effective in promoting reformation of offenders in several ways. Below are just a few of them:

a) Courts have encountered fewer cases of repeat offenders among prisoners who have served midterm and long-term sentences. This can only be explained by the fact that there are few incidents of repeat crimes committed by these categories of offenders owing to the reformative effects of incarceration.

b) Some offenders undertake formal education while in custody with some of them excelling academically and graduating with qualifications in different disciplines. For example, in September 21:923 74 inmates from Luzira Prisons graduated with Certificates and Diplomas in vocational other disciplines from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

c) While in custody a number of inmates have become more committed to religious faiths like Christianity and Islam and have remorsefully undertaken to become law abiding and responsible members of society.

10) What support can the judiciary in Uganda provide for prisoners' rehabilitation and social reintegration?

(a) The Judiciary has established High Court Circuits in major districts and magistrates' courts in every county in Uganda to ensure that offenders are tried in their local areas, and if convicted, serve

sentences in their local areas. This prevents a situation where offenders are driven away to far places for trial and incarceration as a result of which they may lose contact with their local community. As of August 2024, there are 38 High Court Circuits, 157 Magisterial Areas and 696 Magistrates Courts spread throughout the country, which are being operationalized gradually.

<https://prisons.go.ug/media/7th-academic-award-makerere-university-business-school>;

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/education/makerere-university-graduates-luzira--inmates-NV-170156>

(b) The Judiciary has also promoted rehabilitation and social reintegration through:

i. Plea-Bargaining which brings together the offender and the victim to discuss the appropriate punishment;

ii. Community Service Orders where the offender is seen by the community undertaking the obligations imposed as a punishment;

iii. Probation Orders and Suspended Sentences which involve monitoring the behavior of the offender with a possibility of ordering him to serve a prison term if he does not reform;

iv. Police Supervision Orders are issued against convicts in Robbery cases for Police to monitor their conduct after serving the sentence (s); and

v.) Making Orders directing an appropriate authority to provide or cause to be provided any desired service.

11) What best practices and challenges can you share when observing the Mandela rules?

The Ugandan Judiciary is committed to observing the rules and standards stipulated in the Mandela Rules.

Best practices

(a) Torture and abuse of other human rights: Uganda adopted a strong anti-torture regime in the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012. Whenever it is proved before Court that a person facing a criminal trial has been tortured or been abused while in custody, the trial is halted and the accused person is discharged. ° This is in line with the prohibition of torture in prisons and detention facilities under the Mandela Rules.

(b) The Judiciary has established the Family and Children's Courts at Magistrates Courts to ensure speedy and specialized trials for children facing criminal charges in accordance with the Mandela Rules which require the Judiciary to accord separate treatment to children.

(c) All human rights violations, whenever they occur including in detention and facilities, are given quick redress.

(d) The Judiciary also enforces the ideal principle of incarceration as a last resort, in preference for non-custodial sentences for especially nonviolent crimes.

(e) Complaints and correspondences by Prisoners are received, registered and followed up by the Court Registrars, Magistrates and the Inspectorate of Courts, depending on the subject.

(f) Mental prisoners' cases are reviewed by the committing Court on annual basis and the Minister is guided on the relevant orders to make in line with the medical reviews. This is in line with Rule 109 of the Mandela Rules.

(g) Equally important is to know that all prisoners are presumed innocent until proved guilty in accordance with Article 28 of the Constitution of Uganda. The Courts are enjoined to respect this presumption, heaping the burden on the State to prove the allegations beyond reasonable double doubt, short of which the prisoner would be set free.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI, Hon. Richard Buteera, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Uganda.

(h) In line with rule 121 of Mandela Rules, Civil Debtors are treated differently from convicts. They can only be incarcerated for a maximum period of 6 months. In case of sickness, or disease outbreaks, they are unconditionally released. They are protected from future imprisonment on account of the same debt and when they are able to pay the civil debt they are released immediately. While in prison they do not participate in manual labour as the other prisoners.

(l) Female prisoners are also kept in separate detention facilities and are accorded unique facilities necessary to facilitate their maternal functions. Even prisoners with babies and lactating mothers are specially treated in terms of feeding, space, apparels and other specific requirements.

(j) Prisoners are allowed to access visitors both at Court and in prison.

(k) Judicial Officers and other stakeholders also do regular prison inspection visits to ensure compliance with the Mandela standards.

Challenges

(a) In some cases of mass arrests, for example emanating from political protests, rallies or large gatherings, the responsible courts as well as police and prisons facilities face personnel and operational limitations leading to difficulties in fully observing the standards set out in the Mandela Rules.

(b) There is still lack of adequate capacity on the side of police to effect arrests, gather all the required evidence and sort the right people to be presented

before the Courts. The result is longer detention periods, shoddy evidence and delayed prosecutions.

(c) In cases of mob justice and community hostility, it becomes inadvisable to grant bail in the interest of protecting the prisoner and the community at large.

(d) Sometimes distinguishing between children and young adults has resulted in mischief because of unavailability of credible records in proof of age.

12) Finally, what cross-institutional measures do you have to ensure that services provided to prisoners meet the minimum acceptable standards?

