

GOROROKA

Magazine



RWANDA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Justice, Correction, Safety and Production



RCS

3rd Edition

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From Prisons To Correctional Facilities: A Paradigm Shift



***H.E Paul Kagame
President of the Republic of Rwanda***

***“Development is about more than money, or machines,
or good policies- it’s about real people and the lives they
lead” H.E Paul Kagame***



RCS Leadership and Command



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Foreword

Dear all our distinguished readers, fellow officers and men, please receive warm greetings. We are pleased to announce the publication of the Third Edition of Gororoka Magazine.

First of all, allow me to recall that Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) was established in 2010 by the law N° 34/2010 of 12/11/2010 as a result of merging former National Prisons Service (NPS) and the Executive Secretariat of National Committee of Community Services as an alternative penalty to imprisonment (TIG) in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Currently, RCS is affiliated to the Ministry of Interior and is governed by the law N° 021/2022 of 29/09/2022, which determines its category within public organs, its mission, responsibilities, powers, organization and functioning, while its correctional mandate is stipulated under the Law No 022/2022 governing correctional services.

Since its establishment, RCS has been mandated to ensure safe and humane custody of



CGP Juvenal MARIZAMUNDA
Commissioner General

offenders sent by courts, their welfare, their reformation and rehabilitation for smooth reintegration into community upon release. The ultimate goal is to reeducate and rehabilitate inmates to become not only law abiding but also useful to both themselves and the society at the expiration of their sentences and to prevent a relapse into further crimes. This marked the shift from punitive to correctional philosophy.

Each year, thousands of ex-offenders leave the correctional facilities and return to their families and communities at the conclusion of their sentences.

While CFs are often described as places where criminals go to get worse, RCS has taken a radically different view. CFs must not be mere confinement places, but transformational places, where inmates are equipped with adequate life skills and positive mindsets while preparing them for a new, productive and crime-free life after release.

This transformation is achieved through carefully designed and well-articulated

administrative, rehabilitative and educative programmes aimed at inculcating discipline, respect for law and order, and imparting marketable skills. In fact, during their stay in CFs, offenders are encouraged to participate in various rehabilitation programs. After the assessment of the needs of inmates, the rehabilitation process is done through a combination of programs that involves religious activities, educational programs (formal and informal), vocational skills training, medical and hygienic practices, cultural



and recreational activities, productive work, counseling, among others.

The rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders requires an integrated and multi-faceted approach, involving not just the offenders and the correctional staff, but also other government and non-governmental partners, the families of offenders, as well as community as a whole. I take this opportunity to appreciate the invaluable role played by all our various partners in assisting us to deliver on our mandate.

RCS has made significant strides in the last few years in terms of delivering on its core mandate of ensuring safe and humane custody, welfare, and rehabilitation of inmates. Some of the key registered achievements range from infrastructure improvement, development of a standardized curriculum for guiding the correctional staff and partners in the process of rehabilitation of inmates, introduction of formal TVET Training centres, establishment of RCS Training School with an objective of enhancing the capacities in terms of skills and knowledge of correctional staff, adoption and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enable inmates to have full access to their case files online through the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (an automated information management system) designed within the initiative of professionalizing Rwanda's Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order Sector (JRLOS, RCS initiated an ICT-based project of surveillance and control through the use of CCTV cameras to enhance

security inside and outside correctional facilities (CFs), to mention but a few. In this third edition of *Gororoka Magazine*, the focus is on the journey travelled by RCS so far in the delivery of its correctional mandate. The Office of the Commissioner General would therefore take this opportunity to extend its sincere appreciation to all officers across the rank and file for their dedication in discharging our mandated mission

Thank you

CGP Juvenal MARIZAMUNDA

Commissioner General



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BACKGROUND:

From punitive to correction



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Throughout human history, peoples have sought ways to maintain order and safety within their communities. One of these ways was to punish the offenders and sometimes to outcast them from the community. This has led to development of what is known as prison system today.

During the pre-colonial period of Rwanda, the end of the reign of Kigeri IV Rwabugiri in the late 19th Century has been characterized by a kingship governance whose stability and sacredness were guaranteed by the King, the supreme head of the administration of Rwanda and the Queen Mother who shared the attributes of the king and ritualists.

The judicial administration was divided into three levels: Inama ya gacaca which comprised of adults from the community; Umutware who might be umutware w'ubutaka responsible for all matters related to the land property or

Umutware w'umukenke for matters related to cattle farming and pastures; and the King's court. The punishments varied between fines of alcoholic drinks or cows and death penalty that could only be pronounced by the king.

Since 1905, the ordinances or decrees ruling over the prison regime by German colonialists introduced the detention system in Rwanda, and was strengthened by the Belgian colonial administration. The Judicial System recognized the competence of King Yuhi V Musinga as the sovereign of the Rwandans in matters of justice. He then had to use customary law.

However, the Resident Administrator could use a veto when it was a question of criminal execution. In principle, the Resident Administrator had legal jurisdiction over foreigners and other specified categories of Rwandans.

The German Residence administered the following penalties: fine, whipping (ikiboko), stick strokes (ingoyi) and imprisonment. When it came to fines, King Yuhi V Musinga was not spared. There are two important elements noticed from 1905 ordinance which are: the plan to build a prison in Kigali in 1908, and the chaining up of prisoners. This is the origin of the name "Abanyururu" that prisoners have borne for a long time in Rwanda. Etymologically, it is linked to the chain, "umunyoruru" in Kinyarwanda.

During the Belgian military occupation of Rwanda, the royal commissioner signed Ordinance No.1 of April 14, 1917 relating to the penitentiary regime. According to this Ordinance, the prison system was dependent exclusively to the Resident without the consent of Royal Regime.



When Ruanda-Urundi was recognized under Belgian Mandate and Trusteeship on 20 October 1924, the judicial organization was operational through indigenous courts. There were legally common courts recognized by Legislative Decree No 45 of 30 August 1924. It provided for police courts, a territorial court for the whole of Rwanda, a court of first instance and a court of appeal for Ruanda-Urundi.

The Ordinance no 76/J of 15 October 1931 on Detention Regime constituted the main legal framework during Belgian occupation. It stated the location of penitentiary establishments in the country. It authorised the Governor or the Provincial Governor to create annexed prisons if need and in the locality they decided. At the end of the colonial period, territorial prisons had already been built in the following territories: Kigali, Nyanza, Astrida, Shangugu, Kibuye, Ruhengeri, Byumba, Kibungo, and Gisenyi. The prisons of Gitarama and Gikongoro were built after the independence in 1962.

During the period of first and the second Republic, the prisons were no longer under the supervision of the Belgian Resident but the Ministry of Justice. The period was characterized by extension of the prisons that existed then, and construction of new prisons and re-education and production centres were created.

With influence from human rights activists, the dynamics of prison management involved the paradigm shift from the old philosophy, of considering prisoners as just criminals who should be punished, to a correctional philosophy that an inmate can undergo rehabilitative and transformative processes

and become a law-abiding citizen who can be important to the society when released. This contemporary thinking of prisons systems has resulted to prisons reforms, which advocated for humane treatment of prisoners aiming at rehabilitating inmates.

