

The **CORRECTIONS** MAGAZINE

TRAINED . TESTED . READY.

Recruits Passing-Out Parade

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**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
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**State Department for Correctional
Services**

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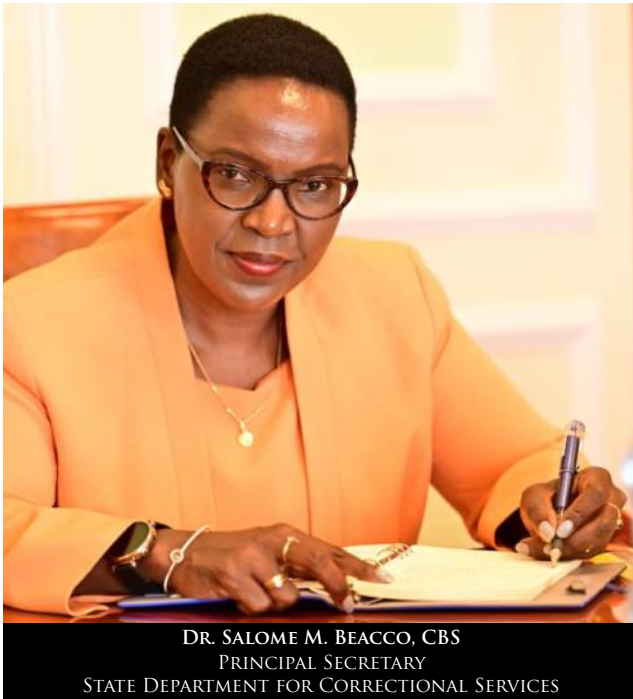
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SPECIAL THANKS

To all officers, partners, and institutions whose dedication
made this edition a success.

FOREWORD



DR. SALOME M. BEACCO, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
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The first half of 2026 marked yet another important chapter in the continued transformation of Kenya's correctional services.

Across our institutions, we have witnessed meaningful progress in strengthening rehabilitation programmes, enhancing staff welfare, expanding digital transformation, and deepening partnerships that advance justice, inclusion, and service delivery.

From the successful passing-out of 3,860 newly trained officers and the operationalisation of the Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital, to the promotion of digital literacy, environmental conservation, and community-based corrections, our commitment remains clear: to build a correctional service that is secure, humane, professional, and responsive to the needs of our society.

What makes these milestones impactful is the personal narratives and their relatable experiences. It is the young officer who

marched out of the Prison Staff Training College in Ruiru ready to serve. It is the woman who walked out of Shimo la Tewa equipped with digital skills and renewed hope. It is the inmate with a disability who is now registered, recognised, and restored. These are not mere statistics; they are the measure of a system that is steadily transforming lives and strengthening communities.

The second edition of ***The Corrections*** captures these stories and reflects the dedication of officers, partners, and stakeholders who continue to serve with professionalism, patriotism, and purpose.

As we celebrate these achievements, we look ahead with renewed optimism and determination. This year's ***Correctional Service Week (CSW 2026)***, themed "Transforming Correctional Services through Technology and Green Solutions," presents a defining opportunity to showcase innovation, sustainability, and reform within our institutions. The theme reflects our conviction that technology and environmental stewardship are no longer optional additions to public service, but essential pillars of efficient, modern, and people-centred correctional systems. We remain committed to embracing these solutions as we continue building institutions that are resilient, responsive, and futuristic.

I commend every officer and partner whose daily commitment makes this transformation journey possible and invite our readers to engage with the progress, partnerships, and possibilities as captured in this edition.

Together, we continue building a correctional service of excellence.

DR. SALOME M. BEACCO, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



President William Ruto inspects recruits during the Kenya Prisons Service passing-out parade at Prisons Staff Training College, Ruiru.

3,860 OFFICERS READY FOR MODERN CORRECTIONS

President William Ruto presided over the 46th Kenya Prisons Service Pass-Out Parade the largest graduating cohort in recent memory as the government signals its commitment to a professional, well-resourced correctional service.

On a bright February morning at the Prisons Staff Training College in Ruiru, President William Ruto took the salute of 3,860 newly graduated Kenya Prisons Service officers; men and women who had, over the preceding ten months, undergone the rigorous transformation from civilian to correctional professionals.

The 46th Pass-Out Parade was more than a ceremonial milestone. It was a public

statement of intent by a government that has, in concrete and measurable terms, invested in the people it has tasked to execute one of most demanding assignments in public service.

3,860

Officers graduated

342

Technical specialists

36%

Entry-level salary increase since 2024

A Comprehensive Training Programme.

The recruits, who joined the Kenya Prisons Staff Training College in April 2025, completed a comprehensive programme that combined classroom instruction with practical field experience. The curriculum covered legal and security procedures, conflict resolution, prisoner rehabilitation, financial literacy, and the modern

demands of corrections work in a society where crime patterns are evolving rapidly.

Among the cohort are 342 technicians who bring specialist expertise across a range of fields. An additional 36 cadets are scheduled to graduate later in the year upon completing their thirteen-month intensive programme.

“The country has given you an opportunity to serve. Don’t fall into the trap of attacking your country. I implore you to be champions of patriotism.”

— CS Kipchumba Murkomen, Final Rehearsal



Welfare at the Core

President Ruto used the occasion to reiterate the government’s commitment to officer welfare a commitment that has already produced tangible results. Entry-level salaries have been raised by 36 per cent and 24 per cent at the maximum scale since 2024 under phases one and two of the Maraga Taskforce recommendations. Phase three, the President confirmed, will take effect on 1 July 2026.

On housing, the government plans to construct 28,000 institutional housing units for correctional services personnel, with 30 per cent already under construction. Healthcare access has been strengthened through the Comprehensive Health

Insurance Scheme under the Social Health Authority and reinforced by the newly operationalized Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital.

The President also highlighted the department’s environmental record, noting that correctional services have already planted over 6.8 million trees, with a further 1.87 million mature seedlings ready for transplanting across 76 departmental nurseries.

For the 3,860 officers who marched out of Ruiru that morning, the parade marked the beginning of careers shaped by a clearer mandate, better tools, and a government that is, evidently, paying attention.

The 46th Passing out parade in pictures



The 46th Passing out parade in pictures





PS Dr. Salome Beacco receives a laptop from Close the Gap CEO Olivier Eynde during the handover ceremony at the Close the Gap circular economy hub, Syokimau.

TRANSFORMING CORRECTIONS: THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

From donated laptops to the Integrated Correctional Management Information System, the State Department for Correctional Services is harnessing technology to rehabilitate, reform and reintegrate offenders resonating with the demands of a twenty-first century society.



Services has been designing, partnership by partnership, institution by institution, across the first half of 2026.

When Maureen Awuor walked out of Shimo la Tewa Women's Prison, she carried with her something far more valuable than a release certificate. During her incarceration, she completed a digital literacy programme where she acquired web design, computer maintenance, graphic design, and personal branding skills. Today, she is an ICT tutor at a school in Malindi.

Her exploits are not by default. It is the intended outcome of a deliberate and multi-pronged digital transformation strategy that the State Department for Correctional

"We are prioritizing imparting digital skills to both officers working within our correctional facilities as well as offenders as we move to make the country's correctional system a correctional service of excellence."

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Syokimau Launch

A Network of Partners

At the heart of the initiative is a partnership between the State Department and two organizations: Close the Gap Kenya, which provides refurbished digital devices, and Tech Kids Africa, which delivers the training content and technical curriculum.



Officials cut the ribbon to officially open the Close the Gap circular economy hub in Syokimau, Nairobi.



PS Dr. Salome Beacco and Kenya's UNEP Representative Ida Odinga at the Close the Gap hub launch, Syokimau.

The programme, which targets fourteen correctional institutions across the country, will deploy 250 desktop computers donated by Close the Gap, with each facility becoming a centre of learning, innovation and transformation. The institutions include Shikusa Borstal, Kamae Girls Borstal, Shanzu Probation Hostel, Nairobi Boys' Probation Hostel, Kamiti Youth Corrective Centre, Kisumu Women's Prison, Meru Women's Prison, Thika Women's Prison, and Nyeri Women's Prison, among others.

The training curriculum, as outlined by Tech Kids Africa Executive Director Paul Akwabi, covers computer maintenance, graphic design, CCTV installation, computer networking, and related packages all market-relevant skills designed to reduce recidivism by ensuring that release is not a return to vulnerability.

Speaking at the launch of Close the Gap's circular economy hub in Syokimau, where the 250 computers were formally handed over, Kenya's Permanent Representative to UNEP, Ida Odinga, underscored the broader significance of the initiative saying it will ensure that digital inclusion extends to society's most marginalized.



A Close the Gap technician inspects refurbished computers ahead of distribution to correctional facilities.



CONNECTING TO KONZA: THE NATIONAL PLATFORM

The device donation is only one layer of the transformation. At the systemic level, the State Department is implementing the Integrated Correctional Management Information System (ICMIS) a comprehensive digital platform designed to modernise offender management from intake to release.

A strategic meeting between the State Department's technical teams and Konza Technopolis, Kenya's flagship smart city and technology hub, resolved to work in close collaboration on the roll-out. Konza Technopolis CEO John Paul Okwiri confirmed that his organisation would support the department as it moves to implement the platform, which aims to streamline records, improve service delivery, and enhance inter-agency collaboration by digitising case management, incident reporting, and data analytics.

The department has also been embedded in the World Bank's Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project, which will help modernise prison operations, enhance security, and improve rehabilitation by connecting correctional facilities to the internet for virtual learning and automating processes through a single integrated solution.

