



PACS
OFFENDERS CAN CHANGE

PACS NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Probation and Aftercare Service

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Secretary , PACS, Mrs. Mary W. Mbau HSC

“...review of the legislation aligning with the current progressive probation practice.”

By: Edwin Kigen

The Secretary, Probation and Aftercare Service Mrs. Mary Mbau, HSC on 4th April 2023 presided over a review planning meeting in Nairobi supported by Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI). The meeting aimed at addressing gaps in the current legal framework, discussing the priority areas, and developing a roadmap for review of the legislation aligning with the current progressive probation practice.

The Secretary, PACS in her remarks said, “The Probation of Offenders Act Cap 64 was over 70 years old and Community Service Orders Act Cap 93 was over 25 years old. Further, in the 2010 Constitution, PACS hinges on the statement that refers to correctional service. Over the years, PACS has adopted UNMSRs, international best practices, and approaches as well as developed comprehensive SOPs, guidelines, and policy documents to guide probation practice and there was a need to entrench and anchor the adopted practices

in law.”

She also noted a need to review PACS core legal framework to mitigate existing gaps in the areas of crime prevention, Community Probation Volunteers, assessment and assessment approaches, rehabilitation, aftercare, intensive supervision, alternative justice systems/alternative dispute resolution, halfway houses/ transitional houses, duties of Probation Officers and Community Service Officers.”

Attending the meeting was the National CSO Committee Chairperson, Justice Diana Mochache , Director, RWI, Rakel Larsen, PACS headquarters Senior managers, and RWI staff.

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Principal Secretary, Correctional Services, Secretary PACS , guests and graduates

LAUNCH OF THE 2ND PHASE OF PLEAD

By: Edwin Kigen

On 10th May 2023, PACS participated in the launch of the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery (PLEAD II), in Nairobi. The launch marked the end of the 5 years PLEAD-I project which started in 2018. During the period, PACS received support through capacity building of Probation Officers, development of various strategies, policy documents, training manuals, curricula, mobility as well as an array of equipment for use by officers and offenders on supervision.

PLEAD-II expects to build on the gains of PLEAD-I in supporting reforms in the justice sector. It envisages addressing capacity needs and persistent bottlenecks affecting service delivery in the justice sector.

Representing the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and the State Department for Correctional Service, the Principal Secretary Ms. Mary Muriuki, HSC appreciated the expansion of the project to cover 19 focal Counties up from the initial 12 Counties and the focus of justice agencies in reducing prison congestion through use of alternatives to imprisonment such as Community Service Orders.

The launch was officiated by the Chief Justice, Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome, and attended by European Union Ambassador H.E. Henriette Geiger, PS, Correctional Services, Secretary, PACS, Mrs. Mary Mbau among other distinguished guests.

Pre-Deployment training for Correctional Officers

By: Edwin Kigen

It was for the first time since the inception of Probation Practice in Kenya that Probation and Aftercare Service participated in UN Missions pre-deployment training. On 11th May 2023, the Secretary, PACS Mrs. Mary Mbau (HSC) joined the chief guest PS, Correctional Services Ms. Mary Muriuki in the closing ceremony for a 10-day prison and probation officers' pre-deployment course (Pri-POC).

The training organized jointly by the United Nations and Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS) brought together correctional officers from Kenya, Sweden, Tanzania, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The officers were equipped with knowledge and skills essential in mission environments. They were trained on strategic guidance framework-related aspects, Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, report writing, mentoring and advising among others.,

The PS in her remarks, indicated that peace was a shared responsibility and corrections worked closely with other national authorities in the United Nations peace-keeping missions to promote and prioritize the peaceful resolution and prevention of disputes, strengthen the protection of civilians, improve national security, and contribute to the implementation of peace agreements. She expressed her confidence in the graduates and wished them all the best as they began a new professional journey.

Secretary, PACS appreciated that the engagement of Probation Officers in the training provided a momentous opportunity for the department to not only contribute towards global peace but also have a chance to participate in UN Peace Keeping Missions together with other agencies in the community corrections particularly in the areas of supervision, resettlement, reintegration and rehabilitation.

The event was hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya H.E Caroline Vicini and attended by the Head of International Affairs Martin Gilla, Commissioner General of Prisons Brig.(Rtd.) John K. Warioba EBS among other invited guests.

PACS DATA*

April - June 2023

17,477

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

Probation (1,204)

Community Service

(2,692)

Bail information (3,581)

Sentence Review (707)

Presentence (8,340)

Social Inquiry (386)

Re-sentencing (104)

Power of Mercy (6)

Restorative Justice (90)

Diversion (22)

Plea Bargaining (10)

Victim Impact Statements

(341)

Pre-trial (2)

Aftercare (38)

Psychiatric (1)

Protection & Care (3)

5,384

Total number of offenders placed on non-custodial supervision

Probation (1,943)

Community Service

(3,430)

Aftercare (11)

46,504

Total number of offenders under community supervision.