(a) The Judiciary is part of the Justice, Law and Order Institutions under the Administration of Justice Programme which brings together institutions mandated with administering justice, maintaining the rule of law and promoting the observance of human rights. Under this framework, the Judiciary works together with other institutions including the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Uganda Police, Uganda Prisons and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions on the best approaches for handling and treatment of prisoners, and justice delivery generally.

(b) We established the District Chain Linked Committees (DCCs) and Regional Chain Linked Committees (RCCs) which bring together all stakeholder institutions, Civil Society and Local Government leaders to oversee and coordinate activities relating to administration of justice, maintenance of the rule of law and observance of human rights. All Court Registrars and Magistrates as well as Resident State Attorneys and Police and Prisons Commanders are members to these Committees.

(c) The Judicial officers conduct quarterly prisons inspection visits in their respective areas of jurisdiction to assess the conditions of inmates and thereafter issue appropriate orders.

(d) Under Regulation 15 and 17 of the Administration of the Judiciary (Inspectorate of Courts) Regulations, 2023, we established the Judicial Integrity Committee whose duties, include, enhancing cooperation with other Government institutions in promoting integrity in the administration of justice and undertaking periodic nationwide visits to courts to monitor staff compliance with the relevant Codes of Conduct.



FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN CAMEROON: CONAC DENOUNCE THE PERSISTENCE OF THE SCOURGE DESPITE MEASURES TAKEN

On September 26, 2024, the President of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC), Rev. Dr. Dieudonné MASSI GAMS, presented the 2023 report on the fight against corruption in Cameroon at the Yaoundé Conference Center. The highly anticipated public event was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Yaoundé, and representatives of civil society, among others.

The report revealed that Cameroon lost 114 billion, 35 million, and 922,502 CFA francs in 2023, a significant increase compared to 2022, when losses were 4 billion, 623 million, and 418,918 CFA francs. This represents a rise of 109 billion, 412 million, and 503,584 CFA francs. The report attributes this sharp increase to the numerous cases handled during CONAC's 16 investigative missions, the 43 decisions issued by the Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Council, and the Special Criminal Court, as well as the nature of the cases involved. Despite a marked collaboration between institutions responsible for preventing and combating corruption, results remain mixed, especially with the resurgence of the phenomenon.

The report also emphasized the growing efforts of institutions involved in asset recovery, a critical element in corruption prevention as it prevents criminals from profiting from their offenses. The Kyoto Declaration encourages states to strengthen international cooperation and assistance in

identifying, locating, freezing, seizing, and confiscating proceeds of crime and other related assets, including their return. This is to be done in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention against Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption. States are further urged to remove barriers and overcome challenges that hinder the enforcement of asset recovery, simplifying judicial procedures while considering the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda when utilizing recovered assets. Improving the recovery and return of stolen assets will support the achievement of the 2030 goals.

According to the CONAC report, the sectors most affected by corruption include education, transportation, agriculture, telecommunications, public works, public procurement, decentralized local authorities, and territorial administration, particularly regarding the signing and issuing of official documents.

Reports of corruption to CONAC have also increased. Over 10,000 public officials were sanctioned or dismissed last year for unethical practices. In the fight against money laundering, the National Financial Investigations Agency received 965 suspicious activity reports, compared to 869 in 2022, marking an 11.05% increase.

(<https://www.voaafrique.com/a/au-cameroun-la-corruption-persiste-selon-un-r%C3%A9cent-rapport/7800822.html>).

THE AFRICAN LANDSCAPE ON DIGITAL PRISONS



BY MUNANURA ANDREW KAROKORA
Deputy Director General

Most African countries are building their internet and other technology infrastructure to reduce the cost of doing business, make learning more accessible, tackle security challenges and lower the cost of public administration by making communication cheap and more accessible. The world has become more digitized, technologies are embedded in our daily lives, and Africa cannot afford to be left behind.

This brief paper is organized in response to questions posed by lead researchers at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) regarding the digital rehabilitation of prisoners. As a result, it does not adhere to any formal structure. It commences with a general understanding of digital prisons and briefly lists the types of new technologies currently driving the world (to the best of the author's knowledge), the use of new technologies in prisons generally, the Covid times, dangers, gives brief highlights on the African criminal justice system landscape and the use of new technologies, and briefly highlights the benefits of new technologies in prisoner rehabilitation, human rights issues and then delves into the interview questions, which were generally gathered from our interaction with prison authorities sampled in Africa.

Digital Prisons: These prison facilities have ICT and Artificial Intelligence technology integrated into the prison infrastructure.

Digital prisons help streamline the work of correctional officers and administrators, enable intelligent surveillance, assist prisoners with re-entry into society, and provide prisoners with a humane environment. Ultimately, this offers safer, hands-free, cheaper modes of offender management and prison administration, cheaper means of collecting more comprehensive data regarding offenders, networking with other justice agencies, and increased security and control over prison populations.

Prison life doesn't prepare offenders for managing their lives after release because of the limited opportunities to use digital technology within the prison system.

Offenders in Africa are marginalized and primarily excluded from digital access. Most offenders on release find reintegrating difficult due to a lack of experience with digital tools. This digital divide is more pronounced in upcountry prisons where internet connectivity is poor, and even the mere availability of a computer network at the prison is lacking.