The convergence of device access, curriculum delivery, internet connectivity, and a unified management information system represents a comprehensive approach one in which Maureen Awuor's journey from inmate to ICT tutor is not an exception, but the blueprint.



Secretary Administration Mr. Sammy Kioko chairs the ICMIS strategic meeting with Konza Technopolis.

“Evidence continues to demonstrate that rehabilitation is most effective where education, digital inclusion, and opportunity converge. Incarcerated persons who access learning and skills programmes are significantly less likely to reoffend upon release.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Syokimau Launch



Mr. Sammy Kioko- Secretary Administration



Delegates at the Pan-African Roundtable Conference on Community Corrections, Nairobi, February 2026.

KENYA LEADS THE PAN-AFRICAN PUSH FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Correctional leaders from across Africa gathered in Nairobi for a landmark two-day conference on alternatives to imprisonment where Kenya emerged not merely as host, but a model.

14+

African countries represented

2

Days of deliberations

1

Joint communiqué adopted

In late February 2026, the corridors of a Nairobi conference venue rang with the voices of correctional leaders from Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Zambia, and the United Kingdom all gathered under the banner of a single, urgent question: what happens when we choose not to **imprison?**

The Pan-African Roundtable Conference on Community Corrections, themed 'Advancing Community Corrections as an Alternative to Imprisonment in Africa,' was organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Penal Reform International (PRI) in partnership with the State Department for Correctional Services, with support from the United Kingdom.

Opening a New Chapter

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen officially opened the conference, framing it as an opportunity to exchange ideas, compare policy frameworks, and leverage strategic partnerships to reform African correctional systems. The conference, he said, would enable participants to share replicable best practices on parole, restorative justice, and community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco used the platform to highlight Kenya's own journey, noting that the country has recorded remarkable gains in promoting community corrections as a cost-effective alternative to incarceration. The Programme for Legal

“

“The deliberations have forged practical commitments and partnerships expected to advance humane, effective and sustainable justice systems across the continent.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Closing Session

Empowerment and Aid Delivery (PLEAD) a partnership between the Government of Kenya, the European Union, UNDP, and civil society organisations has been a central instrument in that progress.

Delegates follow proceedings during the two-day roundtable conference.



Commitments and a Communiqué

When the conference closed on Wednesday, 25 February, it did so with a joint communiqué, a document that Dr. Beacco said would guide continued reforms on alternatives to incarceration across the continent.

Participants had presented country commitments and priority actions aimed at strengthening non-custodial measures and improving reintegration outcomes.

UK Minister for Sentencing, Youth Justice and International Justice, Hon. Jake Richards, affirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to supporting Kenya in enhancing its security architecture, describing the forum as a platform for deliberating on how best to protect the public and reduce crime through non-custodial measures.

The conference came just five months after Kenya hosted the Consultative Workshop to advance the operationalisation of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions a three-day high-level meeting that brought together Chiefs of Correctional Services from fourteen African countries. The twin engagements position Kenya not merely as a participant in continental justice reform, but as one of its primary architects.





CS Murkomen (centre) meets with UK Minister for Sentencing Hon. Jake Richards (second left) ahead of the Pan-African Roundtable Conference on Community Corrections, Nairobi.

PAN-AFRICAN ROUNDTABLE ON COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Nairobi, Kenya - February 2026 - Hosted by the State Department for Correctional Services





STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION

The State Department for Correctional Services has enhanced the Social Crime Prevention Programme, focusing on addressing the causative factors of crime.

Speaking in Narok County during a tour of Kilgoris GK Prison and Kilgoris Probation Station, Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco said the approach is informed by the need to address the root causes of crime rather than merely reacting to offences.

In a region prone to violent inter-community conflicts and sex-related offences, the PS said Narok County is one of the regions where the department, through the Probation and Aftercare Service, has enhanced crime prevention activities.

She underscored the critical role of probation and aftercare in the criminal justice system, urging officers to uphold professionalism in the discharge of their duties.

“As professionals, feel encouraged to help communicate that non-custodial measures are not a soft option; they are a smart, structured, and credible form of justice. They promote accountability, provide close supervision, support rehabilitation, and help reduce unnecessary incarceration,”

said the PS.

Addressing officers at Kilgoris GK Prison, the PS expressed her commitment to ongoing reforms targeting the Kenya Prisons Service, especially on officers' welfare, including salaries and housing.

Besides addressing overall officer welfare, the PS said the department has already embarked on a host of programmes aimed at building capacity, supporting mental health, and enhancing professionalism within the service.

While addressing inmates at the facility, the PS said the government is expanding vocational training programmes in carpentry, tailoring, welding, and formal education with a view to strengthening the department's rehabilitation and reintegration agenda

The PS also donated an assortment of food and non-food items, including mattresses, blankets, wheat flour, and cooking oil to inmates.

During the visit, the PS also led officers and inmates at Kilgoris GK Prison in a tree-planting exercise that saw over 2,000 trees planted.

She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons in charge of Technical Services Jane Kirii, Acting Probation and Aftercare Service Secretary Shadrack Kavutai, Director of Industries Mutembei, and other senior officers drawn from the State Department for Correctional Services.





The newly operationalised Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital at the Kenya Prisons Staff Training College, Ruiru.

MAGEREZA LEVEL 4 HOSPITAL OPENS ITS DOORS

Years in the making, the Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital has begun operations, delivering modern healthcare to prison officers, their families, inmates, and the surrounding community.

150

Bed capacity

56%

Inmates registered under SHA

28,000

Housing units planned for officers

A Hospital Built for Those Who Serve

It began with a presidential directive. Speaking at the 46th Kenya Prisons Service Pass-Out Parade in February 2026, President William Ruto instructed the State Department for Correctional Services to partner with the Kiambu County Government and other government agencies to operationalise the Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital without further delay.

Within weeks, the instruction had turned into reality. On 12 March 2026, Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco and her Medical Services counterpart Dr. Ouma Oluga presided over the operationalisation ceremony, commencing outpatient services at the ultra-modern 150-bed capacity facility located at the Kenya Prisons Staff Training College in Ruiru.

The Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital is named after the late Wanini Kireri, the first woman to serve as Commandant of the Kenya Prisons Staff Training College.

Its facilities reflect an ambition to match the best of Kenya's public health infrastructure: an Intensive Care Unit, a High Dependency Unit, radiology and laboratory services, dental and physiotherapy units, a maternity wing, a paediatric ward, and male and female inpatient wards.

The hospital is intended to serve prison officers and their families, inmates, and the broader surrounding community an expansion of access that reflects the department's whole-of-government philosophy.



Dr. Ouma Oluga, PS Medical Services



“Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental pillar of our National Development Agenda. The Government of Kenya continues to prioritise the strengthening of health systems as a critical component of Universal Health Coverage.”

— Dr. Ouma Oluga, Medical Services PS

A Collaborative Journey

The operationalisation was the product of sustained collaboration. Before the ceremony, PS Beacco had met with Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi to secure county government support for the provision of specialist consultants in paediatrics, obstetrics, and gynaecology, as well as clean water supply. The county administration dispatched a technical team to assess the facility's needs, and subsequently pledged to consider expanding Medically Assisted Therapy clinics at Ruiru and Thika GK Prisons into dispensaries.

Discussions are also underway to formalise a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health and the Kiambu County Government for the deployment of specialist medical personnel. The department is similarly engaging Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital regarding interim use of their mortuary facility pending completion of the hospital's own.

By April 2026, commissioning committees were conducting system integration testing, with inpatient and specialised services set to commence once the full commissioning is complete.



Commissioner General of Prisons Patrick Aranduh receives the operationalization certificate for the Magereza Level IV Hospital

For officers stationed far from urban hospitals, for inmates whose healthcare has been limited to services offered at level one and two facilities, and for families whose access to quality care has depended on proximity to wealth, the opening of Magereza Level 4 Hospital is a signal that the correctional system is, at the very least, taking care of its own.





PS Dr. Salome Beacco presides over the sexual offender treatment programme graduation at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison.

REDEFINED REHABILITATION: FROM PRISONERS TO PROFESSIONALS

Sexual offender treatment, daycare centres, financial literacy, university partnerships, and a focus on the whole person: Kenya's rehabilitation agenda is evolving into something genuinely transformative.

On a Tuesday morning in March 2026, ninety men stood in a hall at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison some of them virtually present from Naivasha and Kisumu Maximum Security Prisons and received certificates. They had completed an eight-month sexual offender treatment programme: eleven modules covering cognitive restructuring, victim empathy, relapse prevention, emotional management, and the Sexual Offences Act.

The ceremony was sober in tone but consequentially significant. Kenya's convicted population stands at almost 37,000 inmates, of whom 11,108 -approximately 31 per cent - are serving sentences related to sexual offences. Defilement accounts for 78.3 per cent of those cases, with the majority of those convicted being young offenders.

Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco, who presided over the graduation, was forthright: "This is not simply a correctional services issue. It is a justice sector challenge that requires collective reflection and coordinated institutional response."

90

Inmates complete sexual offender programme

31%

Convicted inmates serving for sexual offences

46

Women prisons targeted for daycare centres



An inmate receives a certificate at the Kamiti sexual offender graduation.