After the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, three laws on detention system were promulgated. First was the Law N° 38 of 23 October 2006 establishing and organizing the system of the National Service of Prisons. The law stressed the objectives of the Service that were mainly to ensure the respect of the rights of the prisoner, to guarantee the security of any person imprisoned, to ensure respect for life, physical and moral integrity as well as the well-being of the detained person, and finally to implement effective strategies allowing the inmate to change his/her behaviour and to be re-socialized during his/her release.

Second was the Law No 34/2010 of 12/11/2010 on Rwanda Correctional Service, which emphasized the proper management of prisons, as it devotes many articles to the attributions of personnel of the RCS. It also insists on the rights and responsibilities of prisoners. The main duty was to educate and re-socialize detainees and prisoners and prepare them to become good citizens in collaboration with other public institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

The third Law No 021/2022 of 29/09/2022 determining RCS mission, responsibilities, powers and functioning while its correctional mandate is stressed under the Law No. 022/2022 governing correctional services. The mission of the RCS is to admit a convict to the



correctional facility in order to enforce court decision regarding provisional detention, or term of imprisonment, and ensure follow-up on enforcement of the sentence of community service, to provide a person sentenced to a term of imprisonment to be served in a correctional facility with correctional services; while respecting human rights and preparing him or her for reintegration into community.

Many other reforms were conducted through Presidential and Ministerial Decrees. The reforms were addressing various issues such as: methods of creation and construction of prisons (2007, 2011), closure of certain prisons (2008), the clothes of detainees (2008), modalities of execution of community service as alternative sentence to imprisonment (2009, 2012), change of denomination of prisons to correspond to the accommodating District (2012), strategies for children under three years living with their mothers in Prison (2013), among others.

Rwanda as a country of citizen-centered governance, is committed to enforce the rule of law and has decided to reform its prison system by shifting from punitive system to a correctional service in order to provide safe and humane custody of the inmates and provide rehabilitation programs and treatments which will create conducive conditions for the offenders to be rehabilitated and therefore achieve successful reintegration into the society.

Furthermore, RCS work as a prisoner-centred and was designed in a way that rights and responsibilities of prisoners are clearly highlighted. The professionalism of staff is also considered as an important element in the

new law where correctional facilities are now managed by trained and competent staff. This new approach promotes new ways of thinking and behaving for both incarcerated persons and correctional staff.

The RCS has improved the capacity of its staff regardless of their position. Warders receive appropriate training to properly guard prisoners while leaders receive daily professional management courses of the correctional facilities.

As correction professionals, we are tasked with the most difficult nevertheless important responsibilities in public service. We are expected to properly care for and rehabilitate people who many have chosen to disregard, ignore and who have been convicted of horrible misbehaviour against society. Therefore, only those with the highest character and integrity should be assigned as a correctional officer.



SP Bonaventure MUVUNYI
Director of Planning, M&E

Evolution Of Legal Framework Of Correction System

The penitentiary system in Rwanda dates back to the colonial rule. The first prison in Rwanda was built in 1930 under the name of "Prison Centrale de Kigali, also commonly known as 1930", that makes the penitentiary system one of the oldest government institutions in Rwanda. The penitentiary system was established in what can be described as a legal vacuum, where no Rwandan law was in place to regulate various legal issues.

Rwanda was a monarchy ruled by the King and had no written legislations at the time, and the country became a Belgian Colonial empire as part of a mandate from the League of Nations of June 28, 1919, in particular in its article 22, since then the written laws that were applicable in Rwanda including criminal laws, were Belgian legislations, the colony was known as Ruanda-Urundi.

Consequently, the respect of the legal

principle "nullum crimen nulla poena sine lege" which says "an act can be punished only if, at the time of its commission, the act was object of a valid, sufficiently precise, written criminal law" as an indispensable tool for the safeguarding of individual liberties has been distorted.

There were no judicial bodies to enforce compliance with written laws and to adjudicate those in conflict with written laws. The questions that arise then are how colonial masters used to decide who should be put in jail and who should be discharged, and of course when the person in question should be released.

Legal framework of the penitentiary system

The first legislation replaced the colonial legislation to govern penitentiary system in Rwanda was put in place in 1961, which was the 'Ordinance no 111/127 of May 30, 1961 governing the organization of prisons in Ruanda-Urundi. when Rwanda gained its independence on July 01, 1962, a good number of government institutions were put in place.

However, the Penitentiary system remained governed by the same ordinance until 2006 when it was replaced by the Law No 38/2006 of 25/09/2006 establishing and determining the organization of the National Prisons Service.

Evolution of legal framework of the correction system

In 2010, the prison system in Rwanda was legally replaced by the correctional system though the practice remained nearly the same, and most of the legislations governing correctional



service still had the character and substance of the Penitentiary system. What was known as the National Prison Service (NPS) as well as the Executive Secretary of Community Service were merged to eventually form Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) which was established by the law no 034/2010 of 11/11/2010 on establishment, functioning and organization of Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS).

Along with the advancement of human rights in many spheres, the rights entitled to persons in conflict with law who have been sentenced to imprisonment by the courts of law were not neglected. Since 2010, discrepancies between the law that introduced correctional service and the actual practices have been addressed from time to time, until the practices became more correctional than the law in place.

In 2017, a law modifying and complementing the law establishing RCS was put in place, Law No 19bis/2017 of 28/04/2017 modifying and complementing Law no 34/2010 of 11/11/2010 on the establishment, Functioning and organization of Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS). This law came to fill the existing gaps between the written law and the practice; however, the discrepancies have persisted. It was therefore necessary to repeal the existing laws and enacted a new law would at least reflect most corrections practices.

In 2022, the previously single law was split into two; one governing Rwanda Correctional Service and another one governing correctional services. This was done to facilitate the implementation of these laws and to ensure that the new laws are comprehensive and at least reflect most existing practices;

Law no 021/2022 of 29/09/2022 governing Rwanda Correctional Service and the law no 022/2022 of 29/09/2022 governing Correctional Services.

Many correction practices are enshrined in the new law, and they may not be exhaustive but most of the existing practices are reflected in the same legal instruments and some that are not in practice where also captured.

The law no 021/2022 of 29/09/2022 governing Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) determines RCS as a "Specialized Organ", before RCS had no status. RCS staff who used to be referred to as "Prison Guards" become "Correctional officers", and RCS administrative organs have been streamlined to facilitate the implementation of RCS mandate.

The law no 022/2022 of 29/09/2022 governing corrections to reflect this paradigm shift from the setup and practices of prisons to the setup and practices of corrections, changed the name of the place of detention and imprisonment from "Prisons" to "Correctional Facilities".

The same law determines the powers of a correctional officer, it also outlines a good number of rights entitled to incarcerated persons and the components of correctional services, including but not limited to education programs, skills development work, social and civic education training, and also established a reintegration program providing for the construction of a social rehabilitation center in at least each province and Kigali City, with a pilot phase in Eastern province-Rwamagana District to facilitate successfully reintegration back into the community.



Achievements Of RCS In Rehabilitation Programs



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Prisons to Corrections reflects a "paradigm shift" from being purely a custodian of prisoners with a punitive face relying on physical security like strong fences, doors, and strong padlocks to correctional philosophy.