Prison populations consist of the following:

- Pre-trial detainees
- Bail denied accused persons
- Convicted
- Civil prison detainees

Examples of new technologies:

1. Automation
2. Robotics
3. Artificial intelligence
4. Facial recognition
5. Data Analytics
6. Internet access

7. Phones and other digital technology
8. Closed-circuit television cameras
9. Tracking wristbands, radio frequency identification bracelets, etc.
10. Blanket surveillance uses sensors and cameras connected to the AI brain. etc
11. X-rays and automated mail screening, metal detectors, and drone detectors to control prison air space.

Most of the cited new technologies above don't exist in most African prisons, where the conditions and infrastructure are outdated.

The use of Digital technologies in detention

Digital technologies benefit prison authorities through heightened security and directly help prisoners and their rehabilitation while indirectly benefiting prison management.

12. As prison populations grow, new technologies provide the following:
 - Safer and more rehabilitative environments;
 - Connecting prisoners to the outside world, their families, lawyers, health providers, education and reintegration and rehabilitative services;
 - Examples of these technologies are audio-visual links in-cell digital tablets. These can provide prisoners with opportunities to access justice, maintain family relationships and engage them in programs to optimize their post-release circumstances, ultimately facilitating rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.
 - Personal digital services in prisons may normalize technologies and ensure that prisoners do not remain digitally excluded when they re-enter society.
 - In Africa, however, these services are challenging to come by. Most prisons are still housed in old colonial buildings with dilapidated infrastructure and hard to modify. They are too congested; internet services are unavailable, and they lack toilets and sanitary facilities.

The criminal justice system in Africa and new technologies

- There is an increase in the use of new technologies by law enforcement officers, machines to eavesdrop, courts, legal professionals, correctional officers
- The criminal justice systems in most African states are a bit slow to respond, budget-constrained, etc.
- Most African courts adopted audio-visual link technologies that link courts to prisons; prison video link studios in prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Lawyers took to legal conferencing using audio-visual links and telephones to avoid social contact;
- The total elimination of human contact, especially visitors;
- Commercialization, profit seekers, and other vendors are driving innovative technologies.
- Most Correctional facilities and police cells remain crude, old, worn, and unsanitary. Prisoners share buckets to ease themselves in prisons, etc.

Currently, new technologies in prisons in Africa are aimed at:

- Security
- Surveillance
- Inmate management
- Prisoner rehabilitation to reduce recidivism

Benefits of digital prisons(Not expected in Africa)

- Digitization promotes the offender's social skills, self-esteem, rehabilitation and reintegration;
- Reduced the need for prison officers to interact with prisoners physically;
- A safe environment where robot warders with a dimensional camera, sensors and pattern recognition algorithms identify irregular or inappropriate conduct (common in South Korea);

- Robots patrol the prison while supervised by a remote prison officer,
- Robots can detect drugs in the prisoner's faecal matter
- Contrabands, including mobile phones, illicit drugs, injecting tools, weapons, money, and tobacco, can easily be detected using technology, etc.

Rehabilitative benefits DP's

- They address digital illiteracy.
- They provide access to educational and rehabilitation programs, subject to ensuring that the content is relevant
- Personal devices can deliver transformative programs, especially relating to drug abuse, violence literacy, numeracy, vocational training, higher education, and parenting skills, to facilitate connection to post-release
- Prisoners will be enabled to develop self-direction and responsibility in preparation for re-entering society.

Old technologies still in use in Africa

- Shared prison landline telephone
- Postal services
- Personal digital devices (relatively rare)
- Limited INTERNET access

Vulnerabilities in the use of digital prisons

- Offenders can continue to operate their criminal enterprises;
- Victims and witnesses may be harassed primarily because of corruption tendencies by correctional officers.

Human rights issues

- No privacy,
- The inherent dignity of a human being vis-a-vis legitimate security concerns,
- Lack of contact with human beings puts an ugly face to detention.
- Human role models promote positive

transformation, especially in Africa, where traditional cultures and beliefs are still prevalent.

- Advocates of new technologies argue that they have reduced degrading strip searches.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS BY UNICRI

1. Tell us about your role in relation to digital prisons.

UNAFRI is the United Nations African institute for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders.

- We assist in the formulation of policies and programmes for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders in Africa and are involved in training correctional officers in different technical aspects to reduce re-offending (recidivism);
- We also promote innovative approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice reforms per the UN norms and guidelines drawing upon African traditions and orientations.
- So, in our collaborative and research activities, we regularly interface with correctional officers in training, research and other technical support activities.
- In that process, we interface with the use of information and communication technologies in prisons in Africa.

2. How do you define digital rehabilitation?

- Digital inclusion in offender rehabilitation. This allows the offenders to acquire the necessary digital skills to survive in the digitalized society.
- It refers to the use of information and communication technologies in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

3. What should the priorities be for digital rehabilitation?

- A suitable Legislative framework, which is lacking in most prisons
- Capacity building of judicial and penitentiary staff
- Equipping the jails and prison management offices with equipment like computers, internet access and other.

