



**REPORT FOR PHILLY LUTAAYA PUBLIC MEMORIAL LECTURE
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT CONFERENCE HALL 17TH
OCTOBER 2020**



Ms. Gloria Nawanyanga a representative of the Young Positives during the Memorial Lecture



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Every year, Uganda AIDS Commission under the Office of the President mobilizes stakeholders countrywide to commemorate the **PHILLY LUTAAYA** day on 17th October. This is the day that the country remembers the legendary Ugandan who pioneered to give AIDS a human face amidst stigma, discrimination, denial and ignorance. This year's commemoration happened at a time when the world is united in battling the COVID-19 pandemic which has presented a number of challenges particularly for People Living with HIV in accessing care, treatment, social support and protection. Therefore, the commemoration was held under the theme **Access to HIV Services During COVID-19 Pandemic** so that the challenges brought about by COVID-19 are addressed to ensure that the gains made in the HIV response are not reversed.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the commemoration was to inform Ugandans through the media about Philly Lutaaya Day and promote Lutaaya's legacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives included:

1. To promote HIV awareness and reach over ten million Ugandans with the message of ending AIDS as a public health threat in Uganda by 2030.
2. To engage over 200 media houses and private sector in promoting the legacy of Philly Lutaaya and recognize his contribution especially in the fight against stigma and discrimination of People Living with HIV (PLHIV).
3. To engage the top leadership of the Justice sector and all stakeholders in promotion and enforcement for the rights of PLHIV in Uganda.

1.2 Progress made during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture

1.2 Activities for Commemoration of Philly Lutaaya Memorial Day

In order to achieve the objectives of the commemoration, UAC engaged stakeholders and mobilized participation at national and subnational levels. A number of activities were organized to mark the commemoration which included; national organizing committee meetings to provide leadership and ownership; dissemination of HIV messages; engagement meetings with the Justice Sector leadership; ; Press briefing on 14th October 2020 to inform the public about the

commemoration and the progress the country has made; ; conducted radio and television talk shows to increase information to the masses; ; intensive engagement via social media to push out messages; an finally the scientific memorial lecture that was held on 17th October 2020.

1.3 Press Conference 14th October 2020 presided over by Hon Minster for the Presidency



Hon. Minister in charge of the Presidency giving Remarks during the Press Conference on 14th Oct 2020

In order to increase awareness and provide updates about the PLD, UAC and stakeholders held a press conference at Office of the President Conference Hall to inform the media fraternity and the public about the commemoration of Philly Lutaaya day. The conference was addressed by the Minister in charge of the Presidency Hon. Esther Mbayo, other members included the UAC Board Chairman; the Family of Philly Lutaaya; a representative of the Young Positives; a representative from Inter Religious Council of Uganda; Chairperson of the National Forum of People Living with

HIV Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU); Executive Director of UNYPA and over 50 journalists representing the various media houses in the country.

It was noted that Uganda's success story began with Philly Bongoley Lutaaya, one of Uganda's greatest musicians who came out openly as having HIV and AIDS. Philly Lutaaya preached about HIV and how each and every one should protect themselves. This was the beginning of Uganda's success story and Philly gave HIV/AIDS a human face. The Hon. Minister further noted that Philly used music to convey a message of hope and to educate the population about HIV and AIDS and how to prevent it. He pioneered the fight against stigma and discrimination of People Living with HIV/AIDS and today, his song *Alone and Frightened* remains Uganda's anthem for HIV and AIDS.

Regarding stigma and discrimination, the Hon. Minister noted that if Uganda is to end AIDS by 2030, there is need to fight stigma and discrimination as a team. "Government officials, religious leaders, private sector actors, cultural leaders, artists, media practitioners, teachers, parents and People Living with HIV all have a role to play and need to be part of these efforts to end stigma and discrimination which is a critical barrier to ending AIDS as a public health threat," said the Honourable minister for Presidency.

The Minister therefore called upon Persons Living with HIV to:

- I. Confront, challenge or educate someone who is stigmatizing and/or discriminating them as a PLHIV;
- II. Seek knowledge about organizations that he/she can go to for help if he/she experiences stigma or discrimination;
- III. Advocate for the rights of all people living with HIV and for the rights and support of marginalized groups of people affected or infected with HIV/AIDS;
- IV. Provide support to people living with HIV through emotional, physical and referral support;
- V. Raise awareness and knowledge of the public about AIDS, including human rights and HIV stigma and discrimination.
- VI. Voluntarily disclose his/her HIV status to the spouse or partner so as to prevent infection;
- VII. Demand for his/her rights and ensure that they are observed and not violated.

The minister thanked the stakeholders including the AIDS Development Partners (ADPs) for their continued support towards ensuring that PLHIV have access to testing and treatment services and

for their role in fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. She thanked the people living with HIV networks who continue to carry the legacy of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya and give the AIDS fight a face. The Minister thanked the family of the late Philly Lutaaya for keeping his memory alive thus reminding us of his contribution to the HIV/AIDS fight. Finally, she appreciated H.E Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the unwavering leadership to the National HIV response over the years.

1.4.

2.0 Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture 17th October 2020

The Philly Lutaaya memorial lecture was the highlight of the commemoration this year. The memorial lecture was held on 17th October 2020 at the Office of the President, Conference Hall, under the theme: **Access to HIV Services During COVID-19 Pandemic**. The Key Note Speaker at the memorial lecture was the Chief Justice of Uganda, His Lordship Hon. Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, who was represented by the Chief Registrar – Uganda Judiciary, Ms. Sarah Langa. The lecture provided opportunity to mobilize the leadership and the entire population to reflect about the rights and responsibilities in provision, access and adherence to HIV services. In addition, the occasion promoted advocacy for dignified mechanisms to end stigma and discrimination among People Living with HIV in Uganda. This should subsequently trigger increased focus and action towards the target of ending AIDS as a public health threat in Uganda by 2030.

