

Mulago starts centre for HIV+ adolescents

By Jennifer Bakya

Doctors at the Aids Clinic at Mulago Hospital have started a centre to care for HIV positive adolescents.

"We assume this is a disease for adults. Many adolescents feel isolated," said Dr Elly Katabira, the associate dean of Makerere University Medical School.

Katabira was on Friday briefing former South African First Lady Graca Machel (pictured right), a global child rights activist and Mr Stephen Lewis, the UN special envoy on HIV in Africa about the activities of the clinic at the medical school.

The two were in Uganda on a five-day visit, which ended on Friday.

He said that the clinic decided to start the centre so that adolescents could share experiences since they neither fit in the adults' clinic or the paediatric ward.

Dr Patricia Mwebaze said that the clinic had registered



30 adolescents.

She said that many could have got the infection from their mothers.

A few defilement cases have also been reported.

"We think many of them have been dying without care," she said.

Mwebaze said that many of the adolescents are stunted and have been stigmatised especially by schoolteachers.

The centre wants the adolescents to have a decent life. It has put some adolescents on

anti-retroviral (ARVs) drugs. Katabira said that affected healthcare workers have been left out of Aids programmes.

"We are good at taking care of others, but when it comes to us, we don't know how to," he said.

Alice, an HIV positive nurse at Mulago, said that healthcare workers shun their colleagues with Aids.

She said that HIV positive workers need anti-retroviral drugs to continue working and living a meaningful life.

She said that some employees in both private and public hospitals have lost their jobs because of having HIV.

"We are not promoted because people think we are dying tomorrow," she said. Even organisations dealing with Aids issues are reluctant to appoint people with HIV as leaders," she said.

Alice tested positive in 1998 and her husband died in 2002, leaving behind a six-year-old son.

Saleh counsels students



The Commander of the Reserve Force, Lt Gen. Salim Saleh meets students of St Michael High School in Goma, Mukono recently. He advised them not to mix their studies with politics (Photo by Herbert Mugagga).

Muslims advised on Amin

By Halima Abdallah

The chairman of the Uganda Muslim Youth Assembly, Imam Kasozi, has said that former President Idi Amin did a lot to develop the Muslim community and the country.

He appealed to Muslims to ignore allegations against Amin and advised them to appreciate the fact that everybody had his weaknesses. He said that even those who

killed Ugandans are now pointing fingers at Amin.

Kasozi was on Friday conducting Juma prayers at the Makerere University Mosque.

"Our attitude towards Amin must be different," he said.

He said that before Amin took power in 1971, there were less than 100 Muslim university graduates but that situation quickly improved. Later after the Juma

prayers, he conducted a short prayer for Amin.

Meanwhile, Kasozi also said that the Muslim community supports the death penalty.

He told the congregation at the university mosque that the death penalty and corporal punishment are allowed in Islam.

"Islam says teach a child prayers if he fails to do so, cane him. For those who tell lies cane them," he said.



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