- Integrating the information and technological infrastructure so that all prisons in a country can read and see each other.

4. What do you perceive the barriers to be?

- Lack of a policy framework to align the stakeholders to the digitalization;
- Budgetary constraints, to network central prisons with the other district prisons;
- Corruption challenges;
- Lack of trained professionals in digital rehabilitation management;
- Most prisoners are too illiterate, especially in upcountry prisons, making adult literacy programmes lengthy and expensive.
- Poor and low Internet accessibility
- Affordability- Internet costs are so high and somewhat prohibitive;
- Low rate of penetration of technologies;
- Most upcountry prisons in Africa suffer from electricity shortages;
- Prisons are too congested.

5. What ethical practices do you consider to be important?

- Integrity issues;
- Corruption;
- Nepotism.
- Most prisoners in African prisons are poor, and the companies selling digital assets to prisoners are primarily driven by profit motives. This raises some ethical issues of profiting from people in a challenging situation.

6. What other principles or practice standards should guide digital rehabilitation?

- Accessibility to programmes and approaches should be standardized;
- The service should be accessible to all.

7. How can your ideas be operationalized?

- Through an appropriate legal framework;

- Human Resource training of correctional staff, judicial officers, lawyers, etc.;
- Provision of technological services.

8. What advice would you give to an agency that wanted to implement digital rehabilitation in their prisons in relation to:

- Priority treatment or intervention targets: Intervention strategies must target the vulnerable social strata, especially women, children and people with disabilities.
- Staff development (custodial and programs staff): focus should be put on staff capacity building of key stakeholders in the criminal justice system.
- Integration of digital and conventional rehabilitation approaches: This requires advocacy with the relevant stakeholders in the criminal justice system and the legislature to make the necessary laws and appropriate resources. Involve civil society organizations.
- Research and evaluation: We would advise the agency to combine multidisciplinary skills in its approach to digital rehabilitation involving communities and cultural institutions.

References

Carolyn Mckay (2022) The carceral automation: Digital prisons and technologies of detention. *International journal for crime, justice and social Democracy* 11(1): 100-119.

Eugenia Zivanai & Gilbert Mahlangu (2022), Digital prison rehabilitation and successful re-entry into a digital society. *A systematic literature review on the new reality of prison rehabilitation*, 8:1, 2116809 DOI: 10.1080/23311886.2022.2116809.

Tsague Donkeng Hubert, Digital Rehabilitation of Prisoners in Cameroon (Interviewed him).

Held consultations with DRC, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania prison authorities.



Dr. Kitio Édouard, Director General of UNAFRI, delivering a speech during the Sandpit 2 workshop, organised by UNAFRI in collaboration with the University of Birmingham in Mestil Hotel

The Sandpit 2 workshop, organised by UNAFRI in collaboration with the University of Birmingham in Mestil Hotel, brought together key stakeholders to explore indigenous approaches to regulating digital assets and artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa. This event is part of the preparations for the 2025 international conference, which will bring together stakeholders from multiple countries to discuss this topic.

Mr. Munanura K. Andrew, Deputy Director General of UNAFRI, who was representing Dr. Kitio Edouard, Director General of UNAFRI, opened the event, emphasizing the importance of incorporating African traditions into modern approaches to crime prevention and AI regulation. His statement was supported by Dr. Maureen Mapp from the University of Birmingham who highlighted the need of a collaboration with UNAFRI to address the challenges AI presents on the continent.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop aimed to generate ideas for indigenous frameworks in regulating AI and digital assets. Two key sessions covered mapping the regulatory landscape and setting conference objectives. The discussions focused on defining “indigenous”

according to UN standards, fostering collaboration, and addressing issues like gender equality and data protection. Participants also identified the need for a robust publicity strategy, case studies, and a formal declaration to guide member states.

Concerns and Challenges

Participants raised several concerns, including the absence of data protection institutions, gender disparities in stakeholder representation, and the need to better integrate AI into the thematic discussions, which had focused heavily on digital assets.

Planning for the 2025 International Conference

The workshop laid a solid foundation for the 2025 conference, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, innovation, and inclusion in addressing Africa’s unique challenges in regulating digital assets and artificial intelligence (AI). Proposals for potential venues to host the next conference were presented and evaluated, along with issues related to logistics, transportation, security, and sources of funding. A mid-July 2024 deadline has been set to finalize the concept note, budget, and organizing committees.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI, Mr. Paulin Djomo, Director, UN Regional Service Center Entebbe; Hon. Susan Ngongi Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator; H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.

On August 12, 2024, Uganda celebrated the International Youth Day, a moment to recognize the vital role of young people in shaping the nation's future. The youth are not just future leaders; they are the present hope for sustainable development and a better tomorrow. On this occasion, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, addressed key issues surrounding the welfare and empowerment of the youth, particularly young mothers, who are responsible for nurturing the next generation. In his speech, the President emphasized several important points:

Motherhood

Motherhood is a sacred responsibility that requires both physical and emotional maturity. It is crucial for young women to wait until they are at least 18 years old before becoming mothers. This age allows them to complete

their education and adequately prepare for the duties of motherhood. A well-prepared mother is better equipped to raise a healthy child, both physically and psychologically.