“

“Justice continues through rehabilitation, reintegration, and sustained collaboration across institutions to prevent future harm.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Kamiti
Graduation Ceremony

Children Behind Bars: The Daycare Initiative

A parallel dimension of the rehabilitation agenda focuses not on offenders, but on children who live with their incarcerated mothers. The State Department is working with partners to ensure that all 46 women prisons in the country are equipped with fully furnished daycare centres, complete with play areas and nurseries.

The concept, being developed in partnership with a host of stakeholders including Freedom from Within Kenya CEO Dr. Mary Waceke, is designed to provide more nurturing environments for children while simultaneously freeing their mothers to engage more fully in rehabilitation and vocational training. Freedom from Within Kenya, in partnership with the Triad Foundation, is already constructing a dedicated mother-and-child unit at Embu Women's Prison.

Financial Literacy: Addressing the Root cause

The department has also integrated financial literacy into its reform agenda, operating on the insight that there is a direct correlation between financial vulnerability and crime.

The programme, delivered in partnership with SBM Bank Kenya, targets both inmates and staff, with SBM CEO Bhartesh Shah confirming that the bank has already initiated programmes within correctional settings designed to build financial resilience.

University Partnerships: Degrees Behind Bars

At the highest level of educational ambition, the State Department is forging partnerships with institutions of higher learning. In a meeting with KCA University Vice Chancellor Professor Isaiah Wakindiki, PS Beacco cited the remarkable milestone of eleven people under the supervision of the department graduating with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London in November 2024, while a former inmate graduated with a degree in medicine.

KCA University has pledged to develop a curriculum covering courses of various durations, particularly in business and technology, to support ongoing rehabilitation. The two parties also agreed to explore the possibility of helping Marimanti GK Prison develop a model agri-processing facility that would enhance food security and offer vocational training.

The initiatives, ranging from sexual offender therapy to daycare centres, financial literacy to degree programmes reflect a rehabilitation philosophy that addresses holistic rehabilitation and reformation: one's past, present responsibilities, and future potential.

OPENING MINDS, OPENING DOORS: THE KAMAE HYBRID LIBRARY

A new hybrid library at Kamae Girls Borstal Institution gives young offenders access to books, digital tools, and a world of alternatives backed by an international partnership committed to education as rehabilitation.

2

Institutions served

Hybrid

Physical & digital resources

ICAN

Int'l Children's Aid Network



The newly launched hybrid library at Kamae Girls Borstal Institution equipped with bookshelves, computers, a smart TV, and a broad collection of educational materials.

A hybrid library has been launched at the Kamae Girls Borstal Institution as the State Department for Correctional Services moves to enhance its reformation and rehabilitation efforts targeting young offenders.

Supported by the International Children's Aid Network (ICAN), the learning centre provides both physical and digital learning resources for the beneficiaries, including those from the neighbouring Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Centre.

Speaking during the launch, Acting Probation and Aftercare Service Secretary Shadrack Kavutai, representing the Principal Secretary, said the resource centre would greatly enhance rehabilitation by providing learners with access to a wide array of educational materials that promote a conducive environment for learning.

"Education remains one of the most powerful instruments of empowerment and rehabilitation available within the correctional landscape," he observed.

Kavutai said the department is increasingly focusing on creating opportunities that facilitate personal growth, character development, and social reintegration, adding that the establishment of the facility aligns perfectly with the restoration and reintegration agenda.

"Exposure to books opens the mind to curiosity. This hybrid library will open a world of alternatives for the beneficiaries."

- Dr. Marc Hauser, Co-Founder,
International Children's Aid Network



Left: Acting Secretary Shadrack Kavutai and ICAN co-founder Dr. Marc Hauser unveil the library plaque at Kamae Girls Borstal Institution. Right: Officials browse the library's collection during the launch.

While thanking ICAN for its continued support, Kavutai noted that the positive outcomes of the collaboration demonstrate the transformative power of education and the importance of strategic partnerships in correctional programming.

Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons in charge of Technical Services Jane Kirii described the launch as a demonstration of Kenya Prisons Service's belief in empowering young offenders through decent education and personal growth.

Education and Training Director at the State Department Dr. Margaret Mutuma termed the development a testament to the department's commitment to positively transforming the lives of children in conflict with the law through education.

The facility serves both Kamae Girls Borstal Institution and the neighbouring Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Centre, extending its reach to a wider population of young people within the juvenile correctional system.

The Library in pictures





GREENING KENYA: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES LEADS PUSH TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Every first Thursday of the month, officers and inmates across Kenya's correctional facilities suspend their daily schedules and embark on a mission to save the globe. The results, over 6 million trees planted toward the national target of 15 billion.

It has become a rhythm of institutional life. On the first Thursday of each month, correctional facilities across the country; from the rain-shadowed plains of Kitui to the fertile slopes of Murang'a, to the shores of Lake Naivasha, transform into sites of environmental restoration.

The monthly tree-planting campaign is part of the State Department for Correctional Services' contribution to President William Ruto's National Tree Growing and Restoration Campaign, which targets the planting of 15 billion trees by 2032 to combat climate change and restore 10.6 million hectares of degraded land.

6M+

Trees planted by the department

76

Departmental tree nurseries

1.87M

Mature seedlings ready for planting

Murang'a: Orchards, Forests and Second Chances

At Murang'a GK Prison in March 2026, PS Beacco led officers in planting over 2,000 seedlings within the facility grounds. She stressed not just the act of planting, but the commitment to nurturing, calling on officers to tend seedlings to maturity and to create orchards that would simultaneously restore the environment and produce food within correctional facilities.

Murang'a GK Prison has already achieved a 30 per cent forest cover within its grounds, a testament to years of sustained conservation effort by its officers. During the same visit, the PS toured the Murang'a Probation Station, addressed inmates at the men's and women's prisons, and challenged probation officers to build their capacity to respond to emerging, technology-driven crime trends.



“

“In planting a tree, we declare faith in renewal. Intending it, we cultivate patience and responsible stewardship. And when it takes root and thrives, it stands as a living symbol of successful reintegration.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Murang'a GK Prison

Naivasha: 7,000 Trees and a Welfare Assurance

At Naivasha GK Medium Prison in April, over 7,000 trees were planted in a single exercise that brought together officers from Naivasha GK Maximum Prison, Naivasha Medium Prison, and Naivasha Women's Prison. Speaking to the assembled officers, the PS reiterated the government's commitment to improving welfare, including the transition to the Usalama cover scheme under the Social Health Authority.

Kitui: Climate Resilience in the Drylands

The May planting, held at Kitui GK Prison Command, added a further 5,000 trees to the department's running tally. Schoolchildren from the Kitui prison pre-school and Central Primary School joined officers in the planting exercise, a powerful image of rehabilitation, community, and environmental stewardship woven together.

In Kitui, where significant environmental challenges make climate resilience a matter of livelihoods rather than abstraction, the PS framed the exercise in terms of the department's broader community mandate: “Environmental conservation is a collective responsibility, and the State Department for Correctional Services remains committed to playing a practical and meaningful role in this endeavour.”

With 76 departmental nurseries across the country and a monthly planting rhythm now institutionalised in operational calendars, the department's environmental programme has moved well beyond symbolic gesture into systemic practice.



Tree Planting in pictures





TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: WELFARE, HOUSING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

From a new Public-Private Partnership housing model to clean cooking, financial management training and the honouring of retiring officers, the department is building the internal foundations of a service of excellence.

A correctional service is only as strong as the officers who sustain it. That conviction has shaped a welfare and accountability agenda that, in the first half of 2026, has moved on multiple fronts. 10.6 million hectares of degraded land.

Housing: A PPP Model for the Future

The housing challenge within the Kenya Prisons Service is longstanding and acute. To address it, the State Department is adopting a Public-Private Partnership model, structured around the Kenya Defence Forces housing scheme, under which private entities finance housing units, hand the mover to the relevant government agency, and recover costs over a fixed period, with the housing fund acting as a capital markets guarantee.

A meeting convened by PS Beacco, which brought together the Defence PS, the Inspector General of Police, the Commissioner General of Prisons, and representatives from the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, resolved to constitute a joint technical team supported by the Directorate of Public Private Partnerships to develop the modalities. The plan will complement the government's broader target of 28,000 institutional housing units for correctional services, 30 percent of which are already under construction.



Honouring Those Who Served

In May, the department held a ceremony to honour senior officers who had recently retired from service. The event, held at a Nairobi hotel and presided over by PS Beacco, recognized the contributions of former Probation and Aftercare Service Secretary Dr. Christine Obondi, former Head of Supply Chain Management George Mwaura, former Head of Accounts Johnson Njuguna, and former Secretary Administration Peter Wanjohi, among others.

“

“Public Service demands discipline, patience, consistency, and an unwavering sense of patriotism. Without doubt, you all epitomised these values, serving diligently, upholding standards, and advancing our mandate.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Officers’ Retirement Ceremony

Dr. Obondi, speaking on behalf of the retirees after 35 years in public service, expressed gratitude for the recognition and commended the PS for her role in revolutionising correctional services. The ceremony was, as Probation and Aftercare Service Acting Secretary Shadrack Kavutai observed, a celebration of milestones realised across decades of institutional growth.





LPG cooking equipment at Lang'ata Women's Maximum Prison, the first facility to fully complete the clean cooking transition

FROM SMOKE TO SOLUTIONS

Across 135 correctional facilities, a quiet but consequential green shift is underway one kitchen at a time.

135

Facilities targeted for transition

Prisons are rarely discussed as environmental actors. Yet across Kenya's 135 correctional facilities, kitchens operate around the clock, meals are prepared three times a day, and the fuel that has made all of it possible for generations is wood.

