

Improve access to basic HIV/AIDS care services

EDITOR: Uganda adopted the UNAIDS first track strategy of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

However lack of health centres hindering HIV fight in Mubende district as reported in yesterday's *New Vision* shows that there is still a lot to do, if we are to achieve this ambitious target.

It is a Government policy to have a Health Centre III in every sub county; however, some places do not have these health centres yet.

They are the first contact centres where people can access basic healthcare services, including HIV/AIDS care. Even those in place are either understaffed or lack basic supplies like medicine, gloves, testing kits.

It should be noted that one of the major challenges people living with HIV/AIDS face is poor adherence, which is partly due to inaccessibility of ARVs. This means the Government should ensure that there is constant supply of drugs, especially in hard to reach areas.

There is also need to equip the Health Centre IIs and IIIs with the necessary equipment and human resource to provide basic HIV/AIDS care. Uganda being a model country for the first track strategy of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 means devoting a lot of efforts and resources towards this cause so that other countries can learn from us.

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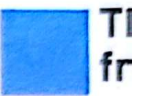
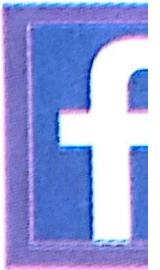
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