

Give sex workers condoms, mayors appeal to hotels

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KAMPALA. Mayors have asked hotels to provide condoms to sex workers so as to curb the spread of HIV/Aids.

The chairperson of Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/Aids in Africa (AMICAALL), Mr Kabbyanga Baluku, said sex trade transacted in hotels and lodges should be made less risky to save lives.

"I was in South America recently and what I learnt is that sex work business is very smart. They [sex workers] are tested for HIV and are given condoms before being allowed to engage in the business. As AMICAALL, we have started giving them condoms and using them as sex educators," Mr Baluku said.

"When you go to hotel rooms, you find a Bible to guide your spirituality, why not give them a condom? We should prioritise them by giving them money in Operation Wealth Creation as an alternative income," he added.

Mr Baluku was speaking at the closure of 10th joint annual Aids review in Kampala last Friday.

National statistics indicate the rise of HIV/Aids infection among men aged 45 to 49 years and 11 districts in mid-eastern Uganda.

Early this year, President Museveni launched the Fast Track Initiative embedded in the UNAids global 90:90:90 targets.

Under these targets, every country is challenged to reach at least 90 per cent of all people diagnosed for HIV, 90 per cent of those found positive to undertake treatment and 90 per cent of those on treatment to have their viral load suppressed.

Uganda Aids Commission director general Nelson Musoba said President Museveni would engage with district leaders to focus on the Fast Track Initiative.

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