Unsustainably harvested. Inefficiently burned. Costly in ways the sector has rarely been asked to count.

The State Department for Correctional Services has decided to count and to act.

“A complete shift to cleaner, non-solid fuels will improve indoor air quality, improving health outcomes for those living within correctional settings.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco

2

Facilities already completed

The Case for Change

Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco has initiated the process of adopting clean cooking across all 135 prison facilities, using the Rapid Results Initiative strategy to migrate from wood fuel to cleaner alternatives.

The motivation is both environmental and financial. The cost of wood fuel constitutes a significant budgetary burden, with substantial funds spent annually on firewood for cooking across the entire system. Beyond the money, the environmental cost of institutional wood consumption operating at scale, across more than a hundred sites, every single day is a direct contradiction of the department's own ambitious green agenda

A technical committee comprising officers from the department and experts drawn from relevant government ministries, including environment and energy, has been constituted to develop and implement the plan. The full transition is targeted for completion by the end of the next financial year.

The transition is already underway and it has produced two distinct models worth noting.

Lang'ata Women's Maximum Prison has successfully transitioned to modern LPG gas cookers in its kitchen, enhancing safety and reducing smoke exposure while also reducing operational costs. It is the template for the LPG rollout across the remaining facilities.



Biogas digester at Embu Women's Prison; converting organic and human waste into clean renewable energy for cooking

Embu Women's Prison has gone further still. The facility has achieved a 100 per cent transition from firewood to clean biogas for cooking, through the conversion of organic and human waste into renewable energy. It is not merely a cleaner kitchen it is a circular energy system, turning what would otherwise be waste into the fuel that feeds the facility.

In the language of green infrastructure, it is one of the most complete examples in Kenya's public sector.

Together, the two facilities represent the range of what is possible: LPG as a scalable, immediately deployable solution; biogas as the more ambitious, self-sustaining model the sector can grow toward.

Both are operational. Both work. And both point in the same direction.

Green Solutions, in Practice

The clean cooking transition sits at the heart of what the Correctional Service Week and Conference 2026 themed Transforming Correctional Services through Technology and Green Solutions has been designed to demonstrate: that green solutions in Kenya's correctional institutions are not proposals on a conference agenda, but realities already operating on the ground.

Lang'ata's kitchen and Embu's biogas system are both ready for that stage.

The initiative also reinforces a broader institutional commitment. A department that has already planted over 6.8 million trees across its facilities, and that runs 76 departmental nurseries contributing to Kenya's national restoration targets, cannot afford to operate kitchens that consume wood in industrial quantities. The LPG and biogas transition ensures the department's environmental commitment is consistent not confined to one Thursday a month, but embedded in how its institutions operate every single day.

The transition of Kenya's 135 correctional facilities from wood fuel to clean cooking solutions is being implemented under the Rapid Results Initiative framework. Lang'ata Women's Maximum Prison (LPG) and Embu Women's Prison (biogas) serve as the operational pilots and models for national rollout.



CONCRETE CHANGE: BEAUTIFYING KENYA'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

From dusty compounds to paved walkways, flower gardens to freshly painted walls, newly built halls to landscaped grounds, a department-wide beautification drive is transforming the physical face of Kenya's correctional institutions.

The State Department for Correctional Services is in the middle of one of the most visible infrastructure drives in its history. Across prisons and probation stations, compounds are being paved with cabro blocks, walls painted, gardens planted, halls constructed, and grounds landscaped a physical transformation reshaping how Kenya's correctional facilities look, feel, and function for officers, inmates, and the communities they serve.

But this is not just a beautification drive, but the realization that improving and beautifying these spaces fosters a reflective sense of well being.

With a focus on mainstreaming mental health and wellbeing, the State Department for Correctional Services has prioritized holistic wellness for both staff and inmates with environmental improvement identified as one of the key ingredients.

At the centre of the programme are cabro block making machines deployed at select facilities, each capable of producing 2,000 blocks per eight-hour shift. The machines are few, but their impact is growing with inmates trained to operate them gaining marketable vocational skills alongside the paving work.

"These machines are not just tools for production; they are instruments of transformation. They align perfectly with our mission to rehabilitate and empower inmates by providing them with vocational skills that are relevant and marketoriented."

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco,

From Kamiti Medium Prison to Mombasa Remand Prison, and across probation stations countrywide, the results are visible; cleaner, healthier, more dignified spaces that reflect a correctional service that takes both its mission and its people seriously.

From cabro blocks rolling off the machine to paved compounds, painted walls, flower gardens and newly constructed halls Kenya's correctional facilities are being transformed from the ground up.





LEGAL AID, DISABILITY INCLUSION, AND THE HUMAN FACE OF JUSTICE

Two milestones in April and May 2026 marked a deeper commitment to dignity within the correctional system: the launch of a legal aid centre at Nakuru, and the launch of a nationwide disability registration campaign.

Justice is not only about what happens in a courtroom. For the thousands of men and women held in Kenya's correctional facilities many of whom are awaiting trial, not fully aware of their rights, some with disabilities and unrecognised, theirs is a puzzling wait, one that is dependent on access, information, and representation.

Legal Aid Comes to Nakuru

On 22 April 2026, Attorney General Dorcas Oduor launched the fourth legal aid service centre at the Nakuru GK Command. The centre, which targets persons in prison and vulnerable groups within the region, will provide services covering land matters, children in conflict with the law, civil disputes,

constitutional rights, public interest litigation, and probate and administration.

Speaking at the launch, Attorney General Oduor said the centre was testament to a government commitment to ensuring that justice in Kenya is inclusive, equitable, and humane and that services reach those who need them most.

Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs PS Judith Pareno acknowledged the specific challenge facing those within the correctional system: many are navigating complex legal processes without representation, some are awaiting trial for extended periods, and others do not understand the status of their own cases.



Dorcas Agik Oduor, SC, EGH
Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya

According to Correctional Services Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco, the roll-out of legal aid services reflects a Whole-of Government approach, bringing institutions together to ensure access to justice, uphold human dignity, and strengthen the rule of law within the correctional framework.



Judith Pareno
PS Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs

Recognised, Respected, Restored: Registering Inmates with Disabilities

In May 2026, the State Department partnered with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to launch a targeted campaign to register inmates with disabilities across the country's correctional facilities. The campaign, named 'Recognised, Respected, Restored,' kicked off at the Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Security Prison on 12 May 2026, where at least 200 people were registered on the first day.

The impetus for the campaign was a simple and troubling observation: many inmates with disabilities had never been registered with the National Council for Persons with Disability, leaving their unique needs unmet. Without a Disability Registration Number, these individuals could not access the rights, benefits, and support including assistive devices, specialised care, and tailored rehabilitation programmes to which they are entitled.

The campaign is designed to ensure that registration does not end at the prison gate. By linking correctional facilities with the Disability Council, the initiative bridges incarceration and inclusion, ensuring that support for inmates with disabilities continues beyond their release and into reintegration.

Together, these two initiatives – legal aid and disability registration – reflect a correctional philosophy that insists on the full humanity of those within the system. They are, as PS Beacco has consistently articulated, the practical expression of a system that is not merely custodial, but transformative.

“

“If we come together and collaborate, correctional institutions will be the home of second chances.”

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco

PWDs registration at Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Security Prison, 12 May 2026.



Launch of the fourth legal aid service centre at Nakuru GK Command, 22 April 2026.





CS Kipchumba Murkomen addresses senior officials during a high-level reform engagement.

LEADING FROM THE FRONT REFORM, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE PUSH FOR EXCELLENCE

From Cabinet directives to departmental performance reviews, Kenya's correctional leadership is building the governance foundations that will determine whether the reforms of 2026 outlast the moment.

The meeting rooms tell the story. In one, Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen sits with senior officials from the State Department for Correctional Services and lays out a reform agenda tied explicitly to the Kenya Kwanza administration's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda: correctional services repositioned not as a custodial afterthought, but as a key pillar of national development. In another, Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco convenes Heads of Departments in Naivasha and asks a harder question: are we actually delivering?

Together, the two engagements define where Kenya's correctional leadership stands in the first half of 2026: ambitious about

transformation, and serious about accountability.

A Reform Agenda with Teeth

CS Murkomen's directive to the State Department was clear and structural. The reform strategy, he said, seeks to turn correctional facilities into institutions that generate economic value, build skills, and deliver effective rehabilitation not merely hold people. Key interventions include the mechanisation and modernisation of prison farms and industries, the commercialisation of prison production systems, and the productive use of underused prison land to boost food security.



PS Dr. Salome Beacco presents reform progress at the 14th National Development Implementation Committee meeting.

PS Dr. Salome Beacco outlines the State Department's reform milestones at a national governance review. Salary Phase III takes effect July 2026.

The government is simultaneously implementing Presidential Directives aimed at unlocking prison land in selected urban areas for the Affordable Housing Programme, while accelerating the completion of stalled infrastructure projects including the 28,000 institutional housing units for officers, 30 per cent of which are already under construction.

The State Department presented its progress at the 14th National Development Implementation Committee meeting on Governance and Public Administration, where PS Beacco highlighted gains made through a whole-of-government approach. Among the milestones she outlined: Phase I and II salary reviews already implemented, with Phase III taking effect in July 2026; integration into the World Bank's Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project to modernise prison operations and expand digital rehabilitation; and perhaps most significantly the Correctional Services Bill and Policy now at an

advanced stage and ready for Cabinet consideration, a reform that would fundamentally strengthen the legal and institutional framework of the entire system.

