



## **A SUMMARIZED REPORT ON THE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON HIV AND STIGMA IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL FAST TRACK INITIATIVE (PFTI) HELD ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2023 AT BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS**

The sensitization was organized by the **Busitema University Students Guild** in collaboration with the **Uganda Aids Commission (UAC)**.

The participants in the sensitization were students of Busitema university, Main campus, Nagongera campus, members of staff and the university top management. Find attachment of the lists of attendance.

The sensitization started at 10:20am with an Opening prayer led by one of the students

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

The vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Paul Wako welcomed the team from the Uganda aids commission and thanked them for considering Busitema University as one of the institutions where the sensitization should be carried out. He commended the Guild leadership spearheaded by the Guild president for the great work done in ensuring that the sensitization was a success. He urged the students to be mindful of their lives and to always stay safe by observing the "ABC" measures thus Abstaining, Being faithful and Using Condoms.

### **OPENING REMARKS**

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SENSITIZATION**

A board member of the UAC, Dr. Charles said that the main objective of the sensitization is to create awareness among the youths and to fight stigma and discrimination of the people living with HIV. He further shared with us the country statistics on the spread of HIV. About 1.4 million people are living with AIDS in Uganda. He highlighted about the five pillars of the Presidential Fast Track Initiative (PFTI)

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE: ENDING AIDS IN UGANDA BY 2030**

Mr. Etii Tom, the private sector coordinator **UAC**, thanked the University management and the students Guild leadership for the collaboration with the Uganda AIDS Commission to have the sensitization take place. He gave a recap of the UAC and stated that its aim is to empower young people, equip them with the necessary knowledge about HIV and to fight against stigma and discrimination of people living with AIDS in our communities. He requested the young people to abstain from drug abuse. He sighted the goals of UAC as

- Zero new infections
- Zero stigma and discrimination
- Zero AIDS related deaths

- **HIV POSITIVE LIVING AND STIGMA FREE**

Madam Proscovia, a teacher by profession and a mother of four who tested HIV positive about 24 years ago shared her life story and experience. She has faced multiple cases of discrimination, rejection, and stigma related acts in her areas of living. This prompted her to lose love for her profession and chose to come out and speak against stigma and discrimination of the people living with AIDS. She urged all the young people to protect themselves and join in the fight against stigma and discrimination

- **MAINSTREAMING HIV ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY**

Mr. Wanyama, The Deputy Dean of Students submitted on the involvement of the university in the fight against HIV. He emphasized the set-up of well-equipped medical facilities at every campus which readily offer testing services. He reported about the provision of free male condoms in all campuses and urged the Students to make use of them. He also reported about the existence of a University counselor in case of psychological torture. He requested students to stay safe.

There was a question answer session where all members present were asked to present any HIV related question. Many questions were raised and all were answered by the various presenters and team from the Uganda Aids Commission

#### **GUILD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

He welcomed and thanked the team from UAC for considering Busitema University as one of the first institutions to benefit from the sensitization drive. He thanked the University administration for their involvement in having the sensitization take place. He thanked the members of the student Guild leadership for the mobilization and organization for the sensitization. He requested fellow students to be extra careful with their lives and if possible, they should abstain from sex.

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The Deputy Dean of Students gave the closing remarks and declared the session adjourned.

A closing prayer was said and Lunch served to all the members in attendance

Screening and testing for HIV were carried out after the sensitization

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The vice chancellor together with the Guild president requested that if possible even the other campuses that have bigger populations be considered for the sensitization since only two out of the six had been captured in the one held at the main campus. Mbale campus and Arapai campus located within Mbale and Soroti city respectively could be bigger and better beneficiaries of the sensitization due to their city locations where HIV and AIDS prevalence is high. Arapai campus has over 50% of the total population of Busitema University which makes it the most populated campus of the University

We therefore recommend a consideration for a sensitization at Arapai Campus in Soroti

Compiled by;  
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