

injuries on Waswa's legs he allegedly sustained from torture

focus is to empower them to be able to protect themselves against sexual

HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa and nearly 1,000

parents who do not take care of the girl-child.

Ssaka to the university to expand.

Available drugs have made HIV/AIDS fight harder – minister

WAKISO

By Farooq Kasule and Michael Odeng

The fight against HIV/AIDS has become more difficult after the discovery of life-saving drugs, the Minister for the Presidency, Esther Mbayo, has revealed.

In her message delivered by Sarah Khanakwa Bwayo, the AIDS Support Organisation resource mobilisation and liaison officer, Mbayo said in 1980s people treated HIV/AIDS as a 'death sentence' but the availability of drugs currently has made them careless.

"I am certainly glad that people now have the comfort of knowing they do not have to die of HIV/AIDS. However, this loss of fear poses a grave threat to the fight against it, because it

results in complacency," she said.

Mbayo added that "the current lack of concern about HIV/AIDS is a 'deadly cocktail' because those with HIV could potentially infect others."

She made the remarks recently at a function held at Bishop Samuel Chapel, Nansana municipality, in Wakiso district. It was organised by Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation (FOCAGIFO) in collaboration with Youth with a Vision Uganda, Departments of Health Mission and Youth, under the theme "Loving our neighbours 'God-like' to end AIDS faster, smarter and more sustainably".

Mbayo said the Government is committed to the global goal of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 though it requires an acceleration of efforts to combat it.

She said in June 2017, President Yoweri Museveni launched the presidential fast tracking

Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha was the first African priest to declare he was HIV positive



initiative for AIDS which calls for acceleration of efforts to combat the epidemic and scaling up interventions to produce results.

The initiative aims at engaging men in HIV prevention, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ensuring financial stability for the HIV/AIDS response.

A new study indicates that about 40% of all new infections are among adolescent girls and young men under 25. About 567 young people between 15 to 24 years get HIV per week.

Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha, who tested positive in 1992, said he started FOCAGIFO to advocate for reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence through faith sector communities.

About how he has managed to live with HIV for 26 years, Byamugisha explains: "I do not live every day thinking about death. Instead, I think of how to make myself better in different aspects and make an impact on society."

FOCAGIFO is a vocational institute based