The department is also exploring an initiative that speaks directly to reintegration: enabling reformed offenders to access police clearance certificates, reducing one of the practical barriers that pushes released individuals back toward vulnerability.

"These reforms are about creating a correctional system that is efficient, humane, and responsive to the needs of both officers and offenders."

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, NDIC Governance Sub-Committee



PS Beacco chairs the Heads of Departments performance review in Naivasha; Officials hold signed performance contract booklets

Senior departmental officials hold signed second-level performance contracts following a review convened by PS Dr. Salome Beacco in Naivasha.

Accountability as Leadership

If the CS meeting set the direction, the Naivasha engagement with Heads of Departments was about holding the institution to it.

Speaking to senior officials, PS Beacco was direct. 'We must remain committed to delivering our mandate with efficiency, integrity, and accountability, while ensuring public resources are used prudently for the benefit of the citizenry.' She underscored that transparency and responsible resource management are not bureaucratic requirements they are the conditions under which public trust is built and maintained.

The engagement served as a strategic review: assessing ongoing initiatives, strengthening interdepartmental coordination, and ensuring

that the work happening in the field aligns with the State Department's mandate and the government's broader priorities.

She challenged Heads of Departments to adopt structured internal feedback mechanisms, foster cross-directorate collaboration, and meet operational challenges with practical innovation rather than procedural inertia.

She also opened a five-day Human Resource Management and Development sensitisation programme for senior officers a structured investment in the institutional capacity of the people who will actually implement the reform agenda.

The Corrections

The accountability infrastructure was further reinforced in February when CS Murkomen presided over the signing of second-level performance contracts for three state departments and government agencies under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration aligning departmental operations with national priorities and enforcing results-based management



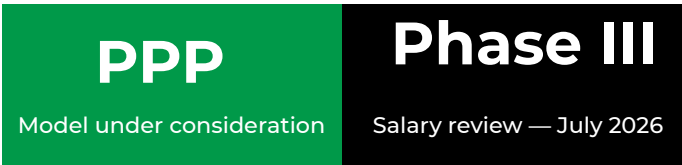
"We must remain committed to delivering our mandate with efficiency, integrity and accountability, while ensuring public resources are used prudently for the benefit of the citizenry."

— PS Dr. Salome Beacco, Naivasha HOD Review

The Logic of Reform

The connection between these two engagements is not coincidental. A reform agenda announced from above only holds if the organisation beneath it is equipped, aligned, and accountable. The Naivasha review and the Nairobi directive are two sides of the same institutional logic: the government is setting ambitious targets, and it is building the governance machinery to track whether they are being met.

The challenge now is not articulating the vision it is the daily, institution-by-institution work of making it real.





Kenya and Minas Gerais delegations at the steps of an APAC facility, holding both national flags

WHERE WALLS DON'T MAKE A PRISON

Kenya's correctional leadership travelled to Brazil and found something that cannot be built with concrete a system where rehabilitation is not a programme, but a way of life.

5 DAYS
In Brazil

APAC
Model explored

EU + UNODC
Partners

There is a correctional facility in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, where the gates open from the inside.

Not literally — the men housed within are serving sentences handed down by courts of law. But the spirit of the place operates on a different logic from most prisons in the world. The inmates called recuperandos, those in recovery manage their own daily routines, maintain order among themselves, attend counselling, study, and work.

There are no armed guards inside the walls. The community itself is the mechanism of accountability. **And it works.**

This is the APAC model one of the most extensively studied correctional reform systems in the world and in May 2026, a high-level delegation from Kenya's State

Department for Correctional Services travelled to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, to understand it not from a policy document, but from the inside.

What they found has profound implications for the future of corrections in Kenya.

The delegation was led by Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco, and comprised Commissioner General of Prisons Mr. Patrick Mwiti Aranduh, Secretary for Probation and Aftercare Services Mr. Shadrack Kavutai, and senior officers from across the Department.

The five-day mission ran from 11 to 15 May 2026, under the UNODC/PLEAD Programme a European Union-funded initiative supporting access to justice and alternatives to imprisonment facilitated in partnership with the

Government of Brazil, FBAC, and AVSI Brazil and Kenya.

The programme gave the delegation exposure at every level of the APAC system from its policy architecture down to the lived reality of daily life inside an APAC facility.

“Treating a person with dignity is not a reward for good behaviour. It is the foundation from which goodbehaviour grows.”

A DIFFERENT ARCHITECTURE OF JUSTICE

APAC - Associação de Proteção e Assistência aos Condenados was not designed in a government ministry. It grew from a community that asked a simple but radical question: what if we treated convicted persons as human beings capable of change, and built an entire correctional system around that belief?

The answer, developed over decades and administered nationally by FBAC, has outlasted scepticism and accumulated evidence. Family participation is structured into the programme as a cornerstone of rehabilitation. Spiritual and psychological support are daily fixtures. Education and vocational training are the curriculum of recovery. And accountability comes not from surveillance, but from community.



Kenyan delegation in formal meeting with APAC and FBAC representatives

And at FBAC headquarters in Itaúna the organisational heart from which the APAC spirit is trained and shared across Brazil and

the world the delegation received not just knowledge, but a relationship.

A symbolic artwork exchanged between delegations marked something more than a courtesy visit. It marked Kenya's formal entry into a global conversation about what justice, done humanely, can accomplish.

The breadth of partners across the mission reflected the international significance of this engagement. The Government of Brazil, the EU Delegation, FBAC, UNODC, and AVSI Brazil and Kenya represent a coalition united by the conviction that investing in rehabilitation is not idealism. It is good governance.

he results are documented and consistent. Recidivism rates at APAC facilities fall dramatically below Brazil's national average. The cost per inmate is substantially lower than in conventional prisons. And the quality of reintegration men who return with skills, restored relationships, and a rebuilt sense of identity reflects what happens when a system invests in the person, not just the sentence.

The Kenyan delegation walked through this. They saw the order, the purposefulness, the calm. They held substantive discussions at the Secretariat of Justice and Public Security of Minas Gerais, learning how policy, civil society, and facility administration sustain this model at scale.

KENYA'S OWN STORY

It would be a mistake to read this mission as Kenya arriving at an idea it has not yet encountered. The truth is closer to the opposite.

Kenya's State Department for Correctional Services has been building the philosophical and structural foundations of a rehabilitation-centred system for years. The 3,860 Kenya Prisons Service recruits who graduated at the 46th Pass-Out Parade in February 2026 joined a service undergoing significant transformation with phased salary reforms, expanded healthcare, and a mental wellness framework in active development.

The tree-planting programme, with over 6.8 million trees already planted across institutions, reflects a Department that

understands its role in the broader national agenda. The Wanini Kireri Magereza Level 4 Hospital, now operational, signals that inmate welfare is a serious institutional commitment.

The National Correctional Services Bill and Policy in its final stages ahead of Cabinet consideration will provide the modern legal framework within which all of this work can be codified and accelerated. It will mark one of the most significant shifts in Kenya's correctional history.

What Brazil offered was not a new direction. It offered confirmation that the direction Kenya is already moving is the right one and a living demonstration of how far that direction can go when pursued with sustained will and institutional discipline.

"Kenya has seen what transformation looks like. The work of building it here continues and it is already well underway."



Kenyan and FBAC delegations at FBAC Headquarters



Kenyan delegation in formal meeting with APAC and FBAC representatives

THE STANDARD WE ARE SETTING

As Kenya prepares to host the Correctional Service Week and Conference 2026, under the theme Transforming Correctional Services through Technology and Green Solutions, the conversation will turn to what kind of correctional service Kenya intends to be not just for the next budget cycle, but for the next generation.

The Brazil mission has sharpened that vision. It has shown that a correctional system grounded in rehabilitation produces better security outcomes, stronger communities, and a more just society.

It has demonstrated that dignity and accountability are not opposites— that when you build one, you get the other. And it has reminded Kenya's correctional leadership that the ambition embedded in *Kurekebisha na Haki* Rehabilitation and Justice is not aspirational language. It is an achievable standard.

The gates in Minas Gerais open from the inside because the men within have been given a reason to respect what those gates represent. That is not a small thing. That is the whole thing. And Kenya is paying attention.

The Benchmarking and learning exchange visit to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 11–15 May 2026. Conducted under the UNODC PLEAD Programme, supported by the European Union.



Maurine Awuor receives her certificate from First Lady Rachel Ruto in Shimo la Tewa GK Prison on May 15, 2025

STRENGTH TO STAND AGAIN: THE STORY OF MAUREEN AWUOR

Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies. A line from the 1994 film *The Shawshank Redemption*, uttered by Andy Dufresne, a movie character, who despite spending so much time in prison, did not lose hope.

Optimism embodied in Maureen Awuor, a 42-year-old mother of three and an ex-convict at the Shimo La Tewa Women Maximum security prison, positivity that was lacking when she entered the prison gate.

For Maureen who was born in Busia County before settling in Mombasa, the 6th of March 2024 will forever remain etched in her mind, the day the court pronounced itself, directing that she serves time at the facility for the crime of obtaining money by false pretense.

The decision by the court was as devastating as was humbling, the walls closing in on her not just physically but mentally.

For a single mother, whose teaching career was now at crossroads and faced with the reality of being separated from her children for six years, the obtaining situation was baffling and confusing. The reality of transitioning from class lectures to counting hours behind bars finally dawning on her in an episode that would later reignite her never give up spirit.

Eight months into her sentence, the chance to reinvent herself would present itself, this time through a digital literacy programme introduced at the correctional facility.

