



UGANDA POLICE FORCE DIRECTORATE OF FORENSIC SERVICES

PERFORMANCE REPORT (2018 - 2023)

“Forensic Renaissance: Empowering Frontline Policing Through Cutting-Edge Solutions”





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UGANDA POLICE FORCE



MISSION

To secure life and property in partnership with the Public in a committed and Professional Manner in order to promote development.



VISION

A professional and people-centered Police for a safe and secure society

DIRECTORATE OF FORENSIC SERVICES



GOAL

To offer timely scientific truth and excellence for safer communities in Uganda.



The Directorate is tasked with the application of scientific techniques in the prevention, investigation, and detection of crime to support the administration of justice.





FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTORATE

- Provide scientific evidence to link suspects to a specific criminal act
- Identify offenders and criminals using fingerprints and photographs
- Keep a comprehensive and detailed record of criminals
- Examine questioned documents such as land titles, legal tender, last wills and testimonies
- Analyse electronic tools and equipment used in the commission of cyber-crimes
- Analyse and provide evidence in cases involving guns and explosives to combat gun crime and terrorist activities.
- Identify disaster victims using DNA and other scientific techniques in situations of disasters.
- Analyse and provide evidence in cases involving drugs of abuse, food safety, and suspected poisoning.
- Provide an avenue for research in the new emerging crime trends for effective and efficient scientific investigations.

DEPARTMENT OF BALLISTICS AND TOOLMARKS



SERVICES

-  Firearms & components involved in crime
-  Chasis and engine number verification of suspected motorised vessels
-  Shooting scene reconstruction
-  Electronic registration of fire arms (gun fingerprinting)

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION





- Crime scenes management
- Analysis and comparison of fingerprints
- Facial photo reconstruction and analysis
- Provision of police clearance certificate
- Keeping records of Convicts



DEPARTMENT OF CYBER CRIME

Responsible for recovery of electronic evidence from electronic devices and other digital assets

SERVICES

- Computer forensic 
- Mobile forensics 
- Audio-visual forensics 
- Network & database forensics
- Data recovery 
- E-discovery
- Cloud forensics

DEPT' OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RESEARCH

Quality assurance is a central theme in forensic service delivery. This department is at the helm of ensuring that all personnel adhere to the provisions within the Quality Manual (QM-001).



COLLABORATES WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN;

- Developing policies, procedures, and other necessary quality instruments
- Defining the research avenues as far as the available scientific methods for proper analysis.
- Ensuring professionalism on the part of the employees - technical competence.
- Ensuring customer satisfaction through promoting quality standards in performance.

DEP'T OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES ANALYSIS (CBRNE-A)

Responsible for the scientific analysis of evidential material that has a Chemical or Biological component in question.



FORENSIC BIOLOGY

- DNA Profiling
- Human Identification
- Disaster Victim Identification
- Human Genealogy Testing

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

- Toxicological Analysis
- Fire and Explosive Residue Analysis
- Food, drugs, Water & Environment Analysis

DEPARTMENT OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

SERVICES

- Signature and handwriting analysis or verification
- Deciphering alterations and obliterations
- Printing methods and typescripts
- Ink and paper analysis
- Counterfeit examination
- Examination of stamp and seal impressions

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FOREWORD



During this period, we have witnessed a notable surge in the adoption of forensic services, both within the Uganda Police Force and among various Ministries, Departments, and Government Agencies. The Directorate has remained dedicated to its mission, focusing on key initiatives aimed at elevating the efficiency and efficacy of forensic practices.

Our strategic efforts have been centred on several key pillars:

i. Fostering Early Investigative Leads:

Emphasis on delivering faster and more responsive forensic services by ensuring timely assessment and delivery of exhibits, thereby generating early investigative leads.

Colleagues and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and progress made over the past five years (June 2018 - December 2023), it is with great pride that we present this performance report for the Directorate's steadfast commitment to advancing forensic services within the Uganda Police Force and beyond under the theme "Forensic Renaissance: Empowering Frontline Policing Through Cutting-Edge Solutions."

ii. Adherence to International Standards:

Undertaking pre-accreditation activities aligned with the ISO 17025:2017 and ISO 21043:2018 standards, ensuring the highest quality and reliability in forensic procedures.

iii. Strengthening 'At Scene' Intelligence Capabilities:

Enhancing our capabilities to acquire trace evidential material at crime scenes, bolstering our ability to gather crucial intelligence.

iv. Modernizing Forensic

Capabilities: Deployment of cutting-edge forensic technologies for offender identification and forensic analysis, enabling us to provide leads on suspect recidivism within an impressive 48-hour timeframe.

v. Improving Mobility and Digital Documentation:

Enhancing mobility and digitizing crime scene documentation to streamline response times and overall operational efficiency.

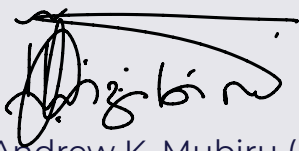
vi. Continuous Professional Development:

Prioritizing the upskilling, refresher training, and advanced expert training for forensic practitioners to stay at the forefront of advancements in forensic science.

vii. Regional Forensic Referral Center of Excellence:

Progressing in line with the East African Community Council of Ministers Resolution of 2012 and the Presidential directive on anti-crime infrastructure, we are dedicated to the establishment of a state-of-the-art modern laboratory to house the Regional Forensic Referral Center of Excellence.

The period under review has been marked by significant milestones, including the onboarding of modern forensic capabilities, notable visits from esteemed dignitaries, and the



Andrew K. Mubiru (ACP)

Ag. Director Forensic Services

well-deserved promotion of many of our officers. These events have not only enthused our staff but have also strengthened our resolve towards our mission of offering “Timely scientific truth and excellence for safer communities in Uganda.”

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Uganda, the Uganda Police Leadership and other development partners for their unwavering support. Looking ahead, the Directorate remains committed to furthering its impact by focusing on key areas such as developing the Regional Forensic Referral Centre, expanding frontline forensic capabilities, enhancing mobility, providing advanced forensic training, and reviewing the forensic legal framework.

As we embark on the next phase of our journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence and innovation, contributing to the safety and security of communities across Uganda.



INTRODUCTION

The Directorate of Forensic Services (DFS) is one of the 17 Directorates in the Uganda Police Force (UPF). The specific goal of DFS is *“Timely provision of scientific truth and excellence for safer communities in Uganda.”* The current DFS key priority is *“To apply scientific techniques in prevention, investigation and detection of crime to support administration of justice.”*

The Directorate is also host to the East African Community (EAC) Regional Forensic Referral Centre of Excellence (RFRCoE) pursuant to the decision of the 4th and 5th EAC Ministerial Sessions of the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security (EAC/SCISS 04 -MS/2012 and EAC/SCISS 05 -MS/2012). The decision and choice were based on a strict criterion that recognised that Uganda had a Directorate of Forensic Services in the Police, which was not the case in other EAC member states.