The President also emphasized the importance of creating a nurturing environment for children—one that supports their physical, emotional, and intellectual development—so that young people can thrive and step into leadership roles in the future.

Mother and Child Nutrition

Proper nutrition for both mother and child is essential for good health. A balanced diet, particularly for pregnant women and young mothers, is critical to their well-being. It is important to promote and support the adoption of a nutrient-rich diet to ensure both mothers and children are healthy.

Child nutrition starts with breastfeeding, which provides the best nutrients for newborns. Ensuring that children receive a balanced diet, including carbohydrates, proteins, and vitamins, is key to their development and in preventing malnutrition. The President called on district health workers to raise awareness about the importance of proper nutrition.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is vital to the health of both mother and baby. Regular medical check-ups during pregnancy help track the health of the baby and address any potential complications early. Every sub-county has a level 3 health center where expectant mothers can access free prenatal care, ensuring safe deliveries.

The President encouraged women to deliver in health centers, where they can receive professional care and necessary support. This practice not only reduces risks during childbirth but also ensures prompt medical attention in case of complications.

Immunization

Immunization is one of the most effective ways to protect children from preventable diseases. The Ugandan government has successfully controlled polio and measles through vaccination programs that start at birth and continue in the early years of life. This simple yet powerful initiative, combined with good nutrition and access to clean water, has a significant impact on child health.

Malaria

Malaria remains a serious public health challenge, but it is one that can be overcome with coordinated efforts. The President informed the public about existing malaria control programs and expressed optimism about the progress of malaria vaccine development, offering new hope in the fight against the disease.

Education

Education is the key to success, the President said, stressing the importance of providing free universal primary and secondary education in public schools. He called on district leaders to stop reintroducing school fees in public primary schools, urging young people and activists to oppose this practice. He noted that the country cannot expect meaningful progress with such a low school attendance rate, pointing out that out of 11 million pupils completing universal primary education, only 1.7 million continue to secondary education.

The President urged parents not to exploit their children, ensuring they focus on their studies during school hours, while encouraging them to engage in profitable activities during holidays. He also stressed the importance of children wearing shoes, when possible, to prevent hookworm infections.

Youth Physical Fitness

The President encouraged the youth to participate in sports and physical activities as a way to stay healthy, channel their energy positively, and avoid idleness.

Higher Education and Training

The President advised young people to pursue higher education at universities and technical institutions to acquire the skills needed to meet industry demands.

Spiritual Development and Cultural Awareness

The President urged young people to participate in religious programs that reinforce their moral and ethical values. He also highlighted the importance of understanding and appreciating cultural diversity, encouraging youth to embrace the positive aspects of Ugandan culture while critically rejecting harmful practices, such as gender-based violence.

Pan-Africanism and Patriotism

The President emphasized the importance of adopting the principles of Pan-Africanism, patriotism, and social transformation. He called on the youth to love Uganda and Africa, reminding them that the continent's progress depends on their commitment to these ideals. With a strong sense of patriotism and unity, they can achieve great things as a nation and as a continent.

Economic Participation

For a prosperous future, young people must actively participate in productive sectors such as commercial agriculture, services, information and communication technology (ICT), industry, and crafts. These industries offer immense opportunities for self-employment and wealth creation. By engaging in these sectors, young people can secure their livelihoods while contributing to national development.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental protection is a shared responsibility. It is essential that people stop exploiting natural resources irresponsibly,

particularly wetlands. These vital ecosystems provide valuable resources such as papyrus, which can be used to produce sanitary pads and paper, while also supporting rainfall regulation and fishing. Moreover, wetlands can be harnessed to irrigate dry lands. Preserving these resources is key to ensuring environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Self-Love and Anti-Corruption

In conclusion, the President encouraged the youth to love themselves and live with integrity. He advised them to be mindful of their attire, avoid excessive alcohol consumption, and resist all forms of corruption. He emphasized that corruption erodes development and undermines trust and justice in society. By fighting corruption, the youth can help build a future based on fairness, transparency, and accountability.

This International Youth Day message reaffirmed the pivotal role young people play in Uganda's development and highlighted the importance of empowering them for a brighter future.



From left to right: Dr. Kitio Édouard, Director General, UNAFRI, Hon. John Mulimba, Chairman of the Board, UNAFRI, Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General; Dr. Ahmed Linga, Director of Training and Programs, UNAFRI.

Since his appointment as Chairman of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), the honourable John Mulimba has been making regular visits to the Institute to ensure its effective operation and provide guidance on strategic initiatives.

During his visit on May 28, 2024, to bid farewell to outgoing staff members, he expressed heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and service spanning over thirty years. The Chairman highlighted the critical role of their contributions to the Institute's success, acknowledging that their expertise and commitment were instrumental in achieving UNAFRI's objectives. He also encouraged new staff members to emulate this standard of professionalism and dedication.

Subsequent visits on June 7, July 16, and September 11, 2024, further facilitated the Chairman's efforts to strengthen coordination among the Institute's various departments, assess progress on ongoing projects, and identify new opportunities for collaboration. His consistent engagement

underscores his commitment to positioning UNAFRI as a key player in crime prevention across Africa.