The programme was supported by Close the Gap, a social enterprise that refurbishes IT equipment, with the organisation donating computers through **CEO Olivier Eynde**, and Tech **Kidz Africa**, a technology academy providing the training.

The opportunity, alongside five of her fellow inmates, would re-open her world anew.

She immersed herself into the world of digital technology in a training that covered a wide range of skills ranging from computer maintenance to website development, graphic design as well as Microsoft Office tools.

Fully determined to expand her knowledge, the academic expedition would progress, graduating with a certificate that was presented to her by First Lady Rachael Ruto alongside Correctional Services Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco.



“I appreciate the opportunity to learn digital literacy while in prison because it has uplifted my confidence and given me hope that there’s life after incarceration. I chose digital literacy because the world is evolving every day and many people prefer to carry out activities digitally.”

— Maureen Awuor, on graduation day

She would later assume the role of a trainer, taking her fellow inmates through digital literacy course while still serving her term. But as fate would have it, her sentence was reduced to six months under probation on appeal, but she had already served a year and eight months in prison.

And on the 18th of November 2025, Maureen would walk out of the gates of Shimo la Tewa women prison, armed not just with new skills but also bearing the scars and lessons of her experience, that would prove pivotal as she moved to reconstruct her life in a society that has always been reluctant to embrace those of her kind.

A month after her release, she would find a job at the Progressive Malindi Academy, a secondary school within Kilifi County, thanks to the ICT skills she acquired during her incarceration. The embrace by the school community, who were never obsessed with her past but the value she could add to her students, acting to reignite her love for the classroom once again.

The opportunity she says presented her with a chance to find her footing as well as an occasion to showcase her transformation and to encourage those behind bars to seize every opportunity for growth.

While appreciating the opportunity presented during her time in prison, Maureen says introduction of such rehabilitative programmes and the continued support from partners presents a bridge back to the society for reformed offenders.

Her time in jail presenting her with an optical prism for the country’s correctional system, that indeed holistic rehabilitation is a powerful tool that can change the course of even the most hardened of reformed offenders.

Hers is a story of transformation, standing not just as a survivor of incarceration but as a testament to the power of opportunity and support.



Kenya Prison Service Officers escorts Kinyua through the prison gate; Maranjau GK Prison

A NEW DAWN FOR JOSEPH KINYUA; A STORY OF RESTORATION

Tucked deep inside the sleepy Maranjau village in Murang'a County, stands Maranjau GK Prison, a facility dedicated to reformation and rehabilitation of offenders.

On the morning of 19th February 2026, during his last minutes inside his ward, Joseph Kinyua Mugo silently mumbles and whispers as he offers thanks to God after serving an eighteen-yearsentence and successfully completing requisite rehabilitation programs. Packing his belongings as he prepares for life after prison, his is a deeply personal form of prayer; a heart of gratitude, regardless of circumstances.

Three weeks after a session with the discharge board, it was a new dawn for Kinyua, a free man now seeking to find his footing once again, this time wiser and more informed.

Time having effectively stood still for him during his incarceration, Kinyua barely has no real frame of reference for the changes he will encounter, his only consolation being the

assurances he received from members of his family who often visited him in prison.

As he moved out of the prison gate, the now fully reformed and rehabilitated Kinyua fell into the warm embrace of his family, who included his wife Riberata Wanjiru, this time not for the usual restricted period that allows inmates to connect with family and friends to aid rehabilitation and maintain social bonds, but for a journey back to Kabuti village in his native Kirinyaga County.

It was a special moment for a man whose arrest was a dramatic episode involving armed security personnel, but whose return was now carefully ordered, complete with a convoy and an escort by Kenya Prisons Service officers.

Having been convicted for a robbery with violence offence, Kinyua was handed a death sentence, a ruling that brought his dreams crushing. The sentence would later be commuted to life in prison.



Joseph Kinyua & his wife Riberata Wanjiru outside Maranjau GK Prison



Officer-in-Charge Dr. Humphrey Young Joseph Kinyua & his wife outside Maranjau GK Prison



Kinyua is reunited with family members on his release day



Family and community members celebrate Kinyua's return to Kabuti village, Kirinyaga County

And as fate would have it, Kinyua sentence was reduced to 17 years in prison following a successful appeal, a development that would offer renewed hope to a man who had oscillated between a hangman noose and life in prison.

It was a humbling experience for the father of one, whose dreams of ever tasting freedom appeared distant.

“Not one to resign himself to fate, Kinyua would take advantage of his time in prison by enrolling for a formal education programme.”

For a man who dropped out of school in class four, he took the chance to study up to class six. He would later join vocational training, attaining grade 1 qualification in carpentry. He also holds a diploma in theology. It was during the rehabilitation period that Kinyua was able to build skills and self-worth. According to the officer in charge of the Maranjau GK Prison Dr. Humphrey Young, successful rehabilitation often involves education, vocational training, faith, and mentorship, with results indicating that specialized training can significantly lower recidivism rates.

For those who had chosen the path of reformation before him, the day's events were testament that it is indeed possible to promote a just and secure society through efficient and effective management of offenders and administration of justice.

For his family, it was all gratitude for the Kenya Prisons Service, reflected in its motto **“Rehabilitation and Justice.”** For Kinyua, now aged **44** years after becoming a guest of the state at the age of **27**, it has been along journey, an expedition that has been marked by retrospect and deep personal reflection as he moves to rebuild trust, and a desire to contribute positively to society.

For his family, the long wait for his return home is now over, as they embrace a new dawn.



FROM ERROR TO FORGIVENESS

My Story of Redemption

BY JANE MANYONGE

A former teacher. A daughter of a prison officer. A survivor of domestic violence. In her own words, Jane Manyonge traces the arc from a shattered evening in November 2013 to a liferebuilt—one legal document, one classroom lesson, and one act of forgiveness at a time.

PART I: THE OFFICER'S DAUGHTER

I was born and raised in a close-knit Christian home, the firstborn of a loving but firm mother who believed that discipline was the foundation of character. Though fifteen years have passed since she left this world, her voice still echoes in my heart.

My life has come full circle in a way I never imagined. My father was a prison officer who retired in 1990. My childhood was spent moving between stations—Kodiaga, King'ong'o, Marsabit, and Naivasha. I was born at Kamiti, his first posting. I remember watching him pass bread or milk to the inmates assigned to tend the grass around our quarters. It never crossed my mind that his own daughter would one day be behind bars. Life has a way of humbling us. Now, at ninety years old, my father remains my pillar. My greatest prayer is to be reunited with him upon my release.

Throughout my youth, I was bubbly, diligent, and social. My talent for public speaking emerged in primary school—I never feared an audience. That confidence was sometimes mistaken for arrogance, but it was simply a gift. My fluency in English was forged through debates and the mentorship of a kind teacher, Ms. Marylne Fisher. As a teacher in Nairobi for more than fifteen years, my voice was my tool. I always encouraged my students to master the language—not as a performance, but as a bridge to the world.

"I am leaving prison more valuable than when I entered. I was carved by fire and refined by the law."

— Jane Manyonge

PART II: THE BURSTING BUBBLE

Marriage is a sacred union. For years, I lived inside what I can only describe as a bubble of love. But slowly, the scales fell from my eyes. Behind closed doors, a silent enemy crept in: domestic violence. My world shifted into a cycle of heavy drinking, financial strain, and physical abuse. I became a shadow of myself—my weight dropping from 85kg to 55kg, hiding black eyes behind sunglasses while standing before my students.

November 30th, 2013, changed the course of my life forever. It began as a day of triumph—my church choir had won a trophy, and I was named best conductor. I returned home at 7:30 p.m. only to be met with a violent assault. In a moment of terror, gasping for air as I was being strangled, I reached for a kitchen knife to defend myself. In the struggle, a single swipe changed everything. I watched my spouse fall. To this day, I do not know what had sparked that evening.

PART III: THE WARD OF HEALING

At the police station, I was met by crowds who had come to see the 'alleged murderer.' In the dimly lit cells of Kabete, I whispered to myself: It is not me. I couldn't take a life. The transition to prison was a journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Bitterness and self-hatred consumed me. I looked at my hands and wished they could be severed for what they had done.

But the walls of judgment became walls of transformation. Through prison rehabilitation programmes—counselling sessions, and the guidance of organisations like Justice Defenders and Faraja—I embarked on a journey of soul-searching. I realised that while I could not change the past, I could define my future. I enrolled in paralegal training through Justice Defenders, theological courses, and peer counselling. I am no longer ashamed of my scars; I wear them as medals from a war survived.

PART IV: HOBBIES AND THE FUTURE

Even behind bars, my spirit remains active. I find peace in reading widely, writing, and mentoring. I have embraced French classes, joined a book club, and taken up cross-stitching. I participate in both internal and external moot courts. With a few trusted friends and supportive officers, this place has become, in its own way, a home away from home.

Today, I am an accredited paralegal through Strathmore University—thanks to Justice Defenders—and once more, a teacher. I spend my days drafting legal documents and preparing fellow inmates for their KCPE and KCSE examinations. My mission is clear: I am an advocate against domestic violence. Upon my release, I intend to champion Alternative Dispute Resolution, teaching my community to settle disputes through reconciliation rather than litigation.

I have learnt that the repercussions of crime are dire. The history of being behind bars is like a stubborn stain on a beautiful dress—it does not fade away. Yet I leave more valuable than when I entered. Prison is like a hospital: you never know when you might catch the flu and find yourself in the very ward you once cursed. Before you pass judgment, think deeply. My failure at the beginning is not my end.