Due to the partial lockdown in the country brought about by the COVIDd-19 Pandemic, the lecture was organized in a scientific manner. Only a few participants were present at the physical venue while observing the Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures for COVID-19 management and control. The rest of the participants attended the meeting virtually via zoom, a system that allows participants to deliberate online without physical contact. Participants also had an opportunity of following the lecture live on UBC and NTV televisions. Others followed the event through the UAC social media pages of face book, Twitter and You Tube where the lecture was broadcasted live.

The Director General Uganda AIDS Commission, Dr. Nelson Musoba was the Master of Ceremonies at the lecture and the session chairs were: the Under Secretary Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development – Mr. Eseri Muhindo and the UAC Commissioner and Dean of Makerere University School of Public Health, Prof. Rhodah Wanyenze.

2.1 Participants

Stakeholders at national and subnational level were mobilized to attend the lecture both physically and virtually. Key among the guests that attended physically was the daughter of the late Philly Bongoley Lutaaya Ms. Tezra Lutaaya who represented and spoke on behalf of the Lutaaya family.

Other high level dignitaries included; Chief Registrar – Uganda Judiciary who represented the Chief Justice of Uganda, The Permanent Secretary office of the President, Charge d’affaires U.S Government, Chairperson ADPs, Country Director UNAIDS, UAC Board members, PLHIV representatives, Young People Representatives, Religious and Cultural leaders, Representatives of Local Government Leaders, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, and Representatives of the Media fraternity. In total there were 329 participants of whom 166 were present at the venue (See attendance list in Appendix I) and 165 attended the lecture virtually through zoom. The total number that attended physically at the venue was distributed as follows; Ministries, Departments and Agencies (25), Private Sector (12), Civil Service Organizations (17), ADPs (3), Cultural Leaders (1), VIPs (8), Media (53), UAC staff (25), UAC Board members (6), Other SCE (15).

Media engagement

The NTV, UBC and Spark TV made live broadcasts and jointly reached an estimated over 21 million viewers. Others live streaming the event were required to live tweet statements and comments made by the guests during the event. The face book posts received a total of 652,948 impressions implying that an average of 65294.8 people were reached per post. Twitter posts had a total number of 21192 impressions and an average number of 2,119.2 people were reached per tweet (see detailed report in Appendix II). Overall the lecture was well attended and it attracted participants from across all the 12 SCEs in addition to stakeholders and Implementing partners in the national HIV response.

Below are the highlights of the lecture and the key recommendations made by the stakeholders.

2.2 Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Philly Lutaaya Family

The Chairman Uganda AIDS Commission, Dr. Eddie Mukooyo welcomed all the invited guests to the memorial lecture, the day that we remember and celebrate the life of Philly Bongole Lutaaya a great musician who was selfless to give HIV/AIDS a human face. His selfless act of declaring that he was HIV positive at a time when HIV was considered witchcraft, pioneered the fight against stigma and discrimination against the People Living with HIV. This laid a foundation for a successful fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Chairman introduced the family members who were present at the lecture, and thanked them for the continuity of their father's memory through establishing the Philly Lutaaya Cares a CBO that was founded in 2014 in Gomba to skill vulnerable young people.

He further noted that the onset of COVID-19 disrupted public transport and therefore delivery of HIV services and adherence to treatment were affected. Therefore, the theme for the day was to focus on 'Access to HIV services During COVID-19' pandemic and all the discussions and topics were to focus on that theme.

He appreciated the Chief guest for honoring the invitation and attending the lecture, thanked H.E the President of Uganda for championing the fight against HIV and AIDS and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Special appreciation was extended to the ADPs and all the stakeholders for their contribution in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

2.3 Remarks by Tezra Lutaaya – Family Representative



Ms. Tezra Lutaaya giving Remarks during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture - 17th Oct 2020

Ms. Tezra Lutaaya daughter of the Late Philly Bongoley Lutaaya addressed the gathering on behalf of the family. In her remarks, she noted the following:

The late Philly (her father) before he died, left a strong aggressive HIV campaign against stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV. He was a voice to the voiceless and this has been taken on by the various PLHIV and ambassadors in Uganda and across the world.

His departing words before he died were “My work here is done, but many years after am gone people will continue the fight, the end is not in sight”. This meant that we still have a long way to go and 30 years now we are still struggling with stigma that he himself went through. Stigma is still a big problem which is hindering the fight against HIV and this needs to be addressed.

Empower and support the young people to live to their full potential and stop living under the shadow of stigma. It is our responsibility to show them love, include them in decision making and create a world where they can live and share their status openly without being stigmatized and

discriminated. They are the future of Uganda and their age is a very crucial stage in Uganda's fight to end HIV by 2030.

She urged all citizens to take responsibility and get tested and utilize all the available tools provided by the government. Those found positive should start on treatment immediately so as to be able to live a meaningful and full life. At this stage in the response we should strive to learn from the past and gear up for the future free of HIV.

2.4 Remarks by National Forum of People Living with HIV Network in Uganda (NAFOPHANU)



Ms. Gloria Nawanyanga a representative of the Young Positives giving Remarks during the Philly Memorial Lecture - 17th Oct 2020

The remarks for NAFOPHANU were given by Gloria Nawanyanga a representative of the Young People Living with HIV and a beauty queen. In her remarks, she appreciated the brave and selfless act of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya for coming out and declaring his HIV status at a time when HIV was considered a death sentence. She acknowledged that it is because of that selfless act that she is still alive and full of life.

She noted that stigma is still real and exists. She gave a testimony of herself where she was called “walking HIV” by fellow students at campus. PLHIV have rights like the rest of the human beings therefore they shouldn’t be stigmatized. It is important therefore to end stigma first if we are to

end AIDS by 2030. She noted that it is stigma that is killing the PLHIV, therefore it is the role of every one to end stigma in order to end AIDS by 2030.

She called upon the policy makers to support young people living with HIV in all ways and not to look at them as threats when they are approached. Young people need to be empowered and supported. They need to be educated and given opportunities to fight and share experiences.