Figure 1: A Forensic expert analysing crime data at the Directorate of Forensics in Kampala, Uganda.

AIM

This performance report focuses on the transformation of forensic capabilities for the period running from June 2018 to December 2023 highlighting the key performance areas and cutting-edge solutions deployed to empower frontline policing in Uganda.



BACKGROUND

On 20 June 2018, H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, in his address to Parliament, directed on the 9-Point Strategy to end insecurity in Uganda as below: *(The strategy was later updated to 12 in subsequent meetings of the National Security Council).*

- i. ‘Fingerprint’ all guns in Uganda
- ii. Establish electronically tagged numberplates on all motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- iii. Ensure motorcycle riding gear is illuminated with visible insignia (front and rear) and stop cyclists wearing hoods.
- iv. Establish CCTV cameras on all major roads and their tributaries in Uganda.
- *This is to be the anchor*
- v. Establish a modern forensic facility.
- vi. Enhance the speed of response and arrival at the scene, including re-establishing the 999-response system and equipping the flying squad.
- vii. Enhance the use of UAVs/Drones for surveillance but deter the use of illicit ones.
- viii. Establish technical deterrence against misuse of social networks.
- ix. Obtain scanners at all border crossings.

In pursuit of No. 1 (i), (v) above, the Police leadership established the current stewardship of the Directorate of Forensic Services on 14th January 2019. The Directorate in 2018 had 159 personnel. As of 2023, the Directorate has 572 personnel (474 Men, 98 Female), 148 of whom are based at its headquarters in Naguru, 12 are attachments, 10 on course, 04 on study leave, 01 on UN Mission and a further 397 are deployed countrywide as Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs).

Prior to taking office by the current Directorate management in 2018, the police leadership had identified numerous challenges in all departments that had beset the Directorate of Forensic Services since its inception in 2010. This team was then tasked to oversee a phased renaissance of forensic services as a force-multiplier in frontline policing and thus presented the strategy below in 3-stages:

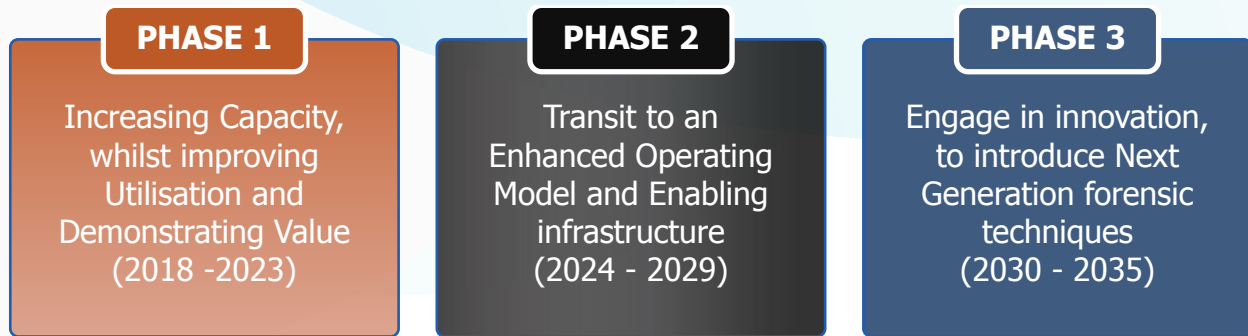


Figure 2: Showing the DFS strategic roadmap

SCOPE OF DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES

The Directorate provides analytical and testing services in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Cyber, Ballistics, Questioned documents and Biometric identification. The complete list of activities covered by this management system is provided in EIR-022: Scope of Laboratory Activities.

The Directorate continues to contribute to frontline and backend policing in the following ways:

- i. Providing scientific evidence to link suspects to a specific criminal act,
- ii. Identifying offenders and criminals using fingerprints, photographs, DNA and other biometrics,
- iii. Keeping a comprehensive and detailed record of criminals,
- iv. Examining questioned documents such as land titles, legal tender, last wills and testimonies,
- v. Analysing electronic tools and equipment used in the commission of cyber-crimes,
- vi. Analysing and providing evidence in cases involving guns and explosives to combat gun crime and terrorist activities,
- vii. Identifying disaster victims using DNA and other scientific techniques in situations of disasters,
- viii. Analysing and providing evidence in cases involving drugs of abuse, food safety and suspected poisoning, and
- ix. Providing an avenue for research in the new emerging crime trends for effective and efficient scientific investigations.





Figure 3: Showing the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs accompanied by the Inspector General of Police to inspect forensic processes as part of his visit to Police Headquarters Naguru in 2022.



Figure 4: Showing the Principal Judge, Deputy DPP and the Deputy Inspector General of Police at the commissioning of DNA & Serology section on 28th January 2021.





Figure 5: Showing senior police officers acquainting themselves with the various automation platforms for DNA Extraction and Analysis under the DNA & Serology section.



Figure 6: Showing Hon. Dr. Justice Flavian Zeija (Principal Judge) in the company of the Late Lt. Gen. Paul Loketch (DIGP), Mr. Charles Elem Ogwal (Deputy DPP) and Senior Leaders of the Uganda Police Force during the commission of newly acquired forensic capabilities on 28th January 2021.





Figure 7: Showing forensic personnel processing a bomb blast scene in Kombaboga on 24th October 2021.



Figure 8: Showing the H.E Maria Hakansson, accompanied by a team from UNFPA and UN WOMEN on a visit to the Directorate of Forensic Services.





KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

This 5-year period from 2019 to 2023 has been focused on improving utilisation of forensic services and demonstrating the value of forensics in frontline policing. Overall, there has been an increased uptake of forensic services from government agencies, the private sector and the public. This has further reinforced our specific objectives as below:

- i. Deliver faster and more responsive forensic services.
- ii. Establishing operating procedures in accordance with the ISO 17025:2017 standard.
- iii. Deploy ‘at scene’ forensic capabilities to reduce turnaround times for crime scene management.
- iv. Timely review of forensic records to provide leads on suspect recidivism within 48 hours.
- v. Processing, managing, and documenting all crime scenes within an hour of occurrence to minimize loss of key evidential materials.
- vi. Fast-tracking the establishment of an Ultra-modern forensic laboratory

