## **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE**

It is now 42 years since the 1<sup>st</sup> case of AIDS was diagnosed in Uganda in 1982. The Uganda AIDS Commission was established 10 years later to coordinate a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder national HIV response. At that time, the HIV prevalence was 18% and having HIV was a death sentence. I am happy to note that with the leadership of H.E. the President and support from Development partners, this situation has been reversed. The 2024 estimates show that the national HIV prevalence is 5.1%, new infections have reduced from 83,000 in 20210 to 38,000, AIDS related deaths reduced from 53,000 to 19,000 and babies with HIV have reduced from 30,000 to 4,700 in just over a decade. I would like to thank all the stakeholders who have collectively contributed to this dramatic success; Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and the Implementing Partners.

However, with less than six years left to 2030, there is still a lot to be done. We all have to put all hands on deck to ensure that we achieve the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat while ensuring we leave no one behind.

In line with this, Uganda AIDS Commission will hold the National HIV and AIDS Symposium on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the Office of the President, Main Auditorium. Come and be part of this event where we will share information on the performance of the National HIV Response including the latest innovations in HIV prevention. From this event, you will also find out how far we have gone as a country in domestic resource mobilization for the HIV response

I conclude by inviting you to download a copy of our quarterly newsletter titled "The Intersection". In this publication you will read about the impactful interventions that have been implemented by our partners, staff and the MDAs.

If you would like to contribute to this publication, send an email to the Deputy Editor at <a href="mailto:joanita.kemigisha@uac.go.ug">joanita.kemigisha@uac.go.ug</a>.

Remember to share feedback with us so that we can make the subsequent issues better.

Nelson Musoba Director General