She encouraged the young people to test and know their HIV status. Those on treatment should adhere to the treatment in order to attain viral suppression.

2.5 Remarks by Chairperson AIDS Development Partners



The Country Representative Office of the high Commissioner for Human Rights representing the Chairperson AIDS Development Partners during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture -17th Oct 2020

The Country Representative Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Robert Kotchani made remarks on behalf of the AIDS Development partners group. He noted the following:

Philly Bongoley Lutaaya is an inspiration to the AIDS affected communities and response partners because he demonstrated that behavior change is an unmatched vaccine to reducing new HIV infections. Therefore, men and boys and the entire population should emulate his determination and zeal to halt the HIV epidemic and begin to reverse the trends fast enough to attain epidemic control.

There is need to reduce on the new infections using the sufficient knowledge available like focusing on stopping new infections among adolescents and young people 15-24 years and this promises a generation that is AIDS free by 2030.

Advocating for behavior change should be turned into a national campaign rather than having it once every calendar year. This will sustain dialogue and engage men and women living positively with HIV as champions of change, while reaching out to young people with accurate information on available services and technologies for preventing new infections and specifically to women, girls and other generally marginalized people who are at a higher risk of new HIV infections.

There is need to scale up the use of mobile applications that emerged during the early days of COVID-19 lockdown. These were used as tools for community mobilization and awareness, referral for different services, order and delivery for HIV commodities and medicines for Opportunistic infections. The interactive nature of the mobile applications shows that there is still potential out there untapped. In addition, there is need to sustain the use of technologies like zoom to communicate timely information with PLHIV and people at increased risk of HIV.

He noted that the reduction in dedicated resources for HIV response should not discourage anybody but rather should act as a steppingstone to devise innovative ways to attract the necessary investments in tackling the drivers of HIV. Strategies that deliver combination interventions must be prioritized. In addition, behavior change programs targeting young people and population at risk of new infections must be launched and sustained long enough to facilitate the desired change.

As a country we should institute better accountability frameworks and the Government of Uganda must commit to sustain the gains achieved over the years.

2.6 Remarks of the Charge d'affaires U.S Government



The Charge d'affaires U.S Government H.E. Christopher Kraft addressing the gathering during the Philly Lutaaya memorial Lecture - 17th Oct 2020

The Charge d'affaires U.S Government H.E Christopher Kraft addressed the congregation and he thanked UAC for making the event safely happen despite the current COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that despite the challenges arising during COVID – 19, it has also brought opportunities for creativity and innovation reminiscent of the grassroots activism and advocacy pioneered by Philly Lutaaya himself during the early days of HIV and AIDS.

Before his death, Philly Lutaaya spoke about HIV candidly, powerfully, and fearlessly, breaking the barriers of stigma, discrimination, and fear. Through his music and his openness, he brought humanity to a disease that was relentless and shadowed in shame and provided opportunity to promote prevention while opening the doors for acceptance, disclosure, compassion, and support.

More than 30 years into the HIV fight, stigma, discrimination, and non-disclosure remain as key challenges, particularly for community drug distribution. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic these challenges have become heightened. The U.S. government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has responded to these challenges by expanding-client centered interventions through village health teams, expert clients, peer networks, mentor mothers, and others.

By scaling up social network strategies among adolescents and young adults, the identification of HIV positive cases and their subsequent treatment initiation has increased. In addition to the familiar grassroots tactics, PEPFAR has also turned to technology in order to beat the challenges arising from COVID-19.

The lockdown and travel restrictions created gaps in treatment coverage for children and adolescents as they struggled to find a way to get to their appointments. PEPFAR pivoted by finding ways to utilize technological platforms to expand options for providing client-centered services closer to patients and communities. PEPFAR began implementing WhatsApp appointment reminders, virtual site visits, virtual intensive adherence counselling, and the use of several social media platforms to ensure continued support to clients receiving treatment while tracking those lost to follow-up.

The suspension of public transportation resulted in limited access to facility-based services including HIV treatment and testing, viral load testing services, and early infant diagnosis services. Collectively, the HIV stakeholder community rallied together and deployed new methods to increase community-based ARV refills with integrated Viral Load (VL) testing, scaled up multiple month ARV refills so that patients could receive three or six- month refills, and introduced home-based Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) services. While many community-based prevention programs had to be paused, PEPFAR supported innovative approaches to offer pre-exposure prophylaxis through community outreach as well as HIV prevention programs for adolescent girls and young women. The US government through PEPFAR has also supported efforts to ensure the continuity of other vital health services, such as for tuberculosis, malaria, vaccination and maternal and child health services. With the end of COVID-19 global pandemic still ways off, PEPFAR-supported

implementing partners are actively tracking clients and will continue to need support from expert clients, networks of People Living with HIV (PLHIV), and linkage facilitators to identify clients falling between the cracks and innovative ways to reach them.

Advocacy, activism, serving as a government watchdog, and acting as a community caretaker, just as Philly Lutaaya did, have been and remain critical to the HIV/AIDS response. Efforts such as these will continue to raise awareness of challenges in HIV prevention and treatment services and will help in COP20 as we continue to develop and implement intensive catch-up strategies to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Although Philly did not live to see the availability of a successful HIV treatment, it was his voice that helped suppress the HIV stigma and increase compassion and awareness. The awareness he created shifted perceptions and established an environment for treatment to be quickly and widely implemented and utilized once available in Uganda.

Therefore, in the final stretch of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, we need to fight all the roadblocks like stigma, COVID-19 and others that may come our way. In the words of Philly Lutaaya, “Let’s take a stand and fight on to the end...with open hearts”.