However, with time it has been realized that having a good and friendly relationship with inmates is a better tool for securing them in a more humane way than the former. With dynamic security, inmates feel cared for, engaged, and treated humanely therefore comply and cooperate with correctional regimes.

This shift from the past situation where inmates and staff were isolated from the community, currently correctional facilities are accessed by stakeholders such as community members, international bodies, NGOs in collaborative efforts of rehabilitating and preparing inmates for smooth reintegration into the community after serving their sentences.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of offenders in the resolution of 1984/47 spells out the need for rehabilitation programs as a way of maintaining inmates' human dignity and addressing the root causes of their criminality. Rehabilitation programs

aim to reduce the inmates' unacceptable behavior and give them skills from which they can earn an honest living.

RCS has put in place several rehabilitation programs for the smooth reintegration process of inmates such as moral rehabilitation, civic education with much emphasis on unity and reconciliation, and promotion of knowledge and skills which will help inmates after serving their sentences as one way of reducing recidivism and making them become responsible citizens when they eventually serve their sentence rather than a punitive-oriented.

The following are achievements of RCS in rehabilitation programs as stipulated in the standard minimum rules that "rehabilitation of inmates should be an obligation to every country correctional system"

Moral Rehabilitation Program

In order to implement the Moral Rehabilitation Program, psycho-social therapies that targeted the mind and soul of the inmates since human actions, both positive and negative, start in the mind. The moral rehabilitation program targets behavioral change in inmates which includes counseling, and spiritual guidance among others.

Counseling intervention from a correctional facility context aims at helping inmates to address unresolved emotional issues that are contributing factors to their involvement in a crime. Through counseling, inmates are helped to resolve long-standing psychological issues which render them susceptible to living dysfunctional lives.

Spiritual guidance is also a strong social rehabilitation tool in reforming inmates as it touches their souls and tackles anxiety, stress, and other related ills associated with incarceration.

Moral belief has given inmates a sense of hope and maintained their spirituality during



Cardinal Antoine KAMBADA at NYARUGENGE Prison

isolation from their communities. It is in this context, that RCS works with several faith-based organizations to morally rehabilitate convicts before they embark on other rehabilitation programs when they are morally stable in their minds and souls.

Civic Education Program

Civic Education program in Rwanda Correctional facilities puts more emphasis on unity and reconciliation. After the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, perpetrators of Genocide and convicts for other crimes were living together in correctional facilities.

Redefining the Rwandan identity and building a shared sense of Rwandans was at the center of the reconciliation process. Reconciliation is understood as a process through which Rwandans have to move from a divided past to a shared future, a process that aims to overcome the dehumanizing past towards a re-humanized present and future, a process that has to do with whom Rwandans have to be and become.

Through the rehabilitation and reintegration process for Genocide perpetrators, RCS established inmates' community healing mediation through convict-Victim dialogues

and practical reconciliation face-to-face between Genocide perpetrators and survivors with their own families where inmates confess and seek apologies for the crimes they committed.

After approaching genocide survivors in the process of healing wounds caused by Genocide and preparing them for reconciliation and reintegration both sides organized face-reconciliation meetings in correctional facilities and communities whereby genocide convicts make public confessions, revealing the truth, and seek forgiveness before the victims'



Unity and Reconciliation sessions



Unity And Reconciliation in The Community



Reconciliation through dialogue between perpetrators and survivors

Mvura Nkuvure program is a social therapy that fosters healing and reconciliation. Mvura Nkuvure, means "I heal you while you heal me". It brings inmates together in groups of 12-15 people.

Throughout the journey of fifteen weekly sessions, group participants are guided by two facilitators (psychotherapists) to share daily life experiences, learn from each other, and support one another in dealing with daily stressors and legacies of the past.

Story One

"Rweru Reconciliation Village (RRV) was built by Prison Fellowship Rwanda and Interpeace as partners of RCS in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of ex-perpetrators of genocide not only to foster peace-building and conflict resolution among genocide perpetrators and survivors but also to stand as a monument to archive Rwanda's legacy of unity and reconciliation for the future generation's learning and inspiration;

Rweru Reconciliation Village is inhabited by 110 families, 560 village members, sixty-eight

genocide survivors, twenty-eight genocide perpetrators, and twenty vulnerable members.

Village members have gone beyond living together, achieving total unity and reconciliation, and are now working together to thrive as a community with the support from the Government and its partners such as Prison Fellowship Rwanda and Interpeace.' They own joint businesses like advanced Apiculture and are also engaged in different social development projects".



Cooperation with Interpeace

Education Program

Education program offers incarcerated persons an opportunity to re-launch their academic dreams. It also boosts a sense of dignity because the majority of inmates are illiterate and semi-illiterate. Lack of education pushes persons closer to the doorsteps of crime.

In Rwandan correctional facilities education is tailored to the National Curriculum and as well as to the law governing Rwanda correctional services No.022/2022 of 29/09/2022 in Article 13 which says that an educational program for a person convicted of a term of imprisonment served in a correctional facility will be in reference to the government

program of education at primary, secondary and technical vocational training.



Juveniles of Nyagatare CF

An inmate who undergoes an education program is awarded a certificate for courses covered while the one who followed a vocational training program is awarded a certificate for a profession in which he or she was trained.

Formal Education

A case in point is, all the juvenile inmates at the Nyagatare correctional facility have the opportunity to follow their studies and pass the National sitting examinations. In December 2022, The President of the Republic of Rwanda exercised his prerogative of mercy and granted pardon to eighteen convicted minors in Nyagatare correctional facility on account of good conduct and excellent academic performance.

Thirteen of the Juveniles who were pardoned sat for Primary School National Examinations and eight of them passed with distinction, five with satisfaction. For those who sat for the Ordinary level, five passed with distinction and one with satisfaction.

Story two

"The students who were released on Presidential Clemency formed an association called 'Garuka Ushime', which means 'return and thank'. Through their association, they visit Nyagatare Juvenile correctional facility frequently, bringing scholastic materials for the children there;

These students speak to their peers, sharing their personal stories and testifying that their good conduct and dedication to their studies led to their success in passing their national exams and eventually being pardoned by the President. They encourage their peers to follow their example and strive to be well-behaved and diligent in their studies so that they can also achieve success and leave the facility with a positive outlook on life".

• Formal TVET Centers

Vocational skills development as a component of life skills training addresses a critical gap in the lives of inmates attributed to being illiterate and unskilled. Much of the correctional facilities population in Rwanda are youth, of whom over 50% are illiterate and without formal skills. It is evident that many youths break the law in pursuit of economic survival.

It is in this context, Rwanda Correctional Service has initiated RCS TVETs centers in correctional facilities out of thirteen correctional facilities six of them are learning formal TVET centers with accreditation by RTB: Nyarugenge,



TVETs' Students

Nyanza, Huye, Rwamagana, Rubavu, and Nyagatare, while other three are waiting for accreditation: Nyamagabe, Bugesera, and Musanze.

These TVETs are well-constructed and equipped with workshop materials of different trades such as Plumbing, Electricity, Welding, Masonry, Tailoring, Automobile Mechanics, Computer literacy, Hairdressing, Carpentry and Leathercraft among others.



