



PACS
OFFENDERS CAN CHANGE

PACS NEWSLETTER

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Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services, Ms. Mary M. Muriuki, HSC

“continually employ professionalism in handling clients and their needs by focusing on solutions.”

PS MEETS WITH PACS MANAGEMENT

By: Edwin Kigen

Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services, Ms. Mary M. Muriuki, HSC on 17th January, 2023 together with Secretary PACS, Mrs. Mary Mbau, held a meeting with managers from Stations, Counties, Probation Institutions, Regions and headquarters.

During the meeting, the PS applauded the work performed by PACS in the administration of justice and more so in the rehabilitation of offenders and called upon managers and staff to “continually employ professionalism in handling clients and their needs by focusing on solutions, and working hard towards ensuring that the offenders have been reformed.”

On 17th February 2023 the Principal Secretary attended the losing Ceremony of the Probation Officers Blended Induction Training at Kenya School of Government Baringo.

The Induction, which was undertaken in three phases saw 265 newly recruited Probation Officers undertake the training which was combines online and in-person training.

Understanding the role of a Probation Officer has particular importance to recruits in the Service because it is at the center of the success of the criminal justice system in rehabilitating criminalized persons and preventing recidivism.

The blended induction programme for Probation Officers has contributed towards making officers more professional in managing and rehabilitating offenders serving supervised non-custodial sentences as the Service vouches for a just, safe, secure, and crime-free society.

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Secretary bids farewell to Pamela Masese on her last day in office.

EMPOWERING OFFENDERS WITH TOOLS

By: Joy Riungu

The Secretary of Probation and Aftercare Service, Mary Mbau on 17th February 2023 handed over carpentry and barber tools to offenders at the Baringo County Probation Office. This was part of a country-wide exercise where 57 offenders with technical training in masonry, carpentry, mechanic, hairdressing, painting, welding, electrical and knitting skills were issued under the Aftercare Programme.

Aftercare is a programme aimed at empowering offenders to resettle back into society by engaging in meaningful socio-economic activities. One of the outcomes is to prevent the commission of crimes by offenders leaving various correctional institutions.

Issuing of various tools of trade is one way the aftercare programme ensures that offenders stay away from crime. The tools are issued after a rigorous process to ensure offenders not only have the right skills and attitude but that they are matched to support systems in the community for proper utilization.

Speaking during the event, Mrs. Mbau called upon the offenders to make good use of the tools, as through hard work their lifestyles can be elevated. Wilson* an offender receiving his carpentry tools could not hide his joy, as he happily expressed his ambitions of improving his skills.

Probation Officers will continue to monitor the usage of the tool by the offenders and will observe their social and economic impact on the lives of the offenders.



LEAVING SKILLS BEHIND

By: Joy Riungu

The Secretary of Probation and Aftercare Service, Mary Mbau bid farewell to Deputy Director of Probation Service Pamela Masese who was retiring after 34 years of service. Having changed her career from teaching, Pamela narrates that her decision was occasioned by the need to move out class to serve a wider community.

Madam Masese transferred her service to Probation and Aftercare Service in 2005 as a Senior Probation Officer and rose through the ranks to Deputy Director. After working in the field for 7 years, she was transferred to Headquarters where she provided support on Human Resource Management and Development.

Madam Masese has overseen the recruitment of over half the current population of Probation Officers. Her most memorable work will be the transformation of Probation practice through evidence-based approaches. That was achieved through the development of various curriculums and training manuals. This was possible through hard work, experience, and the passion she had for professionalism in the service.

Pamela urges retiring officers to "leave their skills behind" through the mentorship program that she initiated in the Department.

Changing careers and succeeding is not one of the things she expected. Masese thanks God to have completed her service well.

Looking back, she describes that her first assignment at the Kibera Station was not easy. Although optimistic, she found it both intriguing and interesting.

'I find many people telling me I am lucky to retire. Indeed, I am lucky.' Probation work is not the same as when we entered the service. A lot has changed. The services are provided better because of evidence-based practices are being used and tools of work are available.

Having made her immense contribution to the development of the Service Masese says it is now time to pass the baton and rest.

PACS DATA*

Jan-Mar 2023

20,155

Total number of reports prepared and submitted by Probation Officers to Courts and institutions.

Probation (1,248)

Community Service
(2,714)

Bail information (3,877)

Sentence Review (2,826)

Presentence (8,177)

Social Inquiry (451)

Re-sentencing (27)

Power of Mercy (16)

Restorative Justice (90)

Diversion (19)

Plea Bargaining (34)

Victim Impact Statements

(647)

Pre-trial (-)

Aftercare (23)

Psychiatric (6)

—

5,607

Total number of offenders placed on non-custodial supervision

Probation (2,140)

Community Service
(3,450)

Aftercare (17)

—

44,122

Total number of offenders under community supervision.