2.7 Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Guest Speaker



Hajji Yunus Kakande the Permanent Secretary office of the President giving Opening Remarks during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture 17th Oct 2020

The Minister for Presidency was represented by Hajji Yunus Kakande the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President. He made the opening remarks and introduction of the guest speaker. The Permanent secretary noted that Philly's act of declaring that he was HIV positive amidst fear and denial that were surrounding HIV at the time made him a hero and he is celebrated up to now because he is a hero. The following were highlighted from the remarks:

Philly Lutaaya was a great musician, father, son, brother, friend but most of all he was a man whose heart was with his country. 30 years now since his death but we still remember him because he laid the foundation of our successful HIV response. Philly Lutaaya gave HIV/AIDS a face and he helped through his music to educate the population about HIV/AIDS and how to prevent it. He pioneered the fight against stigma and discrimination of PLHIV. His actions laid a foundation to the many networks of PLHIV such as TASO which have contributed tremendously to the lives of PLHIV.

Despite the significant progress in reducing HIV incidence, prevalence and AIDS related deaths, stigma and discrimination of PLHIV remains a significant barrier in Uganda's fight against HIV/AIDS.

There is need to make targeted investments into and strengthen community systems. Both government and our partners should redirect resources to make sure that human resources, office space, transport and tools for data management are made available to strengthen services.

In order to end AIDS by 2030, we need to get out of our comfort zones especially now that we are dealing with two pandemics (HIV and COVID- 19). We therefore need to take note of the following

1. On an individual level, we need to test for HIV with our partners and together irrespective of the results, decide to prevent HIV.
2. Deliberate effort must be made to reach the men and those who are most at risk of getting infected with HIV in order to reduce the HIV prevalence.
3. Religious and Cultural Institutions should continue to work towards ending stigma and discrimination of PLHIV. In addition, these institutions must work towards addressing negative norms that drive HIV infections like early marriage and Gender Based violence.
4. The media needs to report accurately and responsibly to avoid propagating stigma and discrimination of PLHIV.
5. Government should continue to ensure a conducive policy and legal environment enacting progressive laws and will review and revise those laws, regulations and policies that negatively impact people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In conclusion, she thanked the ADPs and the Government of Uganda for ensuring that PLHIV have access to testing and treatment services. She thanked the PLHIV, Religious and Cultural leaders, Young People living with HIV networks for their role in relentlessly fighting stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV. Furthermore, she thanked the family of the late Philly Lutaaya for keeping his memory alive thus reminding us of his contribution to the HIV/AIDS fight.

Finally, she thanked H.E.Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the unwavering leadership in the national HIV response over the years. The President has demonstrated huge interest and deep

knowledge in HIV and AIDS and most recently COVID- 19, which is driven by the desire to have a healthy population that ultimately drives industrialization.

With those remarks, the Permanent secretary office of the president invited the guest speaker to deliver the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture.

2.8 Presentation by The Key Note Speaker



Ms. Sarah Langa the Chief Registrar- Uganda Judiciary delivering the Philly Memorial Lecture 17th Oct 2020

The Chief Justice of Uganda, His Lordship Hon. Alfonse Owiny-Dollo was represented by Ms. Sarah Langa the Chief Registrar – Uganda Judiciary. Before delivering the lecture, she noted that her Christmas is never complete before she listens to the music of the late Philly Bongoley Lutaaya. He used his talent to bless many and 30 years after his death he is still remembered. She appreciated the family for carrying his legacy on.

Legacy of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya

Philly Bongoley Lutaaya was and will always remain a Hero in Uganda's national and global fight against HIV and AIDS. He pioneered the fight to give HIV and AIDS a human face amidst stigma, discrimination, denial and ignorance. He was indeed one of the first prominent Ugandans to declare openly to the public that he had HIV. His declaration was a catalyst for creating awareness and helped to mitigate myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV and AIDS.

The key note speaker noted that in the beginning of this epidemic medicines were not easily accessible and patients presented with overt signs and symptoms characterized by high stigma and discrimination among the communities at all levels. For the past forty years every Ugandan household has witnessed how HIV caused untold suffering to humanity. Therefore, as we reflect on the Legacy of the great man Philly Bongole Lutaaya who lived for nearly 40 years and did enormous work in the HIV response worldwide, let each one of us evaluate our own personal lives to see what we have done to contribute to his legacy by reducing stigma and discrimination.

She went further to note that Philly Bongole Lutaaya used music to educate the population about the epidemic and articulated the strategies for prevention which evolved into the Abstinence, Being Faithful and Use of Condoms (ABC) model, which became a global phenomenon and he impacted many lives.

She asked 4 fundamental questions to all the stakeholders in Uganda as part of the reflection on how each of us has their talents to fight HIV and AIDS as a contribution to the legacy of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya:

- I. What role have leaders at national, district, community and household level played in providing and promoting reduction of stigma and galvanizing the HIV response in the country?
- II. What have you done as an individual to protect vulnerable persons from stigma and discrimination and enhancement of the utilization of health and HIV services?
- III. How have the legal and policy practitioners done to promote access to HIV services by those affected and in need?
- IV. What role have communities played in demanding for their fair share of quality services and denouncing the rampant gender and sexual based violence?

The key note speaker observed that if the four fundamental questions are well responded to by each one of us will point to how well we have kept the legacy of our great Legend Philly Bongoley Lutaaya and what he stood for.

Theme for the Memorial Lecture

The key note speaker noted that the theme for this memorial Lecture: **Access to HIV services during COVID 19 pandemic** resonates well with the current times and the questions she put across.

Currently Uganda has approximately 1.4 million living with HIV. Of those, the HIV prevalence is 6.2% amongst adults aged 15-64 years: 7.6% in women and 4.7% in men. HIV prevalence is reported to be almost four times higher among females than males aged 15-24, which confirms the vulnerability of the female population. It is therefore important to ask why women as a group are experiencing higher levels of vulnerability to HIV infection than men.

Some reports attribute this vulnerability to the historically persistent unequal power relations and restraints on women's equality and sexual autonomy. Gender-Based Violence, in particular, is a socio-economic, cultural and public health issue that has persistently been linked with increased HIV prevalence and infection. Not only does Gender-Based Violence create physical, emotional and mental vulnerabilities that increase the risk of HIV, but it also disproportionately affects women. According to the Uganda Health Demographic Survey done in 2016, women were reported to be more than twice as likely to experience violence as men and, among the 15-49 age group, 22% of Ugandan women experience sexual violence at some point in their lives compared to only 8% of men.

