

Patriotism students urged to safeguard against HIV/AIDS

By Vision Reporter

The Commissioner for the National Secretariat for Patriotism Corps (NSPC) at State House, Hellen Seku, has urged students in Busoga sub-region to respect their bodies and avoid behaviours that could expose them to HIV/AIDS.

Addressing students during a visit to Jinja Secondary School yesterday, Seku emphasised the importance of discipline, self-respect and education as key tools in protecting young people from risky lifestyles.

Although overall HIV prevalence declined from 5.1% in 2023 to 4.9% last year, Uganda continues to grapple with high rates of new HIV infections. In 2024 alone, 37,000 new infections were recorded nationwide.

Girls aged 15-24 remain disproportionately affected, accounting for 78% of infections

among adolescents. Four out of every five young people newly infected are girls and young women.

Seku encouraged students, especially girls, to remain focused on their education and avoid peer pressure, make wise life choices until the right time and circumstances for relationships come.

Quoting the Bible from the Book of Hosea Chapter 4:6, she reminded students that lack of knowledge can destroy communities. Seku further encouraged developing a strong reading culture and focus on studies so as to succeed in life.

LEADERSHIP COMMENDED

The commissioner further emphasised the importance of environmental cleanliness in schools, urging students to keep classrooms, toilets, and bathrooms clean, avoid littering, and plant more trees.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Uganda continues to grapple with high rates of new HIV infections. In 2024 alone, 37,000 new infections were recorded nationwide.

She commended the leadership of the school for maintaining a clean environment and encouraged students to build a culture of discipline and responsibility.

Seku also paid tribute to teachers for their dedication to shaping the future of the country, describing them as among the most patriotic citizens because of the sacrifices they make to educate young people, despite limited resources.

"A teacher made me who I am today," she said, calling on students to appreciate their teachers and work hard to



Seku (centre) addressing students of Jinja Secondary School during a visit at the school on Monday

achieve their dreams.

The school headteacher, Isaac Balimusangayo, informed the commissioner that the institution is struggling with old buildings and structures that require urgent renovation. He appealed to Government authorities to support rehabilitation of their

facilities for better student learning environment.

In response, Seku promised immediate attention to the renovations and support for the construction of new ones. She also assured the school administration that efforts would be made to provide a

school bus to help students with transportation.

Seku is currently conducting a seven-day monitoring and evaluation tour of schools and institutions across the districts in Busoga sub-region to promote patriotism, education, and youth empowerment.