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School holiday: Get time for your child

Tomorrow, the last batch of school children will be coming home for holidays. They will soon be going back for the third term, winding up the year and hoping to go to the next level, if they qualify for it. Prepare them for the journey ahead.

Ever thought about why some beautiful girls end up on the streets as prostitutes yet they had all the opportunities to pursue a more meaningful career in life? And do they know how risky it is to engage in such anti-social behaviour?

We ought to talk to our children, guide and guard them. We ought to listen and create quality time for them. The best inheritance we can boast of having given them is not property and fat bank accounts. It is the good education, which starts and ends at home. Parents and guardians are key players in this.

We can teach them to be winners through sharing with them our own real life lessons learnt over time through simple and honest talk and in the right environment. Do your children know your life's journey? Wouldn't it shape their destiny if they did? Give it a thought.

The Uganda Police are grappling with targeted, senseless and gruesome murders of girls in Katabi Town Council and Nansana Municipality, in Wakiso district. What is your role as a parent? First, a responsible citizen will have the appropriate information and use it tactfully to teach those around.

The Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura, explained these murders this week. Between May 3 and August 18, 2017, 17 girls and women have been killed in much the same way. Investigations so far indicate that out of the 17 lives lost, 11 of the girls were into prostitution; four were once married and possibly had had issues in these relationships. Three of the four were separated and fend for themselves. One was a business lady while the last one was a student.

Many of the suspected criminals have been apprehended. Justice will be done, soon. Killers remain hunted and haunted for life. Do some people derive pleasure in inflicting pain on others? Aren't criminals born?

Do our innocent, sometimes naive children know these facts? Allow them to know that they have what it takes to ensure their own safety and enhance their security. It starts with information, mind set change and belief systems. Help them to become hard targets, now and in future. Help them to learn life skills. Talk about winning. Start the journey picking from your own shortcomings. Start up something in that direction. That could surely be the famous "destiny changer".

While in Nansana municipality recently where the Inspector General of Police released the report on the murders on Monday, some of the girls who claimed to be engaged in prostitution argued that they are led there because they are not into gainful employment or they were completely unemployed. But are they employable? Do they have skills? Are they willing to work, to hassle? And no one is blaming them, but picking lessons from their plight is critical.

Some of them, without prejudice, wasted their prime time or missed opportunities for reasons from various angles of life. Some are directly responsible for who they are, some are not. I remember a girl who openly told us in 2000, when I was still a school teacher, that we had no business dictating how she lived her life. She was this reckless girl who engaged in reckless sex with cooks, fellow students and petty business people around the school, including herdsmen. And when we punished her, she boldly reminded us that it was her body! She possibly did not see anything wrong with it. Poor girl!

As responsible parents, we can learn from other parents. We can read books and journals about parenting. Start up something tangible with children. The sharing of your past is so fulfilling in itself alone. Inspire your children into greatness by doing great things, together. Let them be proud of who they are. Teach them the value of self-care, endurance, discipline, focus and hard work. Be their role model. Love their mother or father, honestly. But do not forget to be a good listener.

By these, you will give to the world an accomplished child, a positive player, a destiny changer, a winner in the right sense of the word, not a criminal that makes the world shed tears as the ones pointed out above. Happy Holidays.

The writer is a senior Police officer in Uganda