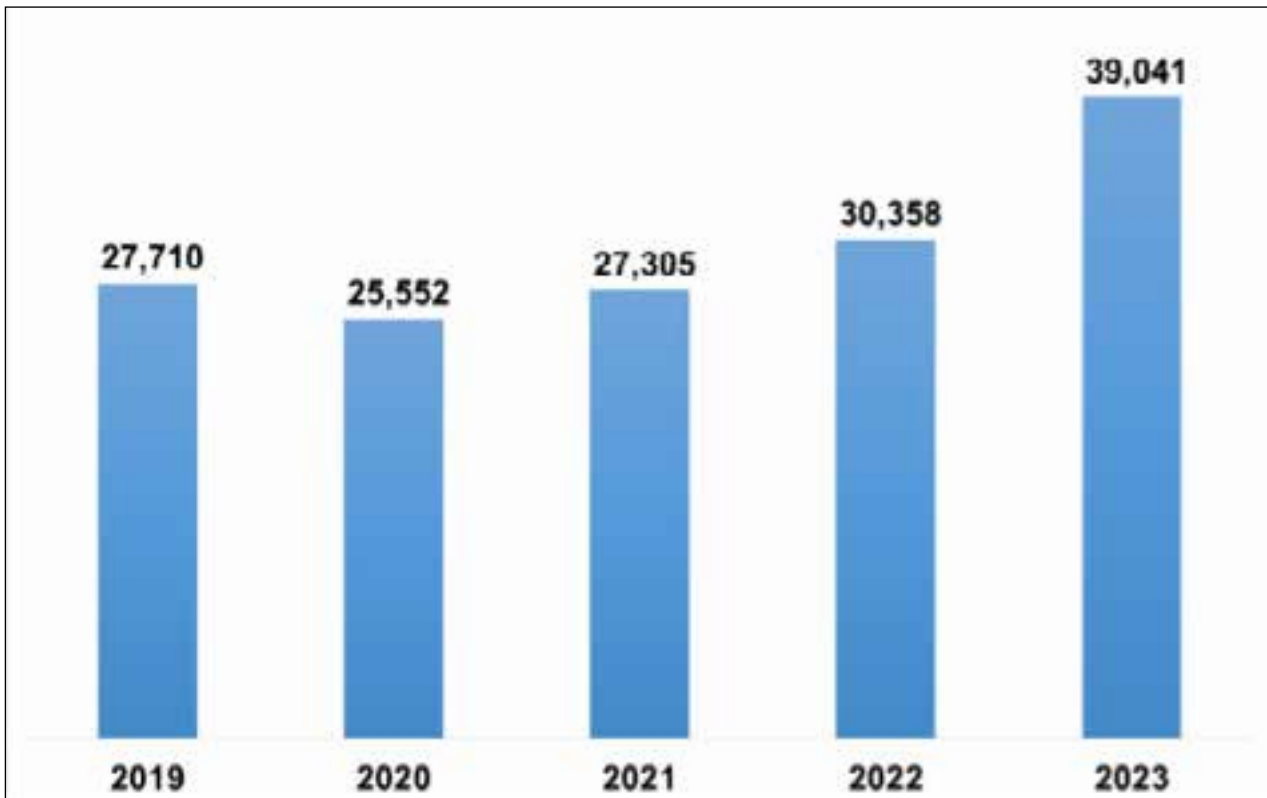


Figure 9: Showing the number of crime scenes processed from 2019 – 2023

Delivering faster and more responsive forensic services

The Directorate has continued to receive an increasing number of requests for forensic interventions. The number of crime scenes processed increased from 27,710 in 2019 to 39,041 in 2023 (Figure 9) owing to improved mobility of Scene of Crime Officers. The number of requests for forensic examination increased from 1,135 in 2019 to 3,094 in 2023 (Figure 10) resulting from acquisition of modern scientific equipment. Requests for police clearance have surged from 10,263 in 2019 to 181,384 in 2023 due to process digitization although this has only been done in Kampala Metropolitan.

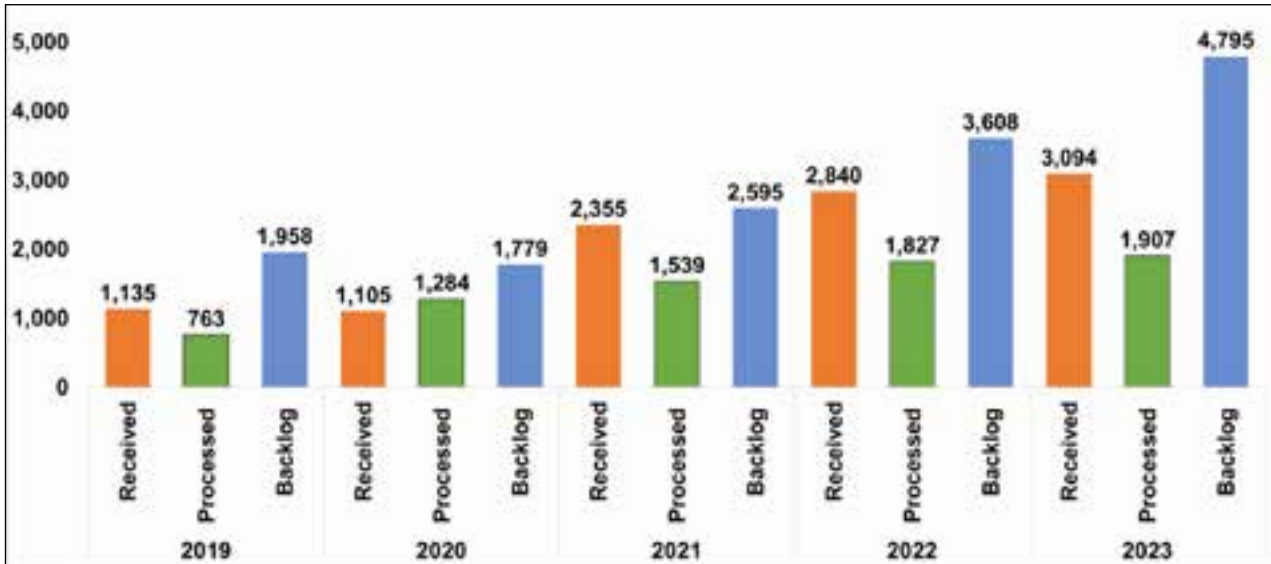


Figure 10: Showing the number of forensic examination requests from 2019 – 2023.

