

the acting director general of health services in the Ministry of Health, Dr Henry Mwebesa,

respiratory diseases.

People get exposed to these diseases when they are still

collaboration with Makerere University and other

research at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, the centre for non-

diseases.

treatment is lifelong.

By Nelson Kiva

Uganda has been encouraged not to back-track in the pursuit of its vision 2030 of elimination of HIV infections.

Karusa Kiragu, the United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) country representative, yesterday said the initiative was attainable.

Karusa, however, said Uganda needed to scale up efforts at the front of the disease prevention with worrying figures of new cases being recorded.

On her visit to Baylor College of Medicine Foundation Uganda at Mulago in Kampala yesterday, Kiragu

## Uganda's HIV/AIDS target achievable says expert

said the 1,000 cases of new infections registered every week posed a threat to the attainment of the goal.

She said the saddest note was that the most infections were being registered among young girls.

### Presidential initiative

In June 2017, President Yoweri Museveni launched "The Presidential Fast-track Initiative on ending HIV&AIDS in Uganda by 2030."

The initiative was lauded by the international community as the first of its kind in Africa and worldwide.

It highlighted the role of engaging men in HIV prevention and closing the tap on new infections, particularly among adolescent girls and young women.

It underlined accelerated implementation of test-and-treat and attainment of 90-90-90 targets particularly among men and young

people; consolidating the progress on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ensuring financial sustainability for the HIV response.

Prioritisation of institutional effectiveness for a well co-ordinated multi-sectoral response was also part of the five-point programme.

Uganda has succeeded in bringing down the HIV prevalence rate from the peak of 18% rate in the 1980s and

1990s to between 6-7% today.

Kiragu lauded Uganda on the score of reduced cases of mother-to-child transmissions (MTCT) which she attributed to boosted efforts on HIV/AIDS and treatment.

According to the health ministry, MTCT cases reduced by 86% in babies born with HIV/AIDS and this is the highest achievement in the whole world. The ministry's goal is a 100% reduction by 2020.