Story three

“Dismas Mundanikure was an inmate for six years ago from 1995 to 2001. During that time, he acquired tailoring skills. When he finished his sentence and was released, Mundanikure started up a tailoring factory.

also offers free tailoring training to several Today, Mundanikure’s factory employs 125 peoples members of community. He is currently among members of the national advisory board on tailoring technology”.

• **Informal Education**

Informal education at RCS comprises adult literacy and calculation and an informal vocational training program among others, which is awarded prior learning recognition certificates. Adult literacy is a gov't policy purposely to equip adult people with minimum skills to read, write, and count.

In Rwanda correctional facilities we offer adult literacy and calculation, so that inmates there are equipped with the basics before they join vocational training programs at least to be able to take some measurements of what they are doing.

Prior learning recognition is the process of recognizing learning that has come from experience, where inmates participate in different activities after a certain period, we collaborate/cooperate with the Ministry of Education to inspect and certify them equally like others outside of correctional facilities.

As of April 2023, RCS had trained over 2,571 inmates in various formal education ranging from vocational skills to informal education, inmates that have benefited as of April 2023 were 21,754. The skills they acquired while in correctional facilities help them easily reintegrate into society.



Sports And Recreation Activities

Sports and other recreational activities have been identified as effective tools for social rehabilitation. Apart from the therapeutic effect they have on the minds of the inmates; they promote socialization and confidence building.

In Rwanda correctional facilities all inmates have access to open spaces for sports and other recreational activities



Inmates doing sport

Curriculum for Inmate Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) is responsible for managing correctional facilities and providing rehabilitation programs to inmates in preparation for their successful reintegration into society. It is in this context; RCS has developed a curriculum that guides adequate and harmonized rehabilitation of inmates for their successful reintegration into their families and communities once released.

The curriculum was launched and validated on July 20, 2022, and comprises eight modules

which include Intra & interpersonal skills with conflict management, Mental health and psychological distress, Career development & entrepreneurship, Drugs, and substance abuse, Human rights & legal awareness, Family dynamics, Genocide ideology, and civic education, safe return and positive connections with the community.



Launching Ceremony

Social Reintegration centers (halfway Home)

The purpose of the establishment of social reintegration centers is related to the preparation of a smooth reintegration process to reduce the stress faced by released inmates;

According to, penologists also believe that it is inhumane to release a long-incarcerated offender directly into the community that may have so much changed during his period of incarceration that it is no longer familiar to him or her.

It is in this context that, the Rwanda Correctional Service has started construction works for "halfway homes" the first which will be located in the Eastern Province in



Rwamagana District which is linked to the smooth reintegration of the inmates into society, which can only be effectively be accomplished in a real community setting. With the use of a transitional facility, the confusion, uncertainty, and stress faced by the released inmates can be met gradually, allowing the release a reasonable period to readjust to independent living.

According to a 2017 report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the recidivism rate in Rwanda was only 5.1%, compared to an average of 41% across the continent. This is a testament to the effectiveness of the RCS rehabilitation programs and initiatives in promoting successful reintegration and reducing reoffending rates.

This has proven how Rehabilitation programs in Rwanda correctional facilities have a positive effect on the inmate's well-being and helped many to overcome a background with little or no education at all and get a better opportunity to succeed back in society upon release from the correctional facilities.

From success stories highlighted based on the rehabilitation programs offered in Rwanda Correctional facilities with no doubt that learning from Rwanda correctional facilities has a positive impact on reducing recidivism and has improved prospects of smooth reintegration as law-binding citizens by giving a guarantee to self-esteem and employment outcomes after serving their sentences.



The Evolution Of Healthcare In Detentions



SP Théoneste NIYINDORA

Director of Public Health & Preventive Medicine

Historical background of healthcare in detention settings

Healthcare in detention settings has a long history. It evolved with the paradigm shift that characterised the penitentiary system worldwide. As the old philosophy of the penitentiary system was to arrest and jail convicts without thinking on ways to rehabilitate and reintegrate a person as law-abiding citizen, this was coupled with restraining some of the basic human rights including healthcare.

Historically, health care programs in prisons and jails have reflected the trends of criminal justice theory and practice as well as the social, legal, and political ideas of the times, rather than ideas and developments within the health care profession. The philosophical foundations of the criminal justice system were based on just punishing offenders, but reforms

started in the 18th century in English system.

This penitentiary view became the basis of the modern correctional practices in the world and establishment of quality healthcare facilities started in the nineteenth century. From this time healthcare provision in detention became a basic human right for detained people and human rights activists started to advocate for it.

Although this right is not provided equally around the world due to the level of development but at least all countries accept that healthcare in prison is a fundamental human right and strive to provide this. This is an important milestone in human rights history.

Basic principles of healthcare in detention

The contemporary thinking of prison management requires that Corrections authorities take the responsibility to safeguard the health of all incarcerated persons whereby medical services should be organized in close relationship with the public health administration.

In this regard, every Correction Facility, as recommended by Mandela Rules should have the services of at least one qualified medical practitioner and other personnel suitably trained in health care and will ensure the health of all prisoners starting at admission where all prisoners are entitled to have a medical examination. Here, their health care should continue throughout their time in detention, including giving proper and humane treatment to prisoners who are terminally ill.



The journey towards the provision of quality healthcare in correction facilities

The medical services provision in corrections facilities in Rwanda comes from far. Back in the last three decades, each correction Facility had just a simple infirmary run by a nurse with few medicines. With this, only first aid was provided, and inmates were not enjoying in fullness healthcare services.

As the contemporary thinking of prison management evolved, considerable reforms were made relating to the welfare of detained people. As the constitution of Rwanda recognises Healthcare as a universal human right to all Rwandans including people deprived of liberty.

The law establishing RCS clearly provided for the free provision of health services available in the community without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation (equivalence of care). Therefore, the laws gave prison authorities the responsibility to promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of inmates in close partnership with national health authorities.

Within this spirit of the paradigm shift from punitive to correctional system RCS introduced equipped and staffed health posts that provide the primary healthcare including consultations, pharmacy, laboratory services as well as health promotion. In this regard, RCS built a health facility at each correctional facility, and currently 13 corrections health facilities are all operating at a level of health centre whereby they provide curative, preventive and promotional services to all

inmates free of charge.

In addition, as promoting public health in detention requires a wholistic approach, RCS established means to address the underlying determinants of health such as, good nutrition, accommodation, environmental protection, physical activity, hygiene and sanitation, provision of drinking water etc.

Partnership with the Health authorities

In line to organise health care services in correction facility close relationship with the public health administration, when a prisoner feels sick, they immediately go to the health centre within their respective correction facility, and corrections health staff administer health services. When they have a complicated illness, which cannot be treated at correction health facility, they are automatically transferred through the Rwandan Healthcare transfer system for better management.

Furthermore, all vertical programs services from Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) such as screening for communicable and non-communicable diseases, Tuberculosis screening and treatment, are administered to inmates as they are provided to the public outside the detention facilities. It is worthy to note that from health centres to referral hospitals all service fees are catered for by RCS and it is done through enrolment of all prisoners to the community-based health insurance Mutuelle de santé.