The Chairman's direct involvement serves as a significant motivational force for the UNAFRI staff. His results-driven approach not only enhances the Institute's effectiveness in fulfilling its mission but also fosters a strong sense of cohesion within the team. Under his leadership, the Institute is well-equipped to tackle current challenges with a clear vision that aligns with regional and international priorities in security and justice.





From left to right: H.E. Mr. Fehintola Adebawale Oyeyemi, Chargé d’Affaires and Acting Ambassador of Nigeria to Uganda; Dr. Kitio Édouard, Director General, UNAFRI.

On Wednesday 03rd July 2024, the Director General of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) Dr Kitio Édouard and His Excellency Mr. Fehintola Adebawale Oyeyemi, Head of Chancery and Acting Ambassador of Nigeria to Uganda, reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation during a pivotal meeting at the High Commission of Nigeria in Uganda.

The meeting commenced with expressions of gratitude from the Director General towards Nigeria for its steadfast support throughout UNAFRI's history, especially during challenging periods of leadership. The Director General stated UNAFRI's mission in addressing critical regional issues such as terrorism, human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking to name a few and advocated for continued financial support from Nigeria to sustain these efforts.

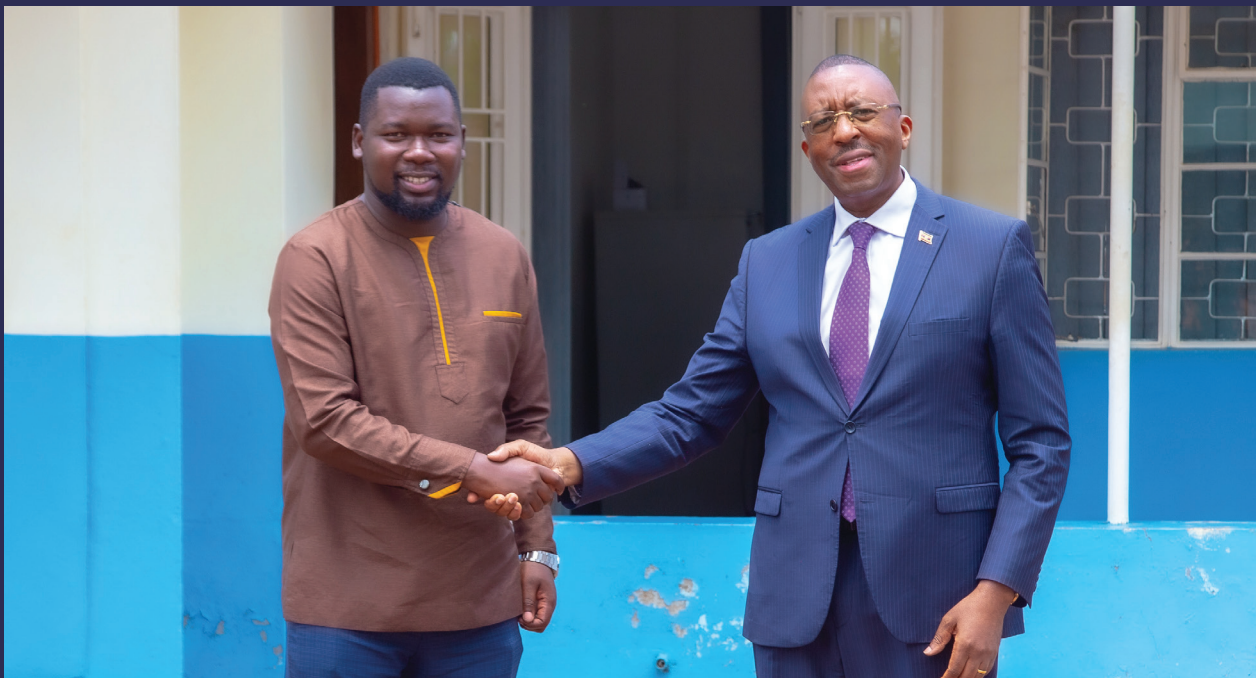
Informing H.E Mr. Fehintola Adebawale Oyeyemi on UNAFRI's recent strides, the Director General highlighted the Institute restructuring, including key appointments and a new strategic plan focusing on training, research, and advisory services to member

states. Collaborative initiatives with global bodies like the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and esteemed academic institutions such as the University of Birmingham Law School and the University of North Carolina central in the USA further underscored UNAFRI's proactive role in shaping regional policy.

H.E. Mr. Fehintola Adebawale Oyeyemi asserted Nigeria's unwavering support, affirming the country's commitment to UNAFRI. He pledged to expedite pending matters with Nigeria's Ministry of Justice and emphasized the importance of reinstating Nigerian professionals within UNAFRI, reflecting on past collaborative successes.

The meeting concluded optimistically with a mutual agreement on the imperative of sustained collaboration and support. H.E. Mr. Fehintola Adebawale Oyeyemi extended an invitation to visit UNAFRI, stressing the shared commitment to fortifying bilateral ties and effectively combating regional crime challenges.

As both entities forge ahead, their shared vision promises continued progress in advancing peace, security, and justice across Africa.



From left to right: Mr. Jacob Eyeru, President of the National Youth Council of Uganda; Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI.