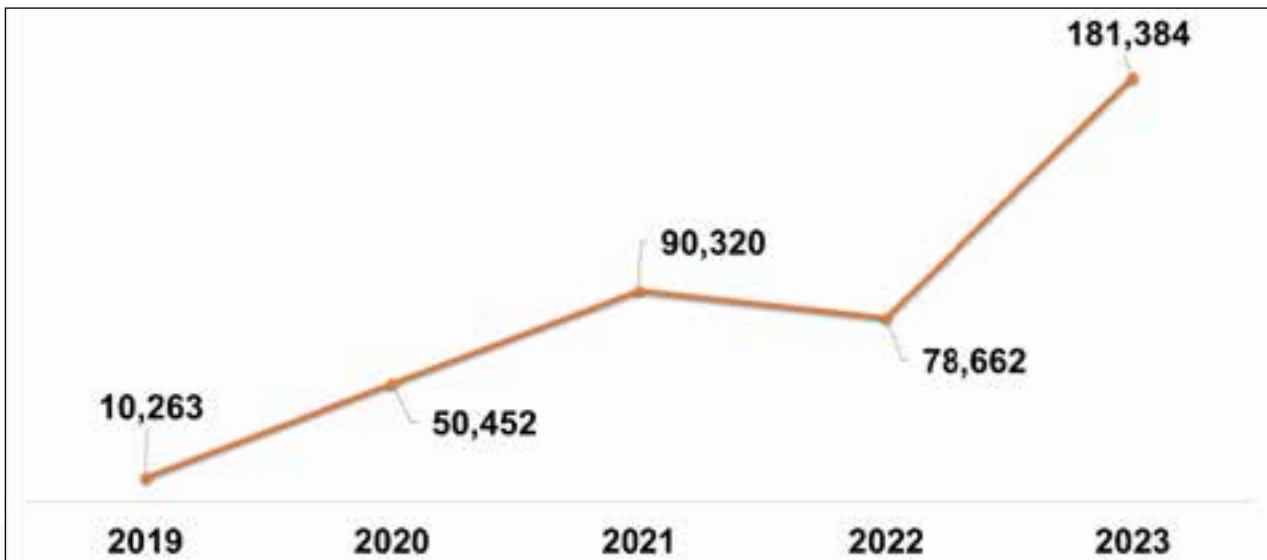


Figure 11: Showing the number of crime scenes processed from 2019 – 2023.



The field operations of the Directorate are supported by an existing fleet allocation of 1 SUV, 3 Pickups, 2 staff vans, 2 Crime scene vans, 1 Saloon car and 107 Motorcycles (16 in bad repair). In addition, of 3 evidence response vans were provided by UN WOMEN in 2021 thus aiding the rapid retrieval of evidential material from the 29 policing regions.



Figure 12: Showing the number of forensic examination requests from 2019 – 2023.

The Directorate has been required to undertake disaster victim identification using DNA capabilities in many incidents. Notable among them are two unfortunate attacks on Lhubiriha Secondary School in Kasese by remnants of the Allied Democratic Front (ADF) and the attack on a UPDF forward operating base in the Lower Shebeele region of Somalia by the Al Shabab. A total of forty-two (42) victims in Kasese and fifty-one (51) UPDF victims were examined alongside 249 relatives for Kasese and 272 UPDF relatives. This enabled the identification of 13 unidentified bodies and two suspects placed at the scene in Kasese. A total of 24 UPDF soldiers were positively identified and reunited with their relative for descent burial and send-off. The other notable case is the identification of 11 bodies of children that were burnt in a fire at Salam School of the blind in Mukono District.

The DNA facility has been key to identifying perpetrators in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cases. A total of 558 DNA cases were processed down from 612 in 2022 due to a reduction of resources availed for DNA analysis in 2023 from UGX 450 million to UGX 200 million per quarter. The DNA case backlog now stands at 1,566 cases with a funding requirement of UGX 4 million per case.



Figure 13: Showing the DNA forensic team undertaking disaster victim identification procedures in the aftermath of the ADF and Al Shabaab terror attacks in Kasese and Somalia respectively.



Figure 14: Showing the forensic biology team examining a SGBV case.





Figure 15: Showing the forensic biology team processing DNA samples

The forensic biology team has the added task of identifying unclaimed/unidentified human remains at the KCCA city mortuary and Bukasa Cemetery. This will further require additional resources as well as to engage stakeholders in proper management of public cemeteries. As shown in the Table below, the number of unprocessed cases totaling to 1,318 has been due to the budgetary constraints.

Table 1: Showing the number unclaimed bodies received and processed from 2021 – 2023.

Unidentified Human Remains	
Profiling of unidentified/unclaimed human remains and suspects	1,521
Cases processed	203
Unprocessed	1,318
Identified by Fingerprints	19
Identified by DNA	-

The Toxicology Section was resourced with a Dried Blood Spot System coupled to a liquid Chromatograph Tandem Mass Spectrometer (DBS-LCMSMS). This capability together with the Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) and Gas Chromatograph Flame Ionisation Detector and Flame Thermionic Detector (GC-FID/FTD) systems will be vital in offering the following services; postmortem and ante-mortem toxicology, drugs of abuse screening and sports anti-doping testing. In July 2023, our forensic chemistry team was quick to respond and identify chemical exceptions which had been laced in the food served to students of Nakanyonyi Secondary School. The quick response informed remedial action by medical practitioners in addition to guiding on going investigations.





Figure 16: Showing the forensic team assessing grave site management at KCCA Bukasa Cemetery in preparation for unidentified/unclaimed human remains.

The main challenge for this department, is ensuring adequate acquisition of high-grade laboratory consumables within the meager budget provision from reputable providers. This is also a requirement under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard geared at ensuring that reliable scientific data is generated during forensic examinations.



Figure 17: Showing the Deputy Inspector General of Police inspecting some of the advanced scientific equipment.



In January 2023, digital forensic practitioners responded to nine (09) incidents of unauthorised access and digital systems intrusions to a banking and fintech system that had resulted in the loss of UGX 15.5 billion. This is in addition to seven (07) incidents involving systems of government MDAs that experienced similar cyber security breaches. Furthermore, the digital forensic team supported UNEB investigations into examination malpractices and UWA in fraud investigations to counter loss of government revenue in the national parks.

In order to offer credible digital forensic interventions there is a need to upgrade our digital forensic tools and licenses annually. Additional resources are required to upskill and certify the digital examiners regularly.



Figure 18: Showing the Dried Blood Spot system coupled to a Liquid Chromatograph Tandem Mass Spectrometer (DBS-LCMSMS) under the Toxicology section.



Figure 19: Showing the Cyber and Digital Forensics team with their cyber forensic tools.



Questioned Document Examiners have responded to several fraud related cases through employing a wide range of skills. In order to perform comprehensive document examinations that are fit for purpose, Document Examiners in the Department of Questioned Documents are qualified in Document Analysis. In one of the highlight cases of forgery and utterance of false documents, 600 documents were processed that revealed forged signatures of government officials by unscrupulous persons. This was similar to another case that involved fraudulent transfer of land from a government parastatal that would have resulted in a financial loss worth UGX 700 billion.

This team requires additional equipment to deal with the growing demand for document examination. Additional human resource is required to join the existing team of 06 document examiners.



Figure 20: Showing Document Examiners and a Video Spectral Comparator in use for detailed document examination.

Establishing operating procedures in accordance with the ISO 17025:2017 standard

Our Quality Management System has been operational since 2020. Several inhouse trainings have been undertaken to precede the mandatory annual quality audits. These trainings have established a few remaining gaps in our pursuit for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation.

The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard specifies the general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of laboratories. The standard is applicable to all organizations performing laboratory activities, regardless of the number of personnel. Laboratory customers, regulatory authorities, organizations and schemes using peer-assessment, accreditation





bodies, and others use the standard in confirming or recognizing the competence of laboratories. The documenting of our processes ensures that forensic analysis is fit-for-purpose to derive maximum value from the crime scene to the courts of law.