Ensuring quality of healthcare in detention setting



The quality of health care is an essential standard in the provision of healthcare to inmates. This is why RCS hires qualified health staff and provides specialized training to address the specificity of the most prevalent sicknesses in prisons. Within this spirit for healthcare quality improvement the medical services department periodically organises the monitoring and evaluation of Health activities in detention and health needs assessments to identify gaps and provide recommendations for policy actions.



Inmates receiving health services like dental

In addition, the Public Hospitals and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre regularly supervise healthcare services technically and clinically to timely adjust any irregularities. Furthermore, all inmates are enrolled into the community-based health insurance and healthcare is free of charge from the lowest to highest level of care through the Rwanda health transfer system. This scheme enables inmates to access specialist medical care.

In corrections facilities, inmates detained are from the community and are expected to return home when they have purged their

sentence. Ensuring their safety inside detention facility is a big contribution to ensuring public health.

For example, RCS ensures that no inmate is released with a contagious disease that can be spread into the community. RCS guarantees that new inmates who enter corrections facilities while on treatment will continue that treatment until they get well and ensures that an incarcerated person who is released while on medical treatment should continue to receive treatment outside the correction facility (continuity of care).

Since most inmates are from families who have been exposed to poor health styles such as lack of primary education, drug abuse, poor hygiene; Once they are admitted in corrections facilities, they are regularly taught through what is known as information education communication sessions and this helps them to adopt healthy lifestyles.

This is done with aim to prevent both communicable and non-communicable diseases and it is very important because healthy beliefs and behaviours are determinants of health and therefore, as health knowledge increases, prisoners develop healthy lifestyles and have better health outcomes. This will affect them and their families after release and therefore contribute to the maintenance of public health.

The struggle to improve quality of healthcare in CFs continues

In the journey to transform RCS from punitive to correctional system, RCS has achieved a lot in terms of promoting the physical and



mental health and wellbeing of prisoners. The basic health infrastructure was put in place, medical equipment is in place as well as health staff. We have achieved a lot, but there is also a long way to go.

RCS is committed to continuing to provide high quality healthcare to inmates in our way to release a healthy transformed law-abiding citizen. In this line, in the near future, the corrections health facilities are to be upgraded to consist of 6 medicalised health facilities, and 8 Health centres providing all primary healthcare services with dental, ophthalmology, and physiotherapy services.

The motivation to upgrade and establish structured health facilities in CFs is to provide high quality healthcare services within CFs through availability of enough qualified health staff, modern medical equipment, and supplies. In addition, strengthening CF health facilities will reduce the big number of inmates transferred to public health care hospitals and help to ensure security because securing inmates who are in a hospital is challenging as inmates seek care in different services/wards.

The reason behind this reform is to minimize the number inmates who visit the general hospitals. Only inmates who need specialised care will be transferred out of the CF. With this reform, the provision of quality healthcare to prisoners will enable inmates to stay healthy and therefore contributing to the overall mission of RCS to rehabilitate inmates into law-abiding citizens.



Prisoners receiving vaccines



DYNAMIC SECURITY: Challenges And Perspectives For Inmates' Security



SP Jashi JAWABU

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Corrections, A Public Service Not Quite Like the Others...

When talking to correctional personnel about their profession, even more so when questioning a candidate within the framework of a jury for a correctional officers' recruitment competition, the answer produced, in the majority of cases, is the following: I do or I want to do a job where human transformation predominates. This majority response tells us that correctional jobs are relationship jobs, human relationships, relationships with others. We could sense it, but we could also deny it.

From then on, we are caught in a kind of paradox: can there be a relationship where there is violence? There are several types

of answers to this question. The strongest temptation is often to take one term to oppose it to the other: violence delegitimizes the relationship when the relationship neglects or even denies the violence.

Another approach is not to oppose the terms, but to distribute them in different professions: the relationship to the professions of integration and violence (in the sense of responding to violence) to uniformed personnel. We can apprehend what appears to be a paradox both more simply and more directly by asking the following question: is the relationship a possible response to violence?

Investing in the relationship, in the context of an asymmetrical relationship between inmate and prison staff, is it not necessary, if we consider that this asymmetry can generate violence? This seems to us to be the point of dynamic security. We can refine the reasoning as follows: if violence exists and must be treated with the appropriate means, can it however be avoided, prevented?

Dealing with places versus dealing with people...

Correctional Facilities fulfil an important security mandate. They should prevent inmates from committing harmful offences that could endanger third parties or public safety. This security can be ensured in various ways.

On the one hand, institutions have passive security with a physical infrastructure and the corresponding technology (e.g., walls, secured doors, locks, gates, cameras, metal detectors, signal detectors). On the other,



procedural security is ensured through the clear definition of processes within the context of the work conducted in prisons, thereby providing employees with the confidence to act.

For example, it is helpful for employees if entry procedures, cell searches, the processing of enquiries and conflict management, among other issues, are standardized and available in written form.

The personal and social component is at least as important for security in the execution of penal sentences and justice. In addition to Correction staff, a range of specialist staff (social, medical, therapeutic, etc.) intervene within the institution and interact with inmates.

Dynamic security refers to the interactions between employees and inmates. It is ensured if employees know the inmates well and interact with them frequently, are aware of their health situation (i.e., any somatic and mental condition) and development, treat them in a respectful and fair manner and create an environment in which inmates turn to employees in order to ask them for help or to draw their attention to any issues that may arise.

Prison violence and dynamic security

When violence is committed, does its commission imply the impossibility of any form of relationship? The ability to answer these questions is a major challenge for the Correction administration. If the response to violence can only be treated from the angle of passive security (walls, cameras, detectors, etc.) or from that of procedural

security (disciplinary regime, specific quarters, searches, etc.), all measures and devices that are otherwise necessary, this response finds its limit in the fact that it cannot be transposed outside the walls of a prison establishment.

Based exclusively on constraint, it is not operational in the non-binding universe that is society. The prevention of recidivism must allow the search for a lasting response to the problems of violence, anchored in individual responsibility and not only in constraint. Hence the need to raise the question of the relationship to the other, which includes that of responsibility. The prison administration has come a long way in this area.

For a dynamic security policy within Rwanda correctional facilities

The text supports the idea, a priori tautological, that dynamic security is above all a producer of security. It is not in vain to say so, as dynamic security often happens to be endowed with objectives that it is not directly intended to fulfill. For example, it would participate in the mission of reintegration of the detained person as well as in the prevention of his/her risk of recidivism for the offense for which he was convicted. Not too much need.

On the contrary, the robustness of dynamic security is rather due to the tightening of the logics of action that it engages to ensure security in detention. Above all, it involves, as one of the main challenges, building a security policy with those for whom it is intended, while allowing all the actors themselves (Correction staff and "users") to identify their respective interests in living in a secure environment.



We can already indicate that legally there is significant progress in laws apprehending the inmates' management in our country; Corrections facilities has reduced the asymmetry of the Inmate /correctional officer relationship, an asymmetry that can be considered as a factor of violence.

We can complete the statement by mentioning that the implementation of innovative detention regimes such as the respect modules allows care combining constraint and responsibility in a closed environment. It is important not to forget the many programs offered to people placed in the hands of justice, integrating relational issues.