She therefore cautioned that to account for the vulnerability of women, we must consider the changing dynamics of both HIV and Gender-Based Violence across national, regional and cultural, political and socioeconomic landscapes. These dynamics can be understood in light of key underlying structural drivers. At the local level, for example, norms and institutionalized practices foster discrimination between peoples on the basis of gender, class, age, ethnicity, etc. and reinforce the vulnerability of certain groups. Poverty is another key structural driver: paired with women's "socio-economic dependency", disparities in income at the local level set the stage for the growth and normalization of transactional sex. Although significantly improved, Uganda's

legislation and law enforcement mechanisms contributed by delays and other acts of omission leave vulnerable groups open to victimization and increased risk of HIV infection.

The keynote speaker acknowledged the unwavering leadership and commitment of H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda especially in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Both Uganda and global community have been beneficiaries of his visionary leadership in fighting pandemics.

In addition, the Justice, law and order sector has contributed significantly to fight against HIV and AIDS. Apart from dispensing justice expeditiously in cases related to this cause, we have developed a robust HIV workplace policy and Anti-sexual harassment policy. The aim of these policies is to protect and support staff especially those who are affected or infected by HIV and the communities we interact with. As a sector we have “walked the talk” for example some of our staff have tested and declared their HIV status openly across the ranks, this is the legacy we need to emulate across the country in order to reduce the stigma and discrimination and promote access to HIV services.

Challenges of Covid-19

The key note speaker noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious threats across the society and especially to PLHIV who got affected in accessing the services during the lockdown.

To overcome some of these challenges that were posed by COVID-19, the Judiciary sector developed a digital court system where the accused persons can access justice in court without physical presence to mitigate the COVID-19 spread. This is an example of harnessing technology to ensure that access to services is not hampered by pandemics like COVID 19. She therefore encouraged other sectors to explore innovations to enable PLHIV to access all the fundamental basic needs during this COVID19 pandemic.

She further noted that Ending HIV requires enabling legal and social environments that guarantees the health, dignity and security of all people living with or at risk of HIV. This is the only way to ensure that all those in need of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support have access to these services without fear of discrimination, exclusion or bias.

A famous South African Judge, Justice Cameron said:

“It is our duty as Judges, in fidelity to the principles and craft of our calling, to ensure that injustice and irrationality do not triumph. In cases dealing with HIV, we have the opportunity to make evidence-informed findings and to apply the highest principles to which our legal systems aspire.”

A- Legal Context issues:

(1) Philly Lutaaya’s key message to end HIV discrimination is espoused by the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. Article 21 confirms the equal status of all citizens under the law and prohibits discrimination on a number of grounds including sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, or social or economic standing, political opinion or disability.

(2) The Principle of non-discrimination on basis on HIV is further strengthened by a number of laws- the HIV Prevention and Control Act of 2014 and the Employment Act of 2008.

(3) Although the laws and legal policies are well articulated, the barriers to access to justice and the implementation is not yet perfect. Individuals or communities who are already burdened by HIV or other health conditions find more limitations while they seek justice. Services may be far, not timely, lengthy and environment in courts may be perceived as generally not user friendly to an everyday person. I pledge as Chief Justice to build on the efforts of my predecessors and progressively improve the situation to what we all desire to have and experience.

During the COVID 19 outbreak, government of Uganda responded by implementing the recommended public health measure to protect the lives of Ugandans. These epidemic containment measures including the lock down was an essential approach to save lives however undesirable negative consequences have been experienced.

Conclusion

In her concluding remarks the keynote speaker made a call to action:

The government should:

1. Prioritize creating awareness, promoting advocacy across the country reaching the young people and all the generations with messages on HIV and AIDS. This will enable us promote the legacy of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya. The message should be clear to all people to understand.
2. Provide a conducive, enabling environment and access to HIV services to all the People Living with HIV in Uganda during and post COVID 19. HIV services should be freely accessible to promote health wellbeing and rights all time

Parliament should:

1. Enact and review the laws that will improve the wellbeing of the society especially the people living with HIV. The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2014 may need to be reviewed.

She concluded by observing that Philly Bongoley Lutaaya played his part, his legacy is alive and will continue as a living testimony. HIV can be defeated if we provide simple clear messages reaching the community and back it with efficient services. Each and every one of us should take responsibility to prevent new HIV infections and support all those close to us including the infected persons in the country to live positively.

Further to that, the COVID 19 pandemic should not act as a roadblock to the access to HIV services in any way, as a country, we should take the opportunity to think deeply and innovatively to offer services to the communities especially people living with HIV.

2.9 Panel Discussion



Members of the Panel during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture L-R Dr. Peter Mudioppe Prof. Canon Gideon Byamugisha, Dr. Karusa Kiragu, Mr. Charles Elemu and Dorah Kiconco

Ministry of Health – Dr. Peter Mudioppe: Access to HIV services during Covid-19 pandemic

He started off his discussion by asking a question what Uganda would be if there was no HIV/AIDS or what will Uganda be in 2030 when we end AIDS as a Public Health Threat.

During this Covid-19 period the ministry of Health has been most affected with the epidemic itself but also with the restrictions of failing to move due to lock down. They have had several challenges including

- Restrictions which resulted in restriction to access of services because of the directives and the SOPs that were put in place.
- Restriction on delivery of services in the community which also affected service access.