On Monday, August 26, 2024, Mr. Munanura Andrew, Deputy Director General of UNAFRI, acting on behalf of the Director-General, held a strategic meeting with Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Uganda (NYC), at the UNAFRI Secretariat in Naguru, Kampala. The objective of this meeting was to explore potential avenues for collaboration.

During the discussion, the Deputy Director General inquired about the activities of the National Youth Council and whether it had established crime prevention programs in partnership with youth. He emphasized the significance of engaging young people in crime prevention initiatives, given their status as a vital demographic group in Uganda. Additionally, he underscored the importance of informing youth about their rights and responsibilities, empowering them to become effective agents in promoting justice and preventing crime. He noted that organizations like the NYC have the capacity to mobilize young people and involve them in the design of these programs, ensuring their continued interest and engagement.

The Chairperson acknowledged the absence of specific programs in this domain while recognizing the necessity of such initiatives. He recognized that by pooling resources, both institutions could foster sustainable change in crime prevention among youth. This partnership would not only contribute to shaping the next generation of leaders but also ensure that young people play a central role in building a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

In conclusion, the meeting between Mr. Munanura Andrew and Mr. Jacob Eyeru established a foundation for a promising collaboration between UNAFRI and the National Youth Council of Uganda. By integrating youth into crime prevention efforts and educating them about their rights and responsibilities, this partnership could effectively address current challenges while preparing young people to become key contributors to justice and social change.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI; Mr. George William Nyombi Thembo, Executive Director of the Uganda Communications Commission.

On August 28, 2024, Mr. George William Nyombi Thembo, Executive Director of the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), and his team welcomed a delegation from UNAFRI led by Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora, Deputy General of UNAFRI, who was representing the Director-General of UNAFRI. This meeting marked an important step in the fight against cybercrime in Uganda, a growing concern in the country.

During the meeting, participants discussed the increasing challenges posed by cybercrime and the necessity of raising awareness among all stakeholders regarding cybersecurity. Emphasis was placed on the importance of strengthening measures to prevent online fraud and ensuring the security of digital transactions. The alarming rise in online fraud, particularly in mobile money transactions, highlighted the urgency for collective action. Furthermore, the public's reluctance to pursue legal action against fraudsters underscores the need to bolster trust in judicial systems.

In this context, UNAFRI positioned itself as a key player by offering its expertise and technical support to help develop strategies for preventing and responding to cybercrime. Through its networks and partnerships with other international and regional

organizations, UNAFRI can facilitate the exchange of best practices and provide training for security personnel and judicial authorities. By collaborating with the Uganda Communications Commission and other stakeholders, UNAFRI can contribute to awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public about the dangers of cybercrime and the measures they can take to protect themselves.

Additionally, UNAFRI can play a central role in implementing targeted training programs that equip professionals with the necessary skills to detect, prevent, and address cybercrime offenses. By promoting an integrated approach that combines local expertise with international support, UNAFRI can help establish a robust cybersecurity framework in Uganda, thereby enhancing public trust in digital systems.

In summary, the collaboration between UCC and UNAFRI presents a significant opportunity to strengthen efforts in preventing cybercrime. Together, the two institutions can develop robust and sustainable strategies to combat digital threats and protect Ugandan citizens, while promoting a safe and secure digital environment for the country's economic and social development.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI; Mrs. Prossy Katushabe, Registrar of the Judicial Training Institute.

On August 30, 2024, the Deputy Director-General (DDG) of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), representing the Director-General who was unavailable, met with Ms. Prossy Katushabe, the Registrar of the Judicial Training Institute. The DDG opened the discussion by providing an overview of UNAFRI, highlighting its history, mandate, objectives, and ongoing efforts to promote crime prevention, criminal justice, and the effective treatment of offenders across Africa.

The meeting centered on the key challenges that the Uganda's judicial system are facing, particularly regarding cybercrime, prison overcrowding, and the need for enhanced judicial training. The DDG emphasized the increasing threat of cybercrime, which not only targets individuals and businesses but also jeopardizes national and regional infrastructures. In light of the seriousness of this issue, the DDG stressed the necessity of a collaborative approach to combatting cybercrime. He proposed that UNAFRI and the Judicial Training Institute,

in conjunction with other stakeholders, work together to raise public awareness and develop effective strategies to address cyber threats.

During the discussion, several gaps were identified, including the enforcement of bail conditions and sentencing, particularly in high-profile cases involving murder and terrorism. The urgent need for enhanced training for magistrates and judicial personnel on cybercrime was also highlighted.

Additionally, the meeting explored research opportunities to tackle pressing issues within Uganda's prison system, prioritizing two key areas. Overcrowding in prisons was discussed, with a comprehensive examination of its causes and consequences in Uganda. Furthermore, life imprisonment was analysed, considering its implications for both incarcerated individuals and the penitentiary system, including the psychological, social, and logistical impacts on inmates.

These research initiatives are anticipated to contribute to potential amendments to existing

laws, aligning Uganda’s legal framework with contemporary realities and international best practices. The Registrar also updated the DDG on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiative to introduce non-custodial measures, such as community service, within Uganda’s judicial system. While these measures offer significant benefits—such as reducing prison overcrowding and promoting rehabilitation—the Registrar expressed concerns regarding the challenges of overseeing and implementing them, underscoring the need for additional support to ensure the effectiveness of these alternatives to incarceration.