All Heads of Departments and Heads of Sections have participated in the internal audit training towards reviewing documented forensic processes (SOPs, Work Instructions and Forms) as required under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard. Fifty-six (56) officers have participated in four (04) separate internal training sessions for ISO 17025 Lead Implementer and ISO 17025 Internal Auditor roles. A total of nine (09) officers are now certified as ISO 17025 Lead Implementers and three (03) as ISO 17025 Internal Auditors.

The recently concluded internal audits highlighted the need for a functional Laboratory Information Management System to enable the Directorate embark on the meticulous processes in pursuit of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation.

As part of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard, all staff have been sensitised to adhere to the capstone Quality Manual (QM-001) requirements and the policy on the Code of Conduct (LP-001). This is in addition to all provisions of the Police Standing Orders. However, there is need to have dedicated training and certification of all personnel on the standard.



Figure 21: Showing the approved Quality Manual and Standard Operating Procedures for Questioned Documents, Cyber Crime, Ballistics and Toolmarks examinations.



The Crime Scene Management procedure manual (QP-028) was approved by the Inspector General of Police and is now available for personnel to consult in their day-to-day field activities. This is in addition to the main Quality Manual (QM-001) and all the other procedure manuals, standard operating procedures and forms required for a functional Quality Management System.



Figure 22: Showing the Directorate personnel participating in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Audit Training.

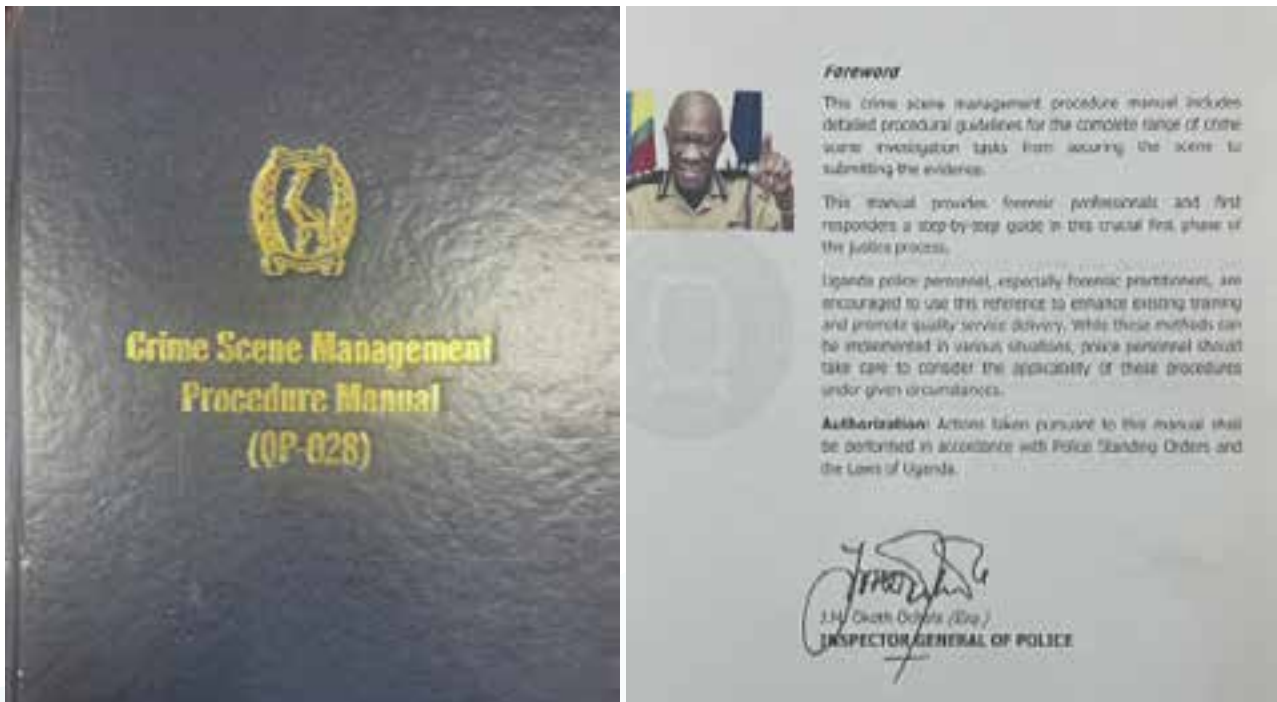


Figure 23: Showing a copy of the signed Crime Scene Management Procedure manual (QP-028).





Deploy ‘at scene’ forensic capabilities to reduce turnaround times for crime scene management.

The Directorate has deployed 3D Crime Scene Imaging equipment and associated software tools for quicker documentation of evidential material at crime scenes. This is in addition to 233 SOCO kits and 224 Cameras operated by 412 SOCOs countrywide. In the coming years advanced latent print enhancement technology and portable DNA will be deployed to enable acquisition of trace evidential material at crime scenes to quickly search against existing forensic databases thus providing shorter turnaround times for identification of suspects at scenes of crime.

The combination of the above-mentioned forensic tools should support the team in providing real-time analysis to operational officers in the field and at police stations. It’s our hope that these capabilities will support UPF in addressing the need to complete investigations within 120 days.



Figure 24: Showing one of the 3D Crime Scene Photogrammetry equipment in use.



Figure 25: Showing the Evidence Response Team processing crime scenes using “at-the-scene” forensic tools.



Figure 26: Showing the reconstruction of Kings College Budo Scene of Fire using modern 3D Crime Scene imaging technology. On the right is the 3D rendering of the scene.



Figure 27: Showing an Evidence Response Team with “at scene” forensic tools.





Some of the challenges we must address in the management of crime scenes to ensure that the new capabilities acquired are effectively used are:

- i. Availing adequate consumables to SOCOs to protect the integrity of the evidence collected at crime scenes.
- ii. Ensuring SOCOs in the countryside are supervised and SOCO kit inspections are regularly carried out.
- iii. Providing manpower and vehicles to regional units to boost the oversight and inspection function during crime scene management.
- iv. Continuous skills development for existing staff and recruitment of new personnel.

Timely review of forensic records to provide leads on suspect recidivism within 48 hours.

A Criminal Automated Biometric Identification System (CABIS) was acquired under Phase 1 of the National CCTV Project. CABIS is a biometric repository for suspects arrested at police stations, criminals convicted of offences, law enforcement personnel (Police & Private Security), civilians (firearm owners, applicants for police clearance, and certificate of good conduct) and currently comprises of 1,285,000 biometric records.

CABIS is now operational at 16 locations in Kampala Metropolitan police divisions. An additional 12 livescans have been deployed in Entebbe, CI Headquarters, Kololo (03), Naguru (04), Jinja, Masaka, Arua and Mbarara.