- Although the estimated number of people who are positive are around 1.4million, with 1.24 knowing their status and are in care making it around 85%. Over 90% of women are in care compared to the men 76%. For the young people it is still much lower with around only 60% in care and this is even more among the adolescents who are around 55%. This needs to be addressed.
- During this time there has been an increase in the TB cases and TB weakens the PLHIV. Therefore, there is still a challenge where the TB epidemic is increasing.
- There are still legal, social cultural incumberaces that are faced in service delivery and access. The HIV response focusing on primary prevention, tools have been put in place that would allow everyone to access services. However, there is a specific group of people of the Most at Risk Population (MARPs) and key populations that are still not reached and if not addressed there will be challenges in ending AIDS by 2030. These populations include sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who use drugs.
- The issue of stigma is very persistent especially among the young people.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, PLHIV were asked to access services from the nearby facility unfortunately majority didn't access the services and there was a reduction in service access. Patients don't have unique identifiers and thus tracking of patients becomes difficult, discussions have been done with NIRA but this has not yielded results yet. Requested Judiciary team to offer support to the ministry to ensure that people access services.

Therefore, the ministry of Health has;

- Launched the new guidelines to align the National development plan and the National HIV strategic plan and this was based on optimizing of services. They have had newer ARV medications that will be more active in HIV control.
- The Ministry has also looked at community engagement as very key and has developed guidelines to address the issue of PLHIV with low literacy rates.
- The ministry has developed programs on addressing access to services like the YAPS model and also for the TB advanced cases they have rolled out guidelines where people are accessing services.

- A rehabilitation Centre has been established at Butabika for people who use drugs and it will be launched soon. However, this group of people still have challenges in accessing services due to the laws enforced on them of being arrested and this causes stigma in accessing services.
- As regards other vulnerable groups like the adolescents and pregnant women, the ministry has designed tools and revised guidelines which they need to embrace so as to access treatment for prevention.

In conclusion, he noted that without community engagement we can't achieve much. Even with Health facilities available there is need to engage PLHIV, and community organizations that are delivering services on the behalf of the ministry. He thanked the CSOs that have come up to advocate and help in service delivery.

Director Public Prosecutions – Charles Elemu Representing the Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo

Prosecutors are at most times confused by the community to be part of the judiciary however they are part of law enforcement and nearer to the police. As prosecutors they enforce the laws that have been enacted by the Parliament and although they may not agree with some of the laws, it is incumbent on them to enforce the enacted laws since it is their mandate.

The most important role of the Prosecutor is to make prosecutorial decisions because in the Ugandan way of doing things, Police will investigate a case and after investigations a case file is compiled which is then shared with the Director of Public Prosecutions who assesses the file to determine whether or not a crime has been committed. If a person is charged immediately without investigations, it may cause negativity. Therefore, their role is to ensure that a person is only charged when there is enough evidence against them.

Also the Ugandan law states that a person must not be detained in police cells for more than 48 hours. This is because that kind of detention has its own challenges for instance someone being reprimanded on his way to Kampala when they are HIV positive and you don't give them a chance to collect their medication is very dangerous.

Achievements

- On the Prosecutor's side, they have officers who are living positively with HIV and these are encouraged and supported with some nutritional supplements on top of their salaries.
- In addition, the DPP is planning to go digital with a case management system which is web based and it allows interactions without being physical.
- Although constrained with the limited number of Attorney they have, they try to ensure that justice is given to the accused at the shortest time possible. For the case of same gender sexual practices, it becomes hard to distribute condoms in the prisons because this will imply that you are promoting homosexuality.
- At the prosecution office disclosure of one's status is encouraged but because of the stigma, some people still fear to disclose. However, if someone is arrested and he makes it known to the state attorney that he is HIV positive then there are elaborate steps that are taken to ensure that the person is treated well.
- They do community support to PLHIV and try to encourage a stigma free environment for PLHIV. Additionally, they have established several strategies like; developed an HIV/AIDS management workplace policy, they have also developed a training manual to educate the criminal justice system on how to enforce the human rights policies.
- The office of Director of Public Prosecutions was nominated to co-chair the human rights team under the ministry of Health. They have established an HIV committee which is rated as the most active committee compared to all the other committees in the public service of the republic of Uganda established for the same cause. Through this committee, they carry out quarterly trainings and sensitization programs and this is usually done by visiting 5 fueling stations and giving them information about HIV prevention, testing, merits and demerits of positive living. Barriers of disclosure and non-disclosure is passed on to the staff members who are also encouraged to pass on the same information.
- There has been a change of mindset in the administration of criminal justice and they are making a breakthrough in understanding that being HIV positive is not an offence and this makes it one of the essential elements of proving committing of a crime.
- Since science has proven that being next to an HIV infected person doesn't spread HIV, they are also trying to deal away with the criminalization of the sick person in such away.

In conclusion although they are faced with some challenges, they are on the right track to achieve what they set to do.

Legal Experts on HIV & AIDS – Executive Director UGANET: Improving Access to Services in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities

She started off by noting that she was particularly representing CSOs and she appreciated the Lutaaya family for celebrating the life of their father and taking it forward to establish the Philly Lutaaya cares. As part of the CSO activist she requested that they meet more frequently beyond the Memorial Day to ensure that support is offered to the family and continue working together towards ending discrimination that is HIV related.

In her presentation, she reflected on what has been happening in the COVID- 19 context and what Philly Lutaaya would have asked for if he was living in the last 6 months of lock down.

Philly Lutaaya lived for everything but dignity, he restored dignity by challenging HIV stigma and Discrimination. Therefore, the theme is premised on giving everybody the dignity that they deserve and being in line with Article 21 of the Constitution. Philly believed it so well when he called for the end of HIV discrimination.

Within the COVID-19context, we heard about sex workers 100 of them that were arrested several times, a number of key populations that were arrested and kept in prison for over 3 months, if Philly Lutaaya was around in the context of AIDS he would have called for that discrimination to end. He would have recognized the suffering of those communities that went through that.

Today as we speak about access to services for HIV Community, Philly Lutaaya would have called on the law makers to do everything they can to repeal HIV punishments for HIV exposure, disclosure and HIV criminalization. What is seen in the HIV Prevention and Control Act section 41 and 44, he would have said this is a virus let us deal with it in all public health means we can but let's remove prosecution and criminalization because this is what is harming the lives the more.