The deployment of these systems and programs is also encouraged by the Law No 022/2022 of 29/09/2022 governing correctional services especially in the articles 4 and 5 on responsibilities of professional officer of the organ and responsibilities of correctional facility administration; articles 44 and 48 also which stipulates on the right of information and right to file an administrative complaint by an incarcerated person about his/her treatment.

Dynamic security is based on a set of professional practices in which the relationship with others is considered to be paramount and contributes to the prevention of violence in detention, but also to the prevention of ideological offenses or other oddities likely to encroach on the safety and well-being of incarcerated persons.

It promotes the easing of tensions through measured speech linked to appropriate professional positioning, the prevention of conflicts through knowledge of individuals and the sharing of information, listening, observation and exchanges with people in detention. These rich practices intertwine criminology, psychology, but also the experience, of which our administration is so rich.

The ability to provide dynamic security is possessed by correctional staff members who frequently move about the area where they are assigned, speak with prisoners, gain their trust, and form relationships with them.

For instance, the inmates and the correctional guards can participate in sports activities together. Along with inmate teams, the football teams of the officers compete in competitions. The final Saturday of each month, the convicts and correctional personnel take part in the Umuganda.

Any prisoner with a problem can go to an officer in the CF administration, who will listen to him and deal with the situation before it gets out of hand.

These practices should be better known and remain professional. Effective implementation could be extended, to the benefit of all. Through the reflection carried out in this thematic file devoted to dynamic security, RCS and all the contributors in the field, whom we warmly thank, engage in this double exercise: to make known dynamic security and to certify its implementation.



Inmates and staff doing entertainment



GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY **Focus On Women Inmates And Their Children**



SP Fatuma MUTESI

Director of Ngoma Correction Facility

First and foremost, gender is simply defined as a social and cultural construction, which distinguishes differences in the attributes of men and women, girls and boys, and accordingly this refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women. It also refers to the state of being male or female in relation to the social and cultural roles that are considered appropriate for men and women;

While gender mainstreaming has been embraced internationally as well as Rwanda as strategy towards realizing gender equality. It involves the integration of gender perspective into preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies with the view to promote equality between men and women and combating discrimination.

When it comes to correctional facilities where RCS have both gender men and women, girls and boys the human rights, roles, responsibilities, and dignity are equally treated, and where children residing along their mothers are fully catered for as per law.

Literally the community is un aware of how incarcerated mothers make meaning of their parenting role and relationship with their children prior to incarceration and during custody.

Gender mainstreaming in correctional facility perspective this means that both incarcerated

men, women, girls, boys and children are equally and fairly treated when it comes to roles, responsibilities and human rights.

With parenting programs in correctional policies and procedures have been conceptualized for incarcerated mothers and pregnant women in correctional facilities as vulnerable populations. The correctional facility environment offers opportunities to foster mother-child connection.

In Ngoma women Correctional Facility, incarcerated mothers share experience on how they have created a strong bond which have resulted into a powerful emotional connection with their children during their incarceration. Likewise, they have detailed the ways that their children, and their identity as a mother, functioned as catalysts for their change process, this have helped a lot in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration program while maintaining gender mainstreaming

Furthermore, for many mothers, they have learnt to accept that their children and their identity as a mother functioned as the primary source of their motivation to change

The children's health and well-being motivate mothers and this becomes an integral part that sustains them through the change process

On the other hand, the notion that women are biologically and culturally better suited to provide childcare than men, or to suggest that all women derive innate pleasure or meaning from mothering

Most people wonder how children reside with

their mothers in a correctional facility in their daily life, this is due to the fact that children still need attention, care and love for their mothers

Rwanda law as well as international laws does not permit the separation of children from their mothers until they are 3 years. They are clear reasons why children live with their mothers in prison, female inmates are either sentenced while their children are under 3 year of age or they are sentenced while pregnant, for those reasons mentioned above the law prevails that mothers have the right to live with children in a correctional facility in order to benefit from the following:

- a. Breast feeding, maternal care and love that are equally important in the development and growth of a child



Children in Kindergarten

Ngoma Women Correctional Facility is among Rwandan correctional facilities that have children that reside with mothers in a correctional facility, they have the following benefits:

- a. They have access to health care; they get all vaccinations (immunized) as those children living in the community
- b. They get nutritious food, that is highly balanced diet



- c. ECDs (Early Childhood Development) have been built in order for children to benefit from education, where they learn good behavior, brain growth, songs and other activities that are in line with their age, this contributes much in their mental and physical growth.
- d. They are given different nursery and entertainment tools that help them to sharpen their mind. Children are well treated and cared for in order to prepare their future, for they spend little time with their incarcerated mothers and spend more time studying and entertainment." In order to pursue their education once taken to their foster families after 3years.

According to the Bangkok rules which are ratified in Rwandan law, children in correctional facility with their mothers shall never be treated as inmates, women inmates who have their children with them in correctional facilities are to be given the maximum possible opportunities to spend time with their children, and the environment for the children's upbringing is to be as close as possible to that of a child outside the facility.



Children in EDC NGOMA

In many cases the rights of children in Ngoma Women Correctional Facility are well observed as per law those are:

right to eat, right to wear, right to be in ECD, right to drink clean water, right to sing and dance, right to sleep, right to have good hygiene and sanitation, right to availability of books and toys to stimulate a child's mind as well as the right to communicate and ask questions. Despite the fact that their parents have been convicted, the children remain innocent and are equally and fairly treated well as provided by the law.

Pregnant women as well as breast feeding women inmates are given special attention as per Bangkok rules, where by specific needs of incarcerated pregnant women are met such as healthcare services are provided including prenatal, antenatal care, labor, delivery, and postpartum services. Educational needs are provided on pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting. We have supportive needs, psychological counseling and nutritional support all those are provided by Ngoma Women Correctional Facility management administration.

More to that, breast feeding women inmates shall not be discouraged from breastfeeding their children, unless there are specific health reasons to do so. The breastfeeding women are given medical services and nutritional support (the daily nutrition diet taken twice a day) and they are also given uniforms



Inmates with their Children



that facilitate breast feeding to avoid any limitation. Other sanitary items are provided to both mothers and children and as well as children below three years.

THE ROLE OF CAPACITY BUILDING TOWARDS A PROFESSIONAL CORRECTIONAL SERVICE



SP Francis RUDAKEMWA
Director of Internal Audit

"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones." Nelson Mandela

Correctional service is a profession of transforming offenders into law abiding citizens. The role of capacity building towards professional correctional services emanates from Law governing RCS and article 74 to 82 of The United Nations standard Minimum rules

for the treatment of prisoners (The Mandela rules).

In conformity with the previously mentioned, RCS has made significant financial and time investments in the capacity-building aspect of both career/professional courses and basic courses. This is done to make sure that, in terms of staff-to-inmate ratio and skill gap, they adhere to the professional norms of modern correctional systems.

The performance of each correctional officer after gaining the appropriate knowledge, abilities, and attitude is what significantly determines the efficacy of a correctional staff.

The need for correctional staff capacity building

"The prison administration shall provide for the careful selection of every grade of the personnel, since it is on their integrity, humanity, professional capacity and personal suitability for the work that the proper administration of prisons depends" Rule 74 of The United Nations standard Minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.