In 2023, a total of 8,828 suspects were linked to previous criminal records, an increase from 3,266 suspects linked in 2022. This is due to the deployment of additional CABIS enrolment stations in the Jinja, Masaka, Arua and Mbarara policing areas. A total of 407 individuals were linked to crime scenes and unresolved cases using CABIS. Furthermore, CABIS identified 182 previous offenders in 2023 seeking to join private security organisations compared to 58 in 2022.

A notable case is one involving an individual who was engaged in numerous robberies but was later put out of action by the territorial police of Kiwatule Police.



SUMMARY OF CASES LINKED TO SSEGUJJA EMMANUEL, ALIAS; MATOVU HUSSEIN, SSENIONGA EDDY

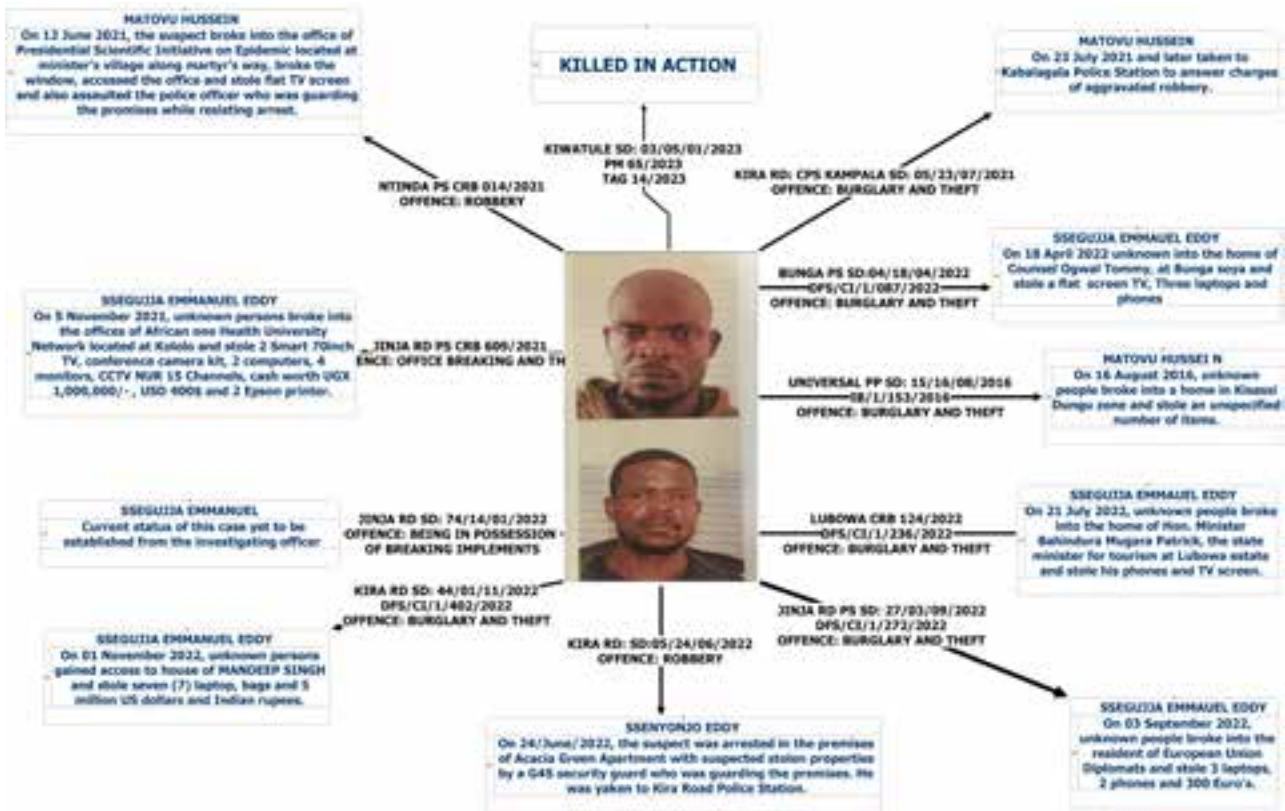


Figure 28: Showing a suspect linked to numerous crimes and unresolved cases.

To maximise CABIS, the digitisation of the Criminal Records Office (eCRO) is being prioritised to be linked to the existing criminal justice systems of the Judiciary (ECCMIS¹), ODPP (PROCAMIS²), and Prisons (PMIS³) systems. This is in line with the recommendation of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate⁴ (UNCTED), that visited the Directorate in April 2019, to fully develop our forensic intelligence capabilities to facilitate and inform complex investigations in terrorism and other syndicated crimes.

1 ECMIS is the Electronic Court Case Management Information System

2 PROCAMIS is the Prosecution Management Information System

3 PMIS is the Prison Management Information System

4 Final draft report on the follow-up visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to the Republic of Uganda (22-25 April 2019) – Recommendation 11: “Ensure interoperability, links and necessary access between key databases of all law-enforcement agencies, including those maintained by Customs, the Police/Forensic databases and INTERPOL”



Figure 29: Showing CABIS operators at the Naguru Forensic Headquarters.



Figure 30: Showing setup of fingerprint digitization process at Naguru Forensic Headquarters.

As part of the ePIS project, the Identification Bureau established under the Identification of Offenders Act (CAP 119) is poised to be digitised into an Electronic Identification Bureau (eIB). In addition, stakeholders in the criminal justice system are in final discussions to strengthen and improve data quality and standardisation to enhance coordination system(s) on crime and criminal justice statistics. This will further enhance the importance of forensic records in the wider administration of justice.

The Directorate is part of the ongoing efforts to digitise core policing processes through the Electronic Policing Information (ePIS) project especially those that are aligned to scientific investigations. The implementation of forensic systems under ePIS will accord forensics digital capabilities to undertake the following:



- i. Electronically transmit evidential information like fingerprints left at the scene to the Criminal Automated Biometric Identification system (CABIS - acquired under CCTV Phase 1) for instant analysis and subsequent identification of suspects “*in-situ*” (*while still in place at the crime scene*).
- ii. Digitally document crime scene activities including access control, evidence gathering, taking notes, searching, photos, sketching among others to ensure veracity of all records.
- iii. Profiling and indexing exhibits to maintain the chain of custody thus remove any lingering doubts on our commitment to stand for “Nothing *but the Truth*”.
- iv. Sharing information in real time with investigators, backend forensic experts, police leadership and other frontline policing teams for enhanced coordination and monitoring of crime scene operations in real-time.

Processing, managing, and documenting all crime scenes within an hour of occurrence to minimize loss of key evidential materials.

The Integrated Ballistic Information System (IBIS) which was initially funded under the East African Community Regional Forensic Referral Center of Excellence (RFRCoE) has since been enhanced by Government of Uganda processing a total of 1,835 firearm cases with a lead-time of 14 working days and no backlog.