Philly Lutaaya would give a face to those who still face stigma that is caused by this disease. Like COVID-19in the last months we saw that it started in the pockets of people until it fully went to the communities. There are communities which are more vulnerable and will spread the HIV more to other communities if they are not given adequate HIV services. Those communities which still

fear that they are criminal before the law. This calls for action to bring everybody on board without leaving anyone behind, without discrimination or prejudice.

Currently, access to services during COVID -19 response where many people could not access their drugs and their plight came later months after the lock down. Many people could not access food and yet medicines and food go hand in hand. We appreciate the emergency steps that the Ministry of Health had to take however there was a slowness to understanding that HIV communities needed to access their medicine and food.

COVID- 19 has been a danger more to women and the girl child who have suffered rape, defilement, early marriages resulting into teenage pregnancies. Many of these girls will not be able to go back to school. There is therefore need for aggressive strategies to address the gender inequalities that put women and girls in more harm. It is an issue of the law and human rights and that is why the lecture was premised with the stance of the law.

Moving forward with stigma and discrimination still around, we can't end AIDS by 2030. COVID-19 revealed that the gains of HIV/AIDS can easily be jeopardized. Therefore, a call is made to increase eye sight for rise, dignity and ending discrimination is very critical. Therefore, there is need to escalate the place of human rights in addressing HIV.

Experiences in Accessing HIV Services in Uganda; what needs to be done- Prof. Canon Gideon Byamugisha

There are two types of services that we need in order to defeat HIV/AIDS by 2030.

- The first service is on the grassroots in the community where the stigma and discrimination is being formed.
- Access and promotion of safe practices and behavior
- Access to testing and counseling
- Empowering the stigmatized to break their issues of shame, denial, discrimination; and empowering the 'stigmatizers' in the social, legislative, economic, religious, cultural and theoretical environment.

Therefore, stigmatization and discrimination can be defeated through the following ways so as to be able to end AIDS by 2030.

1. Visible leadership in the Judiciary, Executive and Parliament
2. Policies and Laws
3. Strategic plans
4. Practical programs
5. Partnerships with the stigmatized and the stigmatizers
6. Messages and Communications put forward to fight and end stigma
7. Resource mobilization and allocation towards ending stigma
8. Research and Documentation
9. Music, Dance and Drama
10. Hymns, Sermons and Prayers
11. The advisers of H.E the President on ending stigma smarter, faster and better

2.10. Conclusion and Recommendations from the Lecture

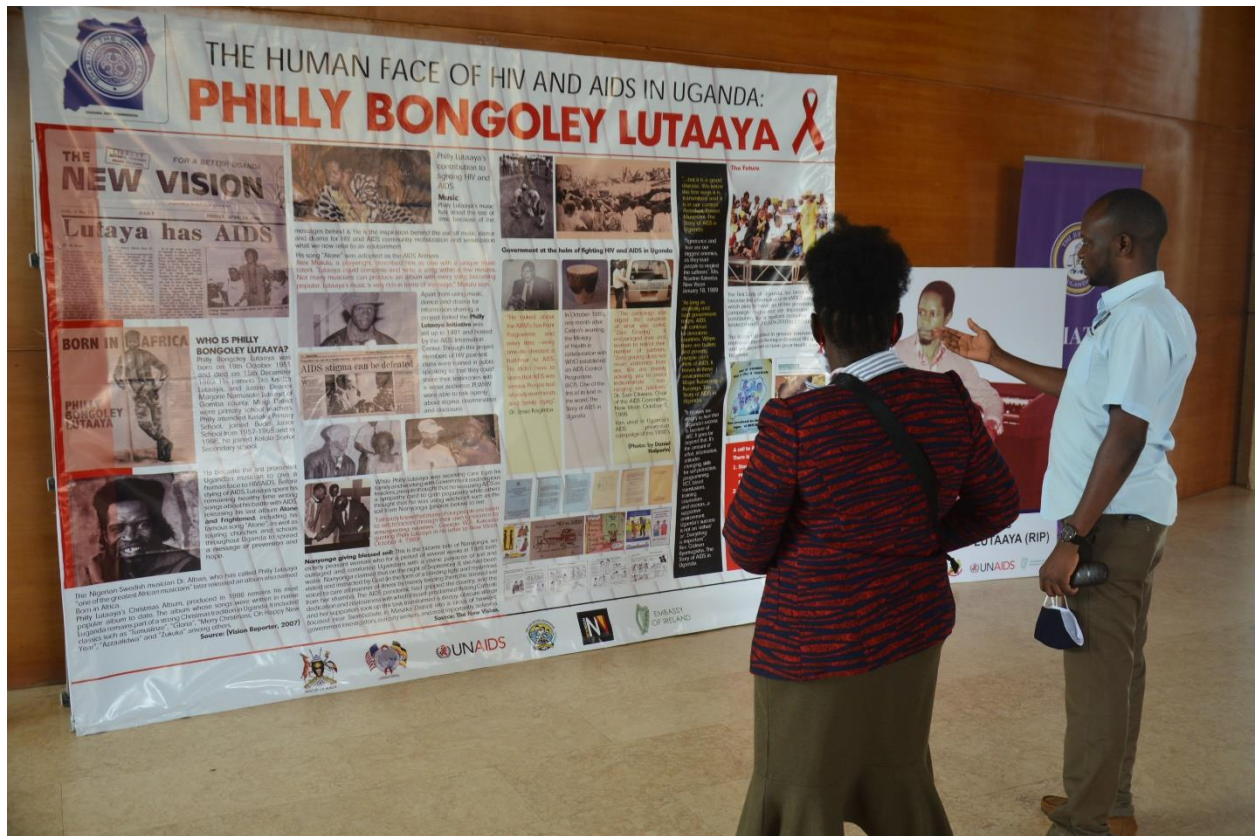
Stigma, discrimination and criminalization of PLHIV should end in order to achieve the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. PLHIV are dying of stigma and not AIDS. Therefore, the following recommendations were made by the different stakeholders towards ending stigma with the ultimate aim of achieving epidemic control by 2030.

