

## **UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE BOOSTS AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY WITH ACQUISITION OF NEW MACHINERY:**

In a significant move towards achieving national food and animal feeds security, on March 5, 2024, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) officially commissioned a set of state-of-the-art agricultural machinery. This initiative follows a directive issued by His Excellency, The President, in 2022, instructing the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries to allocate 50,000 acres of land to UPS for the production of food and animal feeds.

The machinery, supplied by Uganda Engineering Solutions Limited, includes Twelve (12) HP 9502 Tafe Tractors, Twelve (12) Four Disc Balden Ploughs, Two (2) heavy-duty disc ploughs, Two (2) HP maize shellers, one (01) no-till seed planter, and two (2) 10-ton tipping tractor trailers.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony on behalf of the CGP, Mr. Samuel Akena, Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, emphasized the importance of adhering to Presidential directives and assigned mandates as guided by the Prisons Act of 2006. He urged Officers in Charge to utilize the equipment efficiently, as entrusted by the President and the people of Uganda, to overcome famine in affected areas.

Mr. Robert Munanura, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (Director Production and Engineering), expressed optimism about increased production with the new tractors. He affirmed the commitment to a continuous partnership with Engineering Solutions, aiming to transform Uganda Prisons into an Agricultural Mechanization destination.

However, Mr. Munanura also cautioned against the misuse of the machinery and highlighted plans to purchase additional equipment for the development of the Prisons leather industry, drawing inspiration from benchmark visits conducted in Italy.

Mr. Med Mwiri, Sales and Marketing Manager at Uganda Engineering Solutions Limited, commended UPS for the strategic partnership, expressing gratitude to The President and the government for allowing them to operate in Uganda's growing economy. The company pledged to continue supporting UPS with quality products, personnel training, and maintenance services.

Mr. Amos Turyashaba, Commissioner of Prisons (Farms Management), provided background on the Food Security Strategy within UPS. He emphasized that the new equipment would streamline operations at Prisons farms, offering timely operations and skills development for personnel.

Out of the commissioned machinery, specific allocations were made, with four (4) handed over to Aswa 1 Prison Farms, another four (4) to Aswa II Prison farm, and individual units to Orom Tikua, Pingere, Awei, and one to (1) Ruimi Prison Farms, earmarked for seed multiplication.

Uganda Prisons Service, currently operating 56 tractors, 1 Bull dozer, and 1 combined harvester, looks set to play a pivotal role in advancing the country's agricultural landscape. The move aligns with the nation's commitment to climate-smart agriculture, embracing the latest technological advancements for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

APENDIX





