Jane Manyonge is an inmate at a Kenya Prisons Service facility. This article was submitted voluntarily as part of The Corrections magazine's commitment to amplifying voices of rehabilitation and reform.



Chief Inspector Mary Nafula Kaburengu

TWO UNIFORMS, ONE CALLING

For 36 years, Chief Inspector Mary Nafula Kaburengu has served Kenya's correctional system with discipline and quiet determination. Her story begins not with a posting, but with a decision to walk back into a classroom at the age of 33, sit beside 15-year-olds, and start again.

On weekdays, she wore a school uniform. On weekends, she wore her Kenya Prisons Service uniform. Same woman, same week, two entirely different worlds and somehow, she made both work.

That image captures something essential about Chief Inspector Mary Nafula Kaburengu, 57, currently serving at Langata Women's Maximum Prison. In 2004, fourteen years into her career with the Kenya Prisons Service, Mary walked through the gates of Kamiti High School as a student. She was 33 years old.

Her classmates were teenagers. Her teachers did not know what to make of her. Neither, for a time, did her family or her employers. She went anyway.

The Long Road Back

Mary's path to the Kenya Prisons Service was not a straight line. Born in Webuye, she completed primary school and trained in tailoring and dressmaking at a vocational centre before spending four years working as a house manager. She enrolled in the service in 1990 as a corporal, and for the next fourteen years she served steadily, quietly, building experience in a system she had come to call home.

But something was missing. She had watched education open doors for others and understood, with the clarity that comes from years of observation, that it would open doors for her too. The requirement for promotion from corporal to sergeant was specific: twenty years of service and a KCSE certificate. Mary had the service. She needed the certificate. So she went back to school.

Suspect Intentions

What followed was not the triumphant return she might have imagined. The school, bewildered by an adult learner in uniform, wrote to Nyayo House requesting an investigation into her motives. She was interviewed not once, not twice by teams trying to understand why a serving prison officer wanted to sit a secondary school examination. Her answer was always the same: she wanted to learn.

At home in Webuye, her family offered little support. They did not understand the decision, continued to depend on her financially, and left her to navigate the workload alone. In the classroom, she sat beside students young enough to be her children, working twice as hard to keep pace with material she had been away from for nearly two decades.

She does not speak of that period with bitterness. "Once you make a choice, stick to it," she says. "Be disciplined and remember life is personal."

"Once you make a choice, stick to it. Be disciplined and remember life is personal."

— Chief Inspector Mary Nafula Kaburengu

In 2007, Mary sat her KCSE and scored a C-. She subsequently enrolled at Riccatti Business College, where she studied Community Development and First Aid. In 2008, having met the requirements of twenty years' service and a KCSE certificate, she was promoted from corporal to sergeant. She had done what she set out to do.

Thirty-Six Years, and Counting

Today, Mary serves as Chief Inspector at Langata Women's Maximum Prison a posting that in many ways

reflects the breadth of what she has become. Beyond her formal command role, she ministers as a chaplain twice weekly at Kibera Law Courts, serves on the County Unified Command working with agencies on crime prevention, and sits on the Gender-Based Violence Committee, where she works to identify root causes and build prevention strategies.

Between 2024 and 2025, she led the decongestion of Langata Women's Prison identifying every eligible inmate, following up on stalled cases, and ensuring that each woman who could be released was released. According to Mary, there are currently no pending cases at Langata. It is a quiet achievement, but in a system often criticised for its backlogs, it is a significant one.

She is also leading Langata's contribution to the national Greening Kenya Initiative a target of 50,000 trees planted by 2027. A borehole project she initiated in 2021 is in its final stages, with a fruit orchard planned to follow.

What Rehabilitation Means to Her

Mary believes, without qualification, that every prisoner can be rehabilitated. For her, the purpose of incarceration is not punishment in isolation but the deliberate equipping of a person to live productively once they leave. It is a conviction rooted partly in professional experience and partly in faith.

She draws on the Ubuntu philosophy I am because we are as the foundation for the work she does with inmates. Her faith anchors this further: she sees every interaction with an inmate as an opportunity to plant something that can grow. "The word of God is a seed," she says. "Once planted, it grows." Her role, as she sees it, is to ensure that every woman who passes through Langata's gates encounters something that points her toward the possibility of change.

"Shape your path and walk in it. When you walk or run in your lane, there is no penalty, there is no traffic."

— Chief Inspector Mary Nafula Kaburengu

Three Years Left

Mary has three years remaining before retirement. She does not speak of that milestone with fatigue, but with the calm of someone who knows exactly what she has built. Thirty-six years in the Kenya Prisons Service. A C- that changed everything. Promotions earned, not given. A prison with no pending cases and 50,000 trees on the way.

She describes the service as her **"green pastures"** an institution that gave her the room to go back to school, to rise, to serve in ways she had not anticipated when she first .

put on the uniform in 1990.

Success, she says, is waking up each morning knowing the work is meaningful. It is walking thirty-six years and arriving at the end without wasted years or regrets.

By that measure, Mary Nafula Kaburengu has already succeeded



Mary Nafula (left) and a friend pose for a photograph during their student days on October 15, 2005.



Mary Nafula (far right) and friends pose for a photograph during their student days on February 2, 2007.

36

Years in service

2007

Year of her KCSE

50K

Trees targeted by 2027



DR. MANU CHANDARIA: THE CONSUMMATE PHILANTHROPIST

In March this year, industrialist and philanthropist Dr. Manu Chandaria was presented with the prestigious National Heroes Award for Lifetime of Philanthropy by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei.

he award was in recognition of his decades-long commitment to philanthropy, healthcare, education, and economic development in Kenya, a fitting tribute to a life devoted to service, generosity, and nation-building that continues to inspire generations.

he award was one of the latest medals and honours conferred to the 97-year-old businessman and philanthropist who for the past 70 years has dedicated himself to

supporting the most vulnerable in the society through provision of critical services.

The impact of his deeds now imprinted within the country's correctional system, with the Chandaria foundation workshops reinforcing the State Department for Correctional Services mandate of rehabilitating, reforming and reintegrating offenders into society.

What started as a pilot project at the Lang'ata women maximum prison has since expanded to Meru, Shimo la Tewa, and Kisumu women prisons with the workshop at Eldoret women prison ready for launch followed by scheduled groundbreaking ceremonies for Nakuru and Nyeri women prisons.



The vision now provides many inmates with a workstation, with the bakery providing quick income streams while the textile and ICT sections provide long-term skills with half of the earnings in the bakery and textile units going directly to the inmates, while the other half is reinvested in raw materials and equipment as a revolving fund.

The programme has seen inmates able to support their families back home from their earnings.

At the bakery section, each cohort works for three to four months, with the outgoing team training the incoming one. According to Chandaria, failing to support a woman in her recovery path after incarceration often impacts society deeply because she is frequently a primary caregiver and could be a catalyst for family breakdown, poverty, and inter-generational trauma.

“Once a woman is sentenced, the family that is left behind will break for a period and the effect of that will be on the children and the society.” He observes.

His satisfaction grounded in the realization that his support is helping women, who would otherwise struggle in their re-integration journey, find a footing by creating dignity in their own survival.

“I thought, how best can we improve the life of a woman, because once she is condemned and comes out of prison with no skills, she will be bitter and the society will not accept her back,”

observes Chandaria.

Changing how society views prisons

The broader impact of the initiative has not only changed the fortunes of the beneficiaries but has also reshaped how society views prisons.

While people used to think of prisons as centres of punishment, the Chandaria workshops are now testament to the new shift where correctional facilities are increasingly transforming into rehabilitation centres by focusing on reintegration rather than mere punishment, employing programs like vocational training, education, and digital literacy to reduce recidivism.

Chandaria says the foundation is looking at the possibility of expanding opportunities within the workshops including equipping them with special equipment to produce sanitary towels for distribution across all women correctional facilities in the country.

Where it all began

Chandaria was born in Nairobi on March 1, 1929, to Indian immigrants who were cognizant of the immense opportunities presented by a decent education.

The conviction from his parents saw Chandaria embark on a quest for knowledge that would take him from primary school in Kenya to secondary and undergraduate studies in India before heading to the United States where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

It is while seeking knowledge in the US that Chandaria would cultivate humility and be influenced by acts of philanthropy from the likes of Henry Ford and John Rockefeller.

On returning home in Kenya in the 1950s, his family's small business was expanding into the aluminum and steel industries and Chandaria would approach his father with the proposal of starting a foundation, a pitch that did not attract support at first. "I guess you have stayed too long in the United States. We are not Rockefeller, we are not Ford, we've got 36 people at home to take care of with our meagre resources, a big hole over here," he would recall the response from his father.