**Provisional data*



WORKING ON FOREIGN NATIONAL OFFENDERS CASES

By Joy Riungu

Probation Officers are constantly working on challenging and complex cases. Cases on foreign national offenders particularly present myriad challenges for officers. In the third quarter of the financial year 2022-2023, two hundred and sixteen Social Inquiry Reports on foreign national offenders were prepared and presented by Probation Officers.

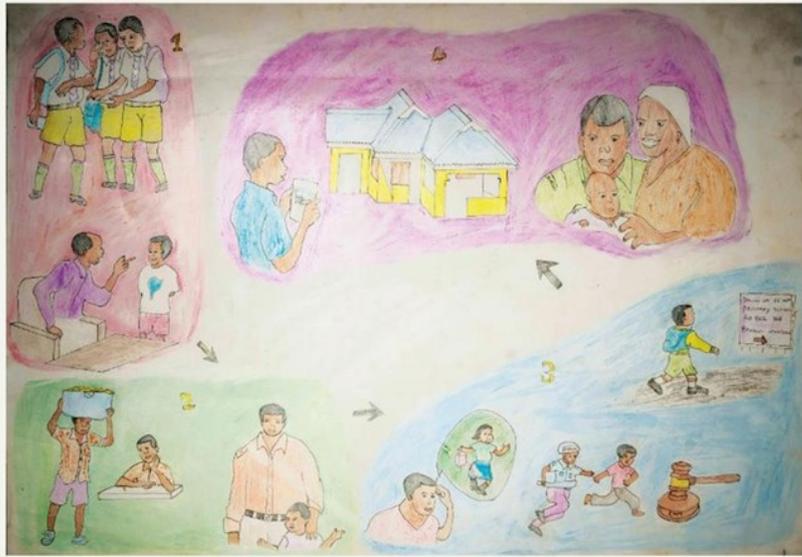
For Probation Officers, it is critical that an accurate depiction of backgrounds and circumstances are well understood as these inform justice dispensing organs on the best approaches to employ. Probation officers working near various transit and border points all have similar challenges. The most common of these are language barriers, tracing contact persons, and verification of background information.

Speaking to Probation Officers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) Probation Station, the approach used in working with foreign national offenders starts with allaying fears and concerns of their immigration status and transit concerns.

Officer-in-Charge at JKIA Probation Station Mr. David Ombaso, says, 'During social inquiries, assessment of risks and needs, and in preparation of the reports, recommendations on rehabilitation measures, resettlement, and reintegration, as well as humanitarian concerns are captured in the reports.'

He explains that, 'It is important to do this, because although community corrections is designed for offenders with fixed places of abode, social inquiry reports on foreign national offenders provide vital information required for decision making on bail and sentencing.'

Working on cases of foreign nationals, 'not only requires resilience and experience, but also requires knowledge and skills on handling related crimes such as trafficking, cases of offenders who were at the first instance victims.'



LESSON LEARNT

In my artwork, I have painted a picture of myself with two different thoughts. The first is the picture of myself with bad thoughts about girls and bad behaviours, I used to have. The second is the picture of myself with different thoughts of good ideas and where I would want to be in my life. I dropped out of school and joined bad boys in the street because of bad thoughts which made me arrested and charged with sexual offence. I am now in the hostel and my behaviors are now changed and always think good things about my life to become a good architect. I have learned that bad thought leads one to bad behaviors and end up in bad life. Good thoughts lead one to behave well and finally end up with good life.

Creative art piece and write up by 14 year old probationer

New National CSO Committee Chairperson

By Edwin Kigen

The new National CSO committee Chairperson Lady Justice Diana Mochache took over from Justice Cecilia Githua whose had term ended. In her 1st assignment after appointment, Justice Mochache participated in a sentence review exercise in Nyahururu where 55 CSO supervisees were released and engaged in planting trees at Marmanet Forest in Laikipia West in March in an event presided over by Ms. Mary M. Muriuki, HSC, Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services. The County Governor of Laikipia who is also the Parliamentary Chairperson of the Justice and Legal Committee, among other guests also took part.

Probation stations have been taking part in the sentence review exercise country-wide. So far 6,905 cases have been referred for sentence review, 4,746 reports have been submitted to courts, 1,306 offenders have been released to service community-based sanctions and 3,566 cases were awaiting review.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editorial Team

Kennedy Okola, Clement Okech, Stephen Kivuva, Teresia Kimoko, George Njane, Joy Riungu, Lucy Roma, Edwin Kigen, Justin Mwadena

Design and layout

Joy Riungu

Photographs

Joy Riungu
Edwin Kigen
Collin Williams
KAA

Publisher

Probation and Aftercare Service
Taifa Road, Reinsurance Plaza Building, 11th Floor
P. O. Box 42335-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
+254-020-265-2335

www.probation.go.ke
information@probation.go.ke

Social Media

Twitter: @ProbationKE
Youtube: Probation KE
Facebook: @ProbationKE
Linked In: @ProbationKE
WhatsApp: +254-759-603-921

#OffendersCanChange
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