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A report by USMI ASSOCIATION,

BY DESIRE MBABAALI
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

41% deaf people not aware of HIV - survey

KAMPALA. About 41.7 per cent of people with hearing impairment in the greater Kampala are not aware of HIV/Aids, according to a recent survey.

The 2013/2014 Crane Survey by Makerere University School of Public Health, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, and Ministry of Health also indicates a 1.9 per cent HIV prevalence among the group under study.

"While national studies have been conducted to sample the entire population on HIV prevalence, little attention is given to people with disabilities," said Prof David Serwadda from Makerere University School of Public Health during the release of the findings in Kampala yes-

terday. The survey highlighted limited presence of HIV-related information with 60 per cent of the target group not using contraceptives, 45 per cent reported coerced into sex, 40 per cent reported being raped, while 26 per cent and 16 per cent reported selling and buying sex respectively.

Commenting on the findings, Mr Joseph Mbulamwana, the executive director of Uganda National Association of the Deaf, said: "In Uganda, we have more than one million deaf people out of the 36 million Ugandans, so, if the one million is left behind on HIV related information, then you are leaving out a big community, because even

HIV/AIDS REPORT

Objective. The Crane Survey by Makerere University School of Public Health, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, and Ministry of Health examined the quality of life, the estimated burden of HIV, as well as access to HIV-related literacy and services among people with a hearing impairment in the greater Kampala.

the deaf people get sick."

Mr Mbulamwana asked the government to make information accessible to the deaf.

"Going to hospital, accessing health care is a challenge, because there are no sign language interpreters so communication becomes hard. As the deaf community, we are missing out on this information because the ministry hasn't put channels of communicating such information to us," he added.

Prof Serwadda said: "A number of issues have been raised by the survey. We have identified and highlighted some of these problems, so the next step is to know what we are going to do about them."