**Provisional data*



Director, PACS with Probation Officers graduating for the PSELF programme

PSELF GRADUATION

By: Edwin Kigen

On the 9th June 2023 PACS witnessed the graduation of 17 Probation Officers the pioneer class of the Public Service Emerging Leaders Fellowship Programme (PSELF). PSELF is a leadership mentorship programme led jointly by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Kenya, Emerging Leaders Foundation – Africa and Emerging Public Leaders aimed at nurturing value driven leaders within the Public sector.

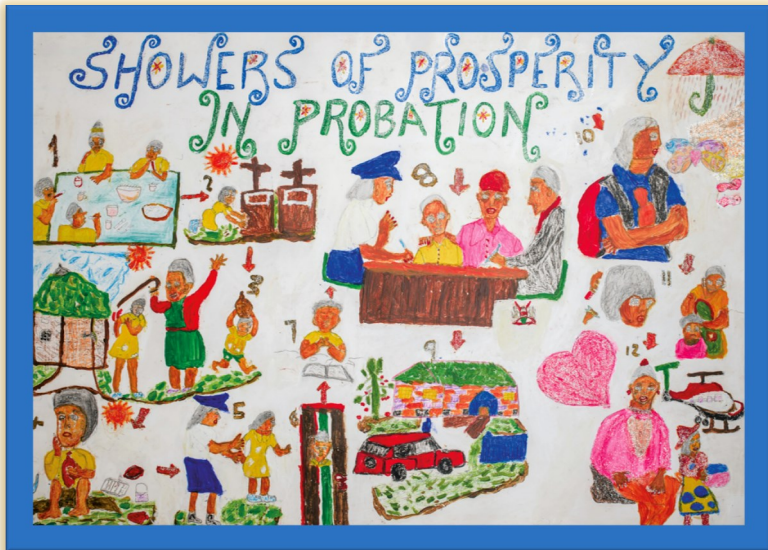
The Public Service Emerging Leaders Fellowship (PSELF) programme is an inter-generational effort to re-engage Kenya's youth in public service and administration, by driving the recruitment of young, ethical talent into public service, to enhance government service delivery, citizen outcomes and influence long-term social policy targeting young public servants employed in government for less than 3 years.

Attending the event was the Director, PACS, Dr. Christine Obondi, and Officers in Charge of PACS Stations from where the graduating officers were stationed. Speaking to granduands before the event, Dr. Obondi challenged the Probation officers to be champions of change and to endeavour sustaining gains of their training by impacting positively in PACS service delivery.

Similarly, during the twin event graced by H.E Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary, Cohort 2 of the PSELF were commissioned where PACS has six (6) Probation Officers participating out of the 65 fellows recruited.

Speaking at the event President of the 1st Cohort Mr. Tobias Wabomba, a probation officer at Makadara Station said, "throughout the training, we have been privileged to learn from exceptional leaders, both within and outside government. They have shared their experiences, reminding us that leadership is not about being infallible, but about being willing to learn from our mistakes. They have taught us that true leaders are those who lead with integrity, humility, and always putting the needs of others before their own."

PACS wishes them success as they work towards creating a crime-free society and giving offenders a second chance to have a decent shot at life.



LESSON LEARNT

Probation Service utilizes a myriad of rehabilitation techniques including art therapy to enable probationers and offenders placed on supervised non-custodial sanctions get a chance to express themselves as it seeks to transform lives and build safer communities.

In the artwork, you meet a female probationer whose world turned bleak with the demise of her parents. After her arrest and presentation to court, she was placed on a Probation Order and committed to a Probation institution, a home away from home. She got accommodation albeit for a short period, clothing, compassion and life skills training. There we go, offenders given a second chance, offenders can change and dream again.

Creative art piece by a female probationer

Creating awareness of PACS Services

By Edwin Kigen and Ruth Kamau

Increasing visibility and raising awareness of the mandates and programmes of PACS among target audiences is essential. Probation Officers from Nairobi Probation Station on 19th April 2023 engaged the public and sensitized them on programmes and services provided during the open day organized by the Nairobi City Law Courts, Court Users Committee. In their interaction, the officers responded to various questions on non-custodial community corrections.

Similarly, on 25th May 2023 Probation Officers from Kianyaga Probation Station led by the Officer in Charge Caroline Mukudi took part in the Court Users Committee Open Day organized by Gichugu Law Courts held at Kutus township. Members of the public were engaged on understanding the role of PACS in the administration of justice. Speaking to Caroline Mukudi who is also the Secretary to the Committee, she said that, "CUCs provide an important platform for criminal justice agencies and stakeholders to interact for improvement of service delivery." Probation is a key agency involved in delivering various supervised non-custodial options in the community including providing social inquiry reports to the courts. Crafts made by offenders serving various non-custodial options were showcased during the event.

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#OffendersCanChange
#ReformingLives
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