As of 18th December 2023, 92.2% of all legally issued firearms to Police, Prisons, Private Security and Privately owned firearms had been registered (“fingerprinted”) in accordance with H.E. The President’s directive as in 3.1(i) above. The system is vital to policing operations and has led to the linkage of 572 gun related crimes since 2019.

IBIS has been able to link thirty (30) firearms to eighty-six (86) gun related incidents. Five (05) of these firearms were legally registered while a total of twenty-five (25) were illicitly acquired by criminals. In Old Kampala Division, an individual Glock pistol with brand mark UG IND LTY514 02324 registered to Kadala Nsubuga Mustafa was linked to five (05) robberies in the period under review. Below is a schematic representation of the several firearm crimes in Kasese, Kakumiro, Ntoroko, Fortportal and Kibito linked to a rifle recovered in Hima.

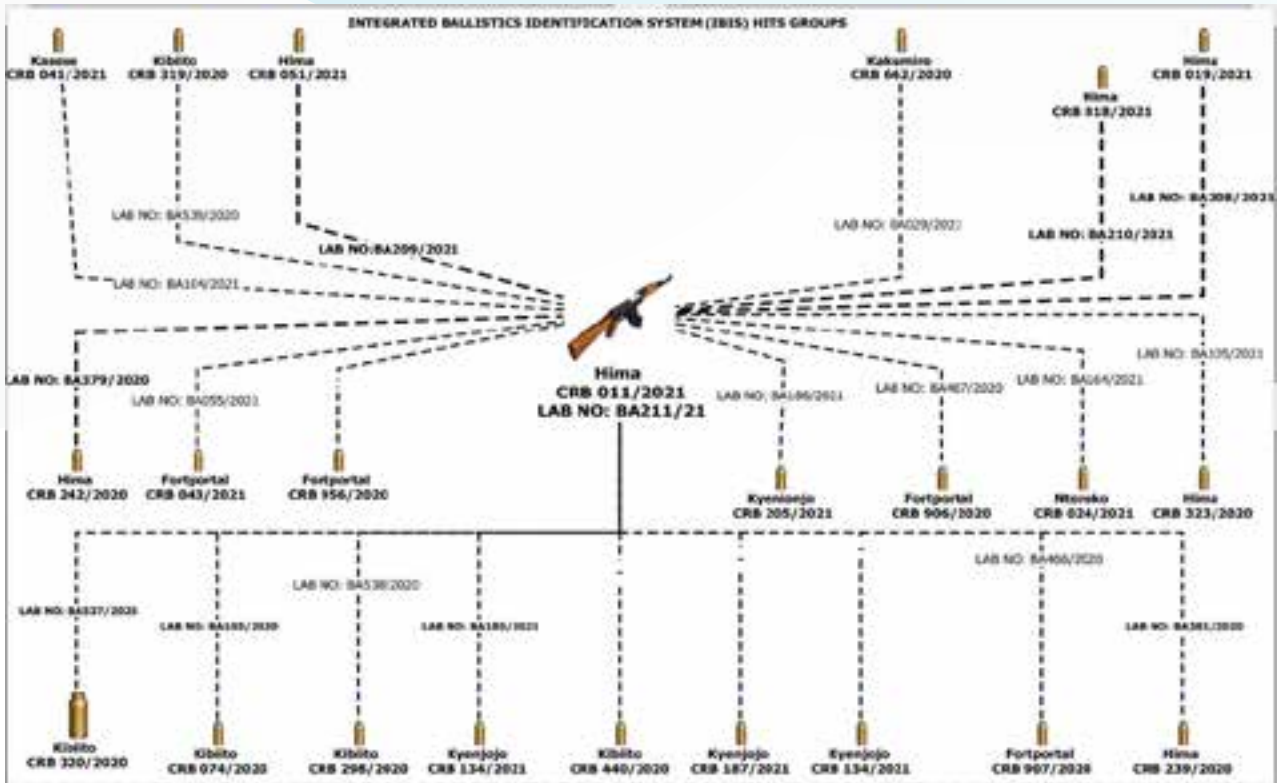


Figure 31: Showing a firearm linked to 22 different shooting incidents in the Rwenzori region using the IBIS gun fingerprinting system.



Figure 32: Showing IBIS operators at the Naguru Forensic Headquarters.





The Directorate with the support of UNDP, has been able to acquire a bullet recovery water tank which has greatly enhanced the team’s productivity. In the cases involving attacks on police stations and security personnel, the ballistics team provided the much-needed forensic intelligence in pursuit of perpetrators many of whom are before courts of law and court martial.



Figure 33: Showing the bullet recovery water tank donated by UNDP.

Seminars have been conducted in 12 police regions of Mt. Moroto, Savana, Albertine, Busoga North and East, Bukedi, West and Northwest Nile, Kiira, East and North Kyoga Regions. This was mainly funded under the Electronic Registration of Firearm Exercise (“gun fingerprinting” exercise). The seminars were mainly attended by RPCs, RCIDs, RCIs, RPROs, DPCS, OC/CIDS, OC Stations, Armorer men and SOCOs.



Figure 34: Showing participants at training sessions on firearms management held at PTS Kibuli.





Figure 35: Showing a combined team of UPDF 3rd Division and UPF-forensics test firing firearms recovered during operation “Usalama Kwa Wote”.



Figure 36: Showing a combined team of UPDF 3rd Division and Forensic Services test firing firearms recovered from Karamojong warriors during the disarmament exercise.



As per the H.E The Presidents’ directive to deploy at all sub-counties (2,184) in the country, the Directorate needs to sequentially build SOCO workforce towards deploying at least 4,368 SOCOS (2 per sub-county) in the coming years. There is a shortfall of 3,956 SOCOS countrywide. In addition, the fuel allocation of UGX 70,000 per SOCO per quarter is inadequate to process all crime scenes in a quarter.



Figure 37: Showing the evidence response team at a terror scene in Kyabadaza, Mpigi District.



Figure 38: Forensic personnel processing a scene in Kapeeka Semuto on 27th November 2022.



Figure 39: Showing crime scene officers processing a scene in the aftermath of the murder of Ibrahim Tsubira a.k.a Isma Olaxess a.k.a Jajja Iculi.





Developing forensic expertise, mainstreaming equality and wellbeing of all forensic practitioners.

The Directorate greatly relies on a trained and skilled manpower to deliver on its key performance areas and contribute to the core policing mandate of detecting and preventing crime. Since 2019, the directorate has trained analysts and technicians abroad in the following categories: 06 Digital Forensic Experts, 01 Questioned Document Examiners, 04 Questioned Document technicians, 03 Ballistic & Toolmark Examiners, 04 Forensic Biology, 03 Forensic Chemistry and 06 Fingerprint Examiners. In addition, the following courses were conducted locally with the support of the Human Resource Directorate as in Table 2.

