

# Senior doctor wants medics to teach health to learners

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**KAMPALA.** A medical consultant has proposed that government starts a special programme under which health workers will help teachers to teach reproductive and general health knowledge to learners, a move she said will reduce the cost of health care in the country.

Dr Judith Ajeani, a consultant obstetrician/ gynecologist at Mulago hospital, said schools are not providing “enough information” on reproductive health and this has left many girls getting pregnant before completion of schools and resorting to unsafe abortions that have cost lives.

“Sexual and reproductive health is much more than a Biology class that teaches you about uterus, ovary and how a girl gets pregnant. It is more than that,” Dr Ajeani said yesterday at the Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (Memprow) function yesterday.

“What we are providing in schools is not enough. And you cannot expect teachers who are not trained as health workers to provide the information they are providing. What should be done is for health workers to work with schools to bridge the knowledge gap,” she added.

*Daily Monitor* could not get a comment from Mr Patrick Muinda, the ministry of Education

## WORRYING SITUATION

**Girl-child affected.** According to Unicef State of the World's Children 2016 report, nearly one in every two girls in Uganda is married before the age of 18.

On June 16, 2015, government launched the African Union Campaign to end child marriage and its first ever National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (2014/2015 2019/2020), which was developed in partnership with civil society organisations.

spokesperson, on the matter as he was reportedly engaged in a meeting by press time.

Memprow is an organisation that brings together young girls and women and supports life skills development, leadership, reproductive health, school retentions, among others.

Dr Hilda Tadria, a former Makerere University lecture and founder of MEMPROW, appealed to government to “ensure effective dissemination and implementation of legislative gender-based laws” and also put an end to child rights violation in the country.

“There should be explicit punishment for child labour, corporal punishment, child

trafficking and child marriage,” Dr Tadria said at the organisation's 10 years celebration in Muyenga, Kampala.

Ms Doreen Kyasiimire, a programmes officer at Memprow, appealed to women to strive to be financially independent, a measure that would cushion them from reliance that she said may result into domestic violence.

“Women have accessed equal opportunities like men. Given the economic situations, women should work. When men take care of someone who can take care of themselves, they end up abusing them because they know they are the sole provider,” Ms Kyasiimire, said.