

Kabale Resident Judge conducts stakeholder engagements in Kabale to strengthen justice delivery

The Resident Judge for Kabale, Justice Karoli Lwanga Ssemogerere, on Tuesday conducted a series of high-level stakeholder engagements with key actors in the Justice, Law, and Order Sector, aimed at enhancing institutional collaboration and accelerating justice delivery in the region.

The day began with a courtesy visit to the District Police Commander, SSP Okello, at Kabale Central Police Station. Justice Ssemogerere, accompanied by his team, held discussions with the Head of the Criminal Investigations Department and the Officer-in-Charge of the station. He highlighted the Judiciary's expectations of the Police, including the enforcement of court orders—particularly in family and child-related matters—support during locus visits, and the timely conclusion of investigations.

In response, the Police Commander briefed the Judge on emerging crime challenges in the sub-region, citing increased recidivism, a rise in narcotics use, growing numbers of



street children, and a surge in land-related disputes, all of which continue to burden the criminal justice system.

Later in the day, the Judge, together with Assistant Registrar Kenneth Tumwebaze, made their inaugural visit to Ndorwa Government Prison. They were received by the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Julius Kitembo, and addressed over 1,000 inmates, including 313 already committed for trial in the High Court.

During the interaction, discussions centered on enhancing the efficiency of upcoming criminal sessions. Justice Ssemogerere proposed the introduction of a reserve list for standby cases, plans for a plea bargain camp at the end of

the session, and greater coordination with state prosecutors to fast-track trial processes.

The Judge emphasized the primary purpose of the penal system as offender rehabilitation and encouraged inmates to participate in the available educational and vocational programs to support their reintegration into society. He assured the prison population of a new action plan that prioritizes bail applications and expedites trials for those already released on bail. He also warned against reoffending, stating that habitual offenders would face stricter sentencing.

The visit concluded at Ndorwa Women's Prison, where the Judge and Assistant Registrar were warmly received by Officer-in-Charge Ms. Katono. The facility houses 38 female inmates, including two mothers with children and several elderly women. Justice Ssemogerere conveyed a message of hope and affirmed his commitment to prioritizing cases involving vulnerable groups.

As part of the action plan, the High Court circuit in Kabale has now set aside two days each week for hearing urgent criminal matters, and pending bail applications are under active review.