Table 2: Showing number of courses conducted from 2019 - 2023.

COURSE	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
ADVANCED CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT/ PHOTOGRAPHY				7	
CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY				10	
EAC FTX TRAINING				1	
EFIT6 (FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION)				11	
EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT				21	
FACIAL RECOGNITION				2	
FORENSIC INDUCTION TRAINING				73	
FRICTION RIDGE TRAINING				11	
HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION				5	
IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING (LEADERSHIP TRAINING)				6	
IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING (POLITICAL EDUCATION)				4	
INTERMEDIATE COMMAND COURSE				4	3
ISO/IEC 17025 AWARENESS TRAINING					10
JUNIOR NCO				15	
LEICA BLK 3D-360 IMAGING LASER SCANNER				9	9
OFFICER BASIC COURSE				37	
RECORDS MANAGEMENT			10		10



COURSE	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
REFRESHER TRAINING		45			
SENIOR COMMAND COURSE				1	1
SENIOR NCO				9	
CYBER CRIME TRAINING	5		13	3	3
SGBV RELATED CASES			60	64	138
SOCO INDUCTION	93	30		65	
STATION COMMAND				7	
TOT ON BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION				1	1
UP-SKILLING AND RETOOLING OF SOCOs		60			



Figure 40: Showing the Assistant DPP, Samali Wakooli (Gender, Children and Sexual Offences) and Ag. Director Forensic Services opening a UNFPA funded training retreat on management of sexual and gender-based violence evidential material for Police Officers in Rwenzori West.



Figure 41: Showing Ms. Lucy Ladira (Access to Criminal Justice Advisor, at Governance and Security Programme Secretariat) at the closure of a refresher training in the use of modern evidence response tools of 60 SOCOs at the Kikandwa UPF-ICT training facility.



Figure 42: Showing Ms. Lucy Ladira (left) handing over JLOS funded crime scene imaging and photography tools. On the right, trainees demonstrating crime scene procedures during the closure of the SOCO refresher training.



Figure 43: Showing Moot Court presided over by Justice Eldard Mwangusya (Retired Justice of the Supreme Court)





Figure 44: Showing a moot court held during one of the SGBV training sessions supported by UNWOMEN and UNFPA.

Efforts have been made to train forensic personnel in the skills of presenting evidence and scientific reports before courts of law. UNFPA supported three (03) moot courts in Fortportal, Soroti and Kampala. The final moot court in Kampala was presided over by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Eldard Mwangusya. In attendance was the Access to Criminal Justice Advisor, at Governance and Security Programme, the RSA Nakawa, Prosecutors from the DPP who took up the role of defence counsel and forensic personnel.

The Directorate personnel further engaged in science awareness during the National Science Week and scientific symposia at secondary schools towards enhancing forensic awareness among the youth and those seeking to engage in science for national development.



Figure 45: Showing a practical session of crime scene management during one of the SGBV training sessions supported by UNWOMEN and UNFPA.





Figure 46: Showing the forensic service personnel engaging the public during the national science week.

Discipline

The Directorate has a zero-tolerance policy towards unethical practices as part of the capstone policy on the Code of Conduct (LP-001) of personnel as earmarked in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. Overall, all Staff are required to adhere and abide by all provisions of the Police Standing Orders. During the period under review, ten (10) personnel were reverted and six (06) declared deserters with formal charges being pursued.

Fast-tracking the establishment of an Ultra-modern forensic laboratory

The Directorate is also host to the EAC Regional Forensic Referral Centre of Excellence (RFRCoE) pursuant to the decision of the 4th and 5th EAC Ministerial Sessions of the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security (EAC/SCISS 04 -MS/2012 and EAC/SCISS 05 -MS/2012). The decision and choice were based on a strict criterion that recognised that Uganda had a functional Directorate of Forensic Services in the police, which was not the case with the other EAC member states.

The role of the RFRCoE is to:

- i. Harmonise forensic service delivery standard within all EAC Partner States forensic facilities.
- ii. Facilitate certification of Forensic Scientists and accreditation of laboratories and equipment.
- iii. Provide and organise forensic training and research in areas identified within the EAC as required in order that all Partner State forensic services operate to the best practice standards.



- iv. Development standard operating procedures (SOP) for forensic specialities.
- v. Provide access to expertise in all key forensic disciplines and organise staff exchanges and work placements.
- vi. Provide a hub for the dissemination of the latest developments in forensic science.
- vii. Develop links with academic institutions to provide better qualified graduates for the future of forensic science.



Figure 47: Showing the proposed Ultra-modern building to accommodate the EAC Regional Forensic Referral Center of Excellence.

As part of the RFRCoE mandate, the Directorate hosted and trained 12 ballistics officers from the EAC Partner states of Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania from the 17th to 21 July 2023. The training was funded by the EU under the East African Community Joint Response to Regional and Cross Border Security Threats Project. The participants were equipped with knowledge and skills in ballistics examination and data sharing procedures and protocols in preparation for the operationalization of the EAC Ballistics Information Network. Additional equipment is planned for acquisition in 2024 under the EAC Peace and Security sector interventions.



Furthermore, standard operating procedures for the EAC Ballistics Evidence Examiners were developed and endorsed by the 8th meeting of EAC Chiefs of Police and Council of Ministers at their 8th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Inter State Security in November 2023. The standard operating procedures for the EAC Cyber and Digital Forensic Examiners are now under development.

PROPOSED WAYFORWARD

Establishment of the Regional Forensic Referral Centre

Following the directive of H.E. The President in June 2018 to Establish an ultra-modern forensic facility (that will also host the Regional Forensic Referral Centre). A suitable developer has been identified and final negotiations are underway to commence construction in 2024.

Extension of frontline forensic capabilities

The recently acquired frontline forensic capabilities such as the Criminal Automated Biometric Identification and DNA analysis systems are to be extended to all policing districts as part of the Electronic Policing Information System Project.

Mobility of Scene of Crime Officers

Scene of Crime Officers are required to process all scenes where an offense could have been committed or where evidential material is likely to be recovered. Acquisition of transport units for Scene of Crime Officers will be prioritized to deliver superior forensic capabilities to all crime scenes across the country.

Training in advanced forensic techniques

Forensic service delivery requires a skilled manpower engrained in the various up to date forensic techniques. The country needs a minimum of 2,680 forensic practitioners to cover all policing regions and districts in addition to analysts, examiners and technicians required at headquarters. Scientists will continue to be identified in subsequent police recruitments.

Review of forensic legal framework

The Evidence Act and the Identification of Offenders Act are the key pieces of legislation that guide forensic service delivery. This legal framework is due for review to enable the effective application of modern scientific techniques in the criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the Directorate will continue to focus on capacity enhancement, both human and technological, to meet the demands of a modern Uganda Police Force in as far as having a robust forensic service that can foster frontline policing operations and provide timely scientific truth with excellence for safer communities.







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