Building a professional Correctional service required well educated and well-trained professional staff and equipment necessary to carry out their duties in a professional manner. The only training facility that now prepares individuals to the level of a warder with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to carry out mandatory correctional activities is RCS Training School- Rwamagana. Additionally, it prepares cadet officers to become junior officers. In addition to hosting seminars and workshops targeted at professionalizing the workforce, RCS Training School also provides a variety of professional courses.

These courses offered at RCS Training School are tailored to the correctional general knowledge and specific RCS duties mainly physical fitness, dynamic security, inmates' human rights, correctional management and other necessary skills set for better management of the evolving criminal system. Professional correctional service is evidenced by the security of detainees, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders and respect of prisoners' rights which necessitate a continuous provision of in-service training courses with a view to maintaining and improving the knowledge and professional capacity personnel.

For ensuring this RCS has a variety of career courses offered by RCS Training School and in partnership with sister institutions from cadet course for officers' entry level; Fundamentals of professional Correctional studies; Intermediate Professional Correctional Management and managerial and senior correctional leadership courses. The library is also avail to help Correction Officer to upgrade their knowledge.

Depending on the needs of detainees' environment, RCS staff includes Psychologists, Doctors and psychiatrics for ensuring general and mental health of detainees' rights.

In an effort to make successful offender rehabilitation and reintegration an essential aspect of professional correctional services, RCS has established TVET Schools at various correctional facilities with various trades like leather craft, carpentry, masonry, automobile mechanics, computer literacy, etc. where inmates gain professional skills that will enable them to live law-abiding and productive lives after being released, reducing the recidivism rate in this process.



RCS Training School



Student in TVET



A LOOK AT RWANDA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE THROUGH ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS: Focus On Local, Regional And International Cooperation.



SP Alex MUGISHA

Director of Cooperation and PSO

Rwanda Correctional Service on a wide range has partnered with various institutions, agencies and organizations such as Government based agencies and Ministries, Criminal Justice agencies, the general Public, Faith –Based Organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Regional and International organizations, non-governmental organization (NGO's) and the United Nations to mention but a few. RCS also recognizes the inmates as its core partners in fulfilling its mandate and mission.

In this article a description on the contribution and roles played by different partners and stakeholders in partnership with Rwanda Correctional Service will be explored.

At the local scene,

The existing partnership has been remarked and noticed that the job well done has led to the transformation of most lives in Rwandan communities and Correctional Facilities through different Programmes such as Peace Building and reconciliation, psychosocial healing and reintegration, Restorative Justice, Human rights promotion and legal Aid, Spiritual resilience Socio-economic empowerment and acquisition of Skills in Vocational trainings across all the facilities.



Corroboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kigali

In partnership with faith-based organizations, RCS rebuild inmates with psychosocial therapy including their responsibility to the community, their sense of belonging and the need to contribute to community development.

Organization like Prison Fellowship Rwanda supports inmates through healing,



peacebuilding, and reconciliation, crime prevention, and human rights promotion. Prisoners journey program is also emphasized in this context which looks at the process of rehabilitation for an inmate from admission to release.

Other organizations like Paix et Reconciliation (Peace and Reconciliation) by the catholic priests, Caritas Rwanda, OXFAM Rwanda, Psychosocial Diocesan Services (TFT) and Rwanda Bridges to justice, DiDe, Interpeace-Rwanda have contributed tremendously to moral rehabilitation.

At the Regional and International sphere,

the Directorate of Cooperation & PSO Unit through RCS Leadership endeavors to enhance cordial relations with regional and International Correctional institutions, Partners, stakeholders. Hence working closely with its partners to continue to exploring other available opportunities through identifying other New Partners/Countries in specific areas of Interest to RCS as part of a strategy to fully implement the institution mandate and responsibilities.

In that regard Rwanda through RCS enjoys a smooth existing relationship with regional six (06) regional countries through the signed memorandum of understanding and related agreements such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Kenya and Uganda). The cooperation ranges in the areas of science and technology, Prison industries and agriculture, exchange on rehabilitation and reintegration programs, training and development, research and planning, sports

and Culture.

To enhance this cooperation in June 2021, Zambia Correctional offered seven (7) Slots to Rwanda Correctional Service whereby, five (5) in-service correctional officers including one female and 4 males were able to undergo cadet course training in Zambia while two (2) instructors went to share knowledge and skills with their fellow instructors from ZCS. The courses took six months (June – December 2021).



The pass out ceremony of the officer cadets including the ones from RCS at Nyango training School-Zambia December 2021.

Following the mentioned Pass out ceremony which was held on 3 December 2021 by the Commissioner General of Zambia Correctional Service who hailed the existing bilateral relations between Rwanda and Zambia and the strong productive partnership between ZCS and RCS.

The Passed Cadet Officers were also awarded with Certificates for having Successfully Completed the requirements for the Cadet Promotion Course and were later in February



2022 commissioned by the Hon. Minister of Interior Alfred Gasana who represented His excellency, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and commander in chief of the Armed forces.

development which aimed at learning best training and research practices as RCS looks forward to having a professionalized and research-based training School with all the required standards.



The Commissioned Cadet Officers pose for a group photo together with the Hon. Minister of Interior



CG-RCS and his team during the Benchmarking Visit in Zambia in May 2022.

To further strengthen the existing cooperation between Rwanda Correctional Service and Zambia Correctional Service, both commissioner Generals have carried out benchmarking visits on both sides to fully share and learn from each other's' experience and skills in as far as correctional institutions management and functioning is concerned.

Consequently, on 28 November 2022, the Commissioner General (CG) of Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS), Frederick S.S Chilukutu, and his delegation carried out a bilateral visit to Rwanda, this stated by paying a courtesy call to the Commissioner General (CG) of Rwanda Correctional.

Specially, the CG-RCS and his team were able to benchmark in the areas of Production activities of which the learned model would be used to enhance on RCS production management trends, on their rehabilitation process especially through open space prisons which would be linked to the halfway social reintegration centers that are being proposed to be implemented in the near future in Rwanda.

In the same view and with the spirit to strengthen the existing mutual cooperation in the field of Correctional and prisons Services between Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service and Rwanda Correctional Service, the CG-ZPCS and his delegation visited Rwanda from 05 – 11 March 2023.

There was also, training, Research and

During this visit, both parties agreed on several points of action which included: the signing of An Implementation Matrix/Action Plan



aimed at facilitating the implementation of the MoU and the achievement of the goals of the MoU. It describes, areas of Cooperation, Key actions/activities, responsible institution, implementation responsibility and the timeframe.

A joint technical team was formed on both sides with the mission to work together and monitor the progress of the MoU in accordance with its provisions, through enhanced and improved inter-institutional coordination and collaboration. Bio Gas Technology in Correctional facilities: In this area, the ZPCS delegates were elated to learn that correctional facilities in Rwanda use electricity generated from the biogas plants and brucettes.

They therefore, requested Rwanda Correctional Service for technical support to assist in assessing the feasibility to replicate the use of biogas technology in Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service facilities. Technology in Correctional Facilities: It was gratifying to note that Rwanda Correctional Service had a fully operational Correctional Data Management System known as Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS).

