

Varsity hosts World AIDS Day commemoration

This year, the University of Nairobi hosted the national World AIDS Day commemoration celebrations. The event which was full of colour, music and dance, was held in partnership with the National AIDS Control Council, at the Chancellor's Court, Main Campus. HIV testing services, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), counseling, blood sugar and hypertension screening, Body Mass Index (BMI) are among the services that