1. Prioritize creating awareness, promoting advocacy across the country reaching the young people and all the generations with messages on HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. This will enable us promote the legacy of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya. The message should be clear to all people to understand.
2. Government should provide conducive enabling environment and access to HIV services to all the PLHIV in Uganda during and post COVID 19. HIV services should be freely accessible to promote health wellbeing and rights all time.
3. Parliament should enact and review the laws that will improve the wellbeing of the society especially the PLHIV. The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2014 needs to be revised.

4. On individual level, there is need to test for HIV with our partners and together irrespective of the results, decide to prevent HIV. There is need to take responsibility of our lives, and utilize all the tools put in place by government.
5. Need to reach the men and those who are most at risk of getting infected with HIV in order to reduce the high HIV prevalence.
6. Religious and cultural institutions should continue to work towards ending stigma and discrimination of PLHIV. They should also work towards addressing negative norms that drive HIV infections.
7. The media needs to report accurately and responsibly to avoid propagating stigma and discrimination of PLHIV.
8. Need to devise innovative ways to attract the necessary investments in tackling the drivers of HIV. Strategies that deliver combination interventions must be prioritized. In addition, behavior change programs targeting young people and population at risk of new infections must be launched and sustained long enough to facilitate the desired change.
9. Empower the young positives to live to their potential and continue to have dialogue with them. Many are still living under the shadow of stigma and discrimination and this is affecting their lives.
10. There is need to scale up the use of mobile applications that emerged during the early days of COVID-19 lockdown. They are good tools for community mobilization and awareness, referral for different services, order and delivery for HIV commodities and medicines for Opportunistic infections.

3.0 EXHIBITION

A partial exhibition was organized that show cased old HIV and AIDS messages and pictures that were printed in the newspapers during the time Philly Lutaaya declared his HIV status. Other messages were on prevention, treatment and care, government interventions, social support and protection. These were creatively designed and printed on a bag drop banner. Photos of some of the musicians who have contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS were also printed on ABS boards and showcased during the event.



Participants reading some of the messages that were exhibited during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture 17th Oct 2020

4.0 EDUTAINMENT

A group of young musicians (Jehovah Shalom) together with Legend Moses Matovu and Lubyoga Sam (aka Levixon) entertained the guests to the renditions of the late Philly Bongoley Lutaaya. In addition, a short documentary about the late Philly Lutaaya was also played on the screens to further emphasize the efforts and works of the Late towards ending HIV stigma and discrimination. As it is the practice on every commemoration Philly Lutaaya day, Mr. Aloysius Matovu Joy delivered a poignant poem dedicated to his fallen Colleague and friend Philly Bongoley Lutaaya.



Musician Moses Matovu performing together with the Jehovah Shalom Team during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture 17th Oct 2020

5.0 Closing Remarks by Prof. Rhodah Wanyenze



Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze giving Closing Remarks during the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture -17th Oct 2020

In her closing remarks, Prof Rhoda Wanyenze thanked the family of the late Philly Bongoley Lutaaya for carrying on the Legacy of their father. She thanked everyone who was able to attend the event for being a part of the fight against HIV, for their contributions towards the lecture to forge a way of how stigma against PLHIV can be dealt with and for the promises and opportunities that were made by all the participants. It has been 30 years since the journey began but we still talk

about stigma which is a huge problem. Although a lot of progress has been made, we still have a lot that needs to be done right from the individual level, communities and to all of us wherever we are. To the media team, they have big contributions to make as stated in the submissions made; the judiciary, public prosecution all of us have a role to play.

We also need to remember that we are still struggling with COVID-19. COVID-19 is real as we fight HIV, let's also fight COVID-19. We need to end COVID-19 so that we are not distracted in the fight against HIV, and other medical conditions that we are struggling with. At this stage of the epidemic it is the responsibility of everyone. We need to wear our masks properly especially when speaking so as to protect those around us. Let's protect ourselves and communities from COVID-19 so that we can live to the next commemoration in the coming year. We those remarks, she declared the meeting closed.

Appendix 1: Programme of the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture

PROGRAMME FOR THE PHILLY LUTAAYA MEMORIAL LECTURE TO BE HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2020 AT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, CONFERENCE HALL KAMPALA

Theme: Access to HIV Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

Keynote Speaker: Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda

Masters of Ceremony: Director General Uganda AIDS Commission

Time	Activity	Session Chairperson
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and registration: Office of the President, UAC	Secretary Office of the President
9:00am – 9:05pm	Anthems Prayer: UAC and Inter Religious Council of Uganda	
9:05am – 9:15am	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Philly Lutaaya Family Chairman Uganda AIDS Commission	
9:15am – 9:25am	Remarks by Philly Lutaaya Family Representative	
9:25am – 9:40am	Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forum of People Living with HIV Network in Uganda (NAFOPHANU) • Chairperson AIDS Development Partners 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S Government Representative 	
9:40am – 9.50am	Interlude: Artistes Self Coordinating Entity	
9:50am -11:10am	Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Guest Speaker by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Minister in charge of the Presidency 	Prof. Rhodah Wanyenze – UAC Commissioner
11:10am – 11.40am	Delivery of the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture: Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, His Lordship Hon Alfonse Owiny-Dollo	
11:40am–12.20pm	Response by the Discussants: Moderator – Dr. Karusa Kiragu Gikonyo, Country Director, UNAIDS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Representative of Embassy of Ireland 2. UN Representative 3. Legal Expert on HIV & AIDS 4. Ministry of Health 5. Representative of People Living with HIV 5. Director of Public Prosecution 	
12:20pm–12:50pm	Open discussion	
12:50pm –1:30pm	Music Presentation by Ugandan musicians in memory and honor of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Artist – rendition of Philly Bongoley Lutaaya songs • Local group presentation on HIV&AIDS 	
1:30pm	Closing Remarks – Ministry of Health	
1:45pm	Lunch and Departure	