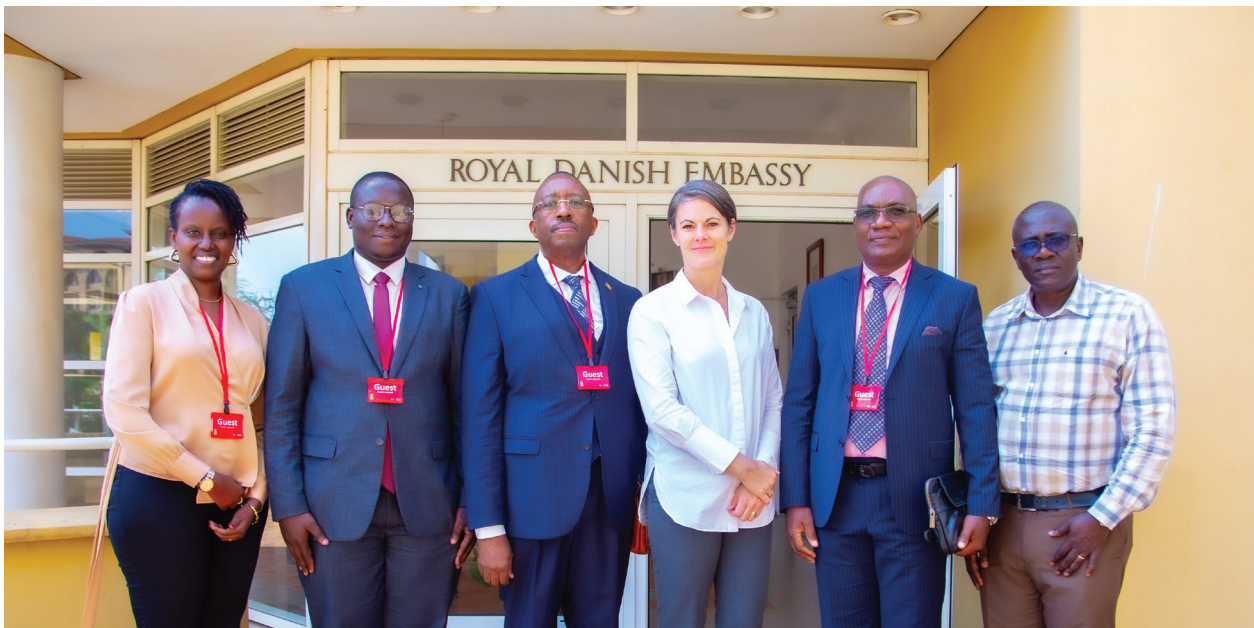
UNAFRI reaffirmed its commitment to promoting best practices and innovative African approaches to crime prevention. With its extensive expertise, UNAFRI positions itself as a valuable partner in addressing the identified gaps within Uganda’s judicial system, particularly in combatting cybercrime and advancing the

implementation of alternative sentencing measures. Indeed, UNAFRI plays a leading role in promoting sustainable and effective reforms tailored to the unique challenges of the region.

A proposal for collaboration was discussed, with the Registrar recommending a phased approach based on initial activities, which could eventually evolve into a formal partnership, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to explore collaboration opportunities between UNAFRI and the Judicial Training Institute. The emphasis on research, training, and potential legal amendments reflects a joint effort to strengthen Uganda’s judicial system in addressing modern challenges such as cybercrime and prison overcrowding. Both institutions look forward to developing a sustainable and productive partnership.





From left to right: Mrs. Sandra Karugu, UNAFRI; Dr. Ahmed Linga, Director of Training and Programs, UNAFRI; Mr. Andrew M. Karokora, Deputy Director General, UNAFRI; H.E. Signe Winding Albjerg, Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda; Dr. Kitio Édouard, Director General, UNAFRI; Mr. Charles Magala, Senior Program Advisor, Embassy of Denmark.

On September 11, 2024, Her Excellency Signe Winding Albjerg, the Danish Ambassador to Uganda, welcomed Dr. Kitio Édouard, the Director-General of UNAFRI, along with his delegation, to explore collaborative opportunities on urgent issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice reform in Uganda.

After introductory remarks, the Director-General provided an overview of UNAFRI's mission and its role in advancing crime prevention across Africa, particularly in the areas of criminal justice and the treatment of offenders.

The discussion focused on two key areas: (i) strengthening the rule of law in the lead-up to the upcoming elections in Uganda, and (ii) preventing and combating drug use in schools and universities.

The Ambassador expressed her support, noting that several Danish initiatives align closely with UNAFRI's objectives. She proposed a joint meeting with relevant stakeholders to coordinate efforts in implementing training programs for judicial personnel.

This meeting laid the foundation for a promising partnership between the Danish Embassy and UNAFRI, aimed at reinforcing the rule of law in Uganda and fostering a peaceful, just, and prosperous society. The discussions opened avenues for concrete actions that will ultimately enhance stability and security in the region.