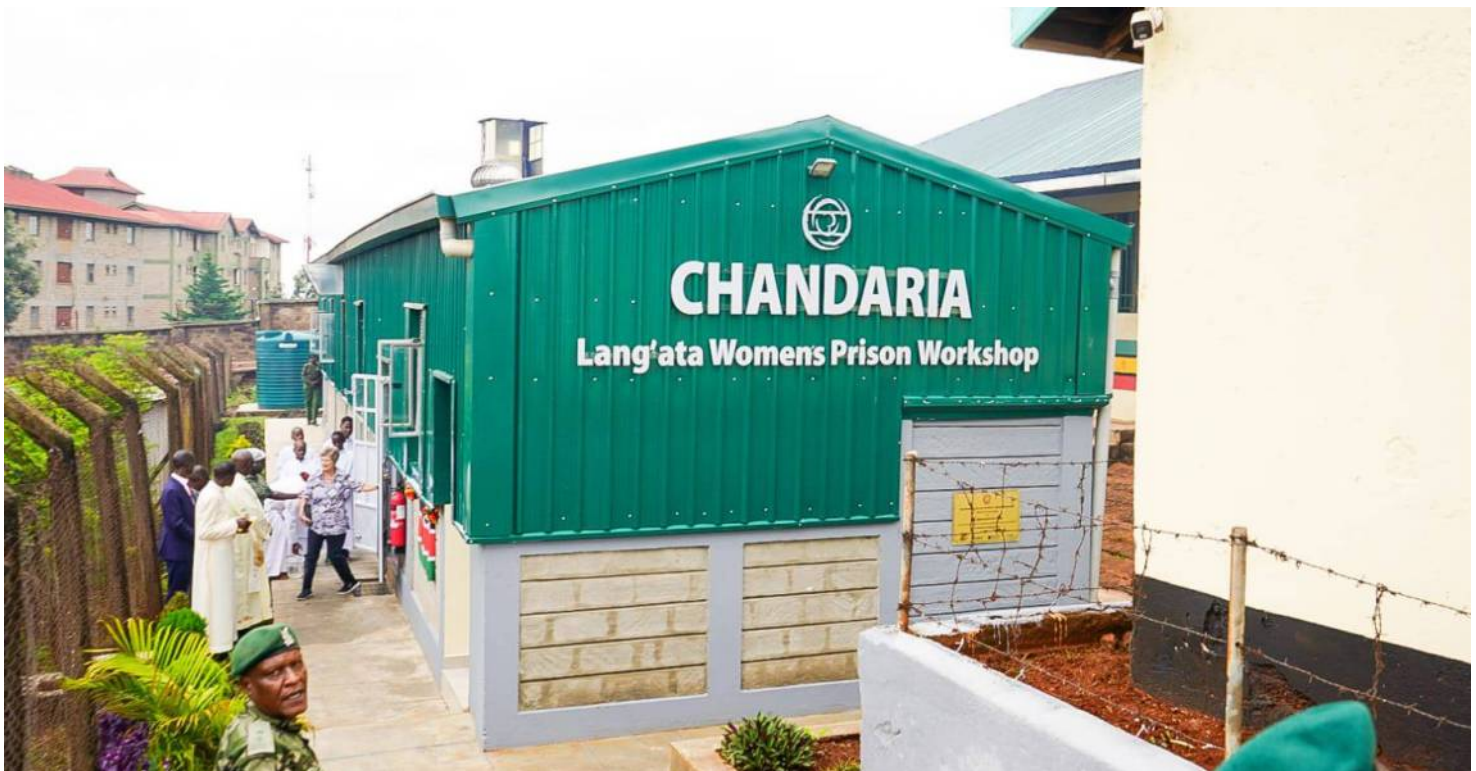
After helping grow Kalu works Limited, within three years of his return, the exponential growth would see his father come back to him and revive the idea of establishing the Chandaria foundation by committing 10% of the company shares to the foundation.

And as they say, the rest is history, and Dr. Chandaria has cemented his position as among the founding fathers of philanthropy in Kenya.

This is Kenya, My Country; I have a responsibility

According to Chandaria, every Kenyan has a responsibility to improve what is good and provide solutions to help advance the country which he says cannot be realized unless one is committed to improving not only their life, but the life of others around them as well.

"Each Kenyan must besides his own existence start feeling the responsibility of our country. It's my country Kenya; I want to play a role and improve something." He posits.



The Chandaria Foundation Workshop at Lang'ata Women's Maximum Prison the pilot facility that launched the programme



ALL SET FOR THE 4TH EDITION OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICE WEEK

The State Department for Correctional Services is adopting innovative technologies and strategies as it seeks to enhance efficiency and sustainability.

he move, according to Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco, is meant to transform correctional facilities into centers of excellence in renewable energy and modern technology.

Speaking as she briefed senior officers from Probation and Aftercare Service, one of the technical units in the department on the 4th edition of the Correctional Service Week set for October, the PS said the department remains committed to supporting the government in implementing sustainability

initiatives to combat climate change and improve the environment.

As part of the commitment, the Principal Secretary said the department has dedicated this year to adoption of technology and green solutions with the fourth edition of the Correctional Service Week and Conference set to showcase milestones realized towards the endeavor.

THEME

"Transforming Correctional Services through Technology and Green Solutions"

13th – 15th October 2026 | The Edge Convention Centre, Nairobi

13–15 OCT

Conference dates

NAIROBI

The Edge Convention Centre

GALA

Awards dinner – 15 October

This year's event slated for 13th to 15th October 2026 will bring together policy makers, practitioners, researchers and academic partners, development partners, non-governmental organisations and members of civil society. The conference will provide a platform to share experiences and ideas on technologies and green solutions that will improve efficiency, rehabilitation, and sustainability within the correctional system.

The conference will bring together

- Policy makers
- Practitioners
- Researchers and academic partners
- Development partners
- Non-governmental organisations
- Members of civil society



Delegates follow proceedings during a plenary session at the 3rd Correctional Service Week and Conference, 2025.

The department is implementing a host of programmes including adopting technology and green solutions as well as digitization of all its services.

The event will see its best performers awarded at a gala dinner to be held on the last day, meant to celebrate their resilience and teamwork in rehabilitating, reforming and safely reintegrating offenders back into society through innovative approaches.

The State Department for Correctional

Services has been in the forefront in supporting Kenya's environmental goals on renewable energy, planting 15 billion trees by 2032 to increase forest cover, and abating greenhouse gas emissions.

This year's Correctional Service Week is intended to build on the previous editions of the conference which have provided vital platforms for strengthening Kenya's justice system by strengthening inter-agency partnerships to enhance offender management and reintegration.

CATALOGUE

The Prisons Enterprises Catalogue is a showcase of the diverse range of products and services produced across our correctional facilities. Guided by rehabilitation and vocational training, inmates are empowered with practical skills that prepare them for meaningful reintegration into society, while at the same time contributing to national development.

Our product portfolio includes:

Woodwork – Premium hardwood furniture for homes, offices, and institutions.

Metalwork – Durable products such as gates, grills, filing cabinets, and institutional fittings.

Handcrafts – Unique artisan pieces including beadwork, carvings, and woven items.

Textiles & Upholstery – Uniforms, office wear, curtains, and high-quality upholstery services.

Agricultural Produce – Fresh farm products, livestock, and value-added food items.

Soaps & Detergents – High-quality cleaning and hygiene products, carefully processed in prison industries.

By choosing Prisons Enterprises, you not only access quality goods at competitive prices, but also support a noble mission: transforming lives through skills, dignity, and productivity.

Our carpentry workshops produce elegant and durable furniture from premium hardwoods such as mvule and mahogany.

Skilled inmate artisans craft products that bring quality, beauty, and strength to homes, offices, and institutions.

Highlights:

Beds – Built for comfort and longevity.

Sofas – Stylish hardwood frames with quality finishes.

Parliamentary Chairs – Prestigious seating for institutions.

Dining & Kitchen Tables – Sturdy and polished for family and hospitality use.

Coffee & Living Room Tables – Classic and modern designs to complement interiors.

Office Furniture – Executive desks, bookshelves, and ergonomic chairs.

Sofas – Elegant living room sets crafted with solid hardwood frames, blending comfort with timeless

Discover more from our full catalogue by scanning the QR code



Prisons Enterprises – Wood Products



KSH, 350,000



KSH, 105,000

KENYA PRISONS SERVICE PRODUCTS

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KSH, 130,000/-



5X6 mahogany devan double bed

KSH, 75,000/-



5 X 6 Mvule Devan double Bed with 2 side lockers

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Beds – Sturdy and stylish hardwood beds designed for long-lasting comfort and support.

Prisons Enterprises – DINING TABLES



8 Seater Mahogany Round Dining Table set with a Revolver on top

KSH, 160,000/-



8 Seater mvule Round Dining Table set with a revolver with antiqued back

KSH, 220,000/-



6 Seater Mahogany Oval Dining Table set

KSH, 160,000/-

Discover more from our full catalogue by scanning the QR code



Prisons Enterprises – Wood Products



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Mahogany Executive Chair

KSH, 25,000/-



Malyslan executive leather Chair

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Prisons Enterprises – Wood Products



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Executive Mvule coffee table with 4 stools

KSH, 50,000/-

Living Room Tables – Coffee and side tables in classic or modern finishes to complete any living space.



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KSH, 2,400/-



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KSH, 15,000/-



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KSH, 250/-



Hardwood Kinu

KSH, 300/-



Miyaa wooven shopping basket

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Handcrafts – Unique handmade items reflecting creativity, culture, and artistry.



Discover more from our full catalogue

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Pri-Aqua is the official bottled water brand from Prisons Enterprises, produced under strict hygiene and modern purification standards. Fresh, pure, and competitively priced, it is ideal for homes, offices, institutions, and events.

Available in:

20-litre . 1 litre . 500ml



Pri-Aqua – Pure Refreshment, Purposefully Made.

The CORRECTIONS



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
State Department for Correctional
Services

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



SAVE THE DATE

Correctional Service Week & Conference 2026

13–15 October 2026 | The Edge Convention Centre, Nairobi | "Transforming Correctional Services through Technology and Green Solutions"



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