The delegates also noted that Rwanda Correctional Service has embraced technology; on which some of the activities and programmes are technologically driven. This is indeed commendable, and as Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service, they would want to learn more.

Training and Capacity building: Among other areas of cooperation that the CGs discussed about also included exchange programs for training of correctional staffs, Information

exchange relevant to correctional practices and education tours. To this end, both parties agreed to avail slots for the correctional officers to attend different courses either in Zimbabwe or Rwanda such as joint trainings of Senior officers and Managers, Canine, Cadet Officers, Instructors and other Career Courses that may be identified by both Institutions.



CG-ZPCS and his delegation visit to RCS facilities including the headquarters.

In a bid for RCS to continue enhancing its collaboration with International Organizations and agencies, in October 2022, the commissioner general of Rwanda correctional service - CGP Juvenal MARIZAMUNDA and his delegation attended the 24th ICPA AGM and Conference in Orlando, Florida, USA.

It is worth noting that, the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) is a non-profit association for prison professionals founded in 1998 with a mission to promote and share ethical and effective correctional practices to enhance public safety and healthier communities worldwide. It is a non-governmental organization in Special



Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Last year's conference had the theme: "Excelling Beyond the 'Old' Normal: Corrections after the Global Pandemic" and attracted more than one thousand (1000) correctional professionals and experts coming from all over the world. The participants were able to discuss and share best practices in the areas of Strategy and Reform in Response to the Pandemic, Innovations in Community Corrections, Digital Change Strategies for Reducing Reoffending, Creating Effective Correctional and rehabilitative Cultures and Prison Oversight and Human Rights among others.

Normally, the ICPA rotates its annual general meeting and conference in different countries. To recognize outstanding progress and excellence with respect to its mission, particularly those achievements which advance humanitarian approaches and professional corrections, the ICPA established an annual Correctional Excellence Awards. It is in this context that in Australia 2015, Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) was awarded an international trophy in the recognition for protecting environment by effective use of biogas in Rwanda's prisons.

In his opening remarks, the ICPA President Mr. Peter Severin affirmed that Rwanda will host the ICPA AGM and Conference in 2025 and will be the second African country (after Namibia in 2014) to host the mentioned conference. This will further be an opportunity for RCS to network and benchmark with regional and international partners, to exchange best practices in prisons/corrections matters.



The commissioner general of Rwanda correctional service - CGP Juvenal MARIZAMUNDA and his delegation during the 24th ICPA AGM and Conference in Orlando, Florida, USA

Additionally, taking a look at the regional and international scene, Rwanda Correctional Service through its strategy of enhancing partnership in the region, in October 2012 it officially became a member of the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) during its 2nd Biennial conference that was held in Kampala, Uganda. The association was established to provide a platform for a unified voice in efforts to address massive challenges facing Corrections/ prisons systems in Africa including Rwanda with a defined constitution.

It has the mission to pave the way for Corrections in the Sub-Region and Africa to continually deliver in accordance with both the dynamics of professional requirements and the obtaining of socio-economic and cultural conditions in Africa. The vision of ACSA is to become the front runners and nucleus of Correctional professional development on the African Continent and one of the leading Correctional development organizations in the world. For this year 2023, the 6th ACSA



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Biennial Conference will be held in Dakar Senegal from 15 – 19 May 2023.

Furthermore, Rwanda Correctional Service is also part the global peace support contributor to different UN Peace Keeping Missions. Through the directorate of cooperation and peace support operations, we would like to first let you know that the essence of peace support missions is designed to undertake a range of civilian and military tasks, including the maintenance of public order, policing, mentoring of security forces, infrastructure reconstruction and national reconciliation. The first goal of peace support is the achievement of negative peace.

This led to the establishment of the Justice and Corrections Service component in 2003 under the Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) with the mandate to support in the implementation of rule of law, justice and corrections mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations, assist in strengthening the rule of law as well as Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity. Looking also in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the building of peaceful and just societies (Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 16) is underpinned as one of the 17 goals that will guide all future actions linked to the design and implementation of development activities under the UN framework. This has taken a note and in recent years, the (re-) establishment of criminal justice systems which prisons are among has become a priority for the international community in its efforts to assist transitional and post-conflict societies in re-establishing the rule of law.

Through this, Rwanda being among the contributing countries for the corrections

officers to serve under the different United Nations Missions in the World who are referred to as Government Provided Personnel (GPPs), in 2010 Rwanda started seconding corrections officers to serve as government provided personnel in different UN Missions with the first being MINUSTAH(Haiti).

This number since then drastically increased in other different UN Missions such as MINUSCA, UNMISS, UNISFA, UNAMID, UNSMIL and UNOCI. To date, we are proud to mention that more than 160 corrections officers with close to 84 women have been able to serve in those different UN missions and this continues through collaboration with Department of Peace Operations.

Rwanda Correctional Officers in different United Nations Peace Keeping operations have excellently contributed with passion to the strengthening on the capacity of national institutions in terms of justice, law reinforcement, fight against impunity and illegal detention.

They do this through supporting the registrars to update the prisons data, Classification and updating of the various records including prisoners' files. They advise the prison authorities to the respect of prisoners' rights in accordance with the minimum standard rules of treatment of prisoners. Through the Justice and Corrections Section, Rwandan Corrections Officers have highly played a great role in partnership with local authorities in recruitment and trainings of prison guards, as well as carrying out various on job trainings. Currently, RCS GPPs are in South Sudan (UNMISS), Abyeyi Sudan (UNISIFA) and Central African Republic (MINUSCA).



RCS staff GPP's in MINUSCA attending a medal parade and interacting with other team members from other Countries

By serving in these different UN Peace keeping missions, RCS officers have been able to gain varsity experiences and skills at the international level which even when back at home they are able to perform smartly and professionally as required by the law that governs the institution.

They have been also able to improve on their welfare status including social development with their families and hence leading to better life living in their communities of stay. This has made such officers to be recognized by being awarded UN Medals.

Coming to the climax, Rwanda Correctional Service appreciates the recognized dedication and commitment seen by its local partners, NGO's and stakeholders with the aim to correcting and rehabilitating of prison inmates as the primary beneficiaries of all the RCS programs and initiatives.

As also defined by the United Nations, the rule of law is fundamental to international peace and security and political stability with the aim to achieve economic and social progress and development; and to protect people's rights and fundamental freedoms. It is foundational to people's access to public services, curbing corruption, restraining the abuse of power, and to establishing the social contract between people and the state. Rule of law and development are strongly interlinked, and strengthened rule of law-based society should be considered as an outcome of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Kindly know that we truly understand that our success would not have been possible in those mentioned areas without your efforts as core partners of RCS, your valued advice, and staying by our side throughout our journey. We hope that our partnership will keep developing as we strive to restore the Rwandan social fabric and resilience of the people we serve. May the Almighty God continue to be upon you all.



Province / Region	
EST	(1)
NORD	(1)
WEST	(1)
SUD	(1)
VILLE DE KIGALI	(1)

New District Boundaries	
[Solid Line]	New District
[Dashed Line]	New District Region

Rwanda - Province / Regions and Admin District Boundaries

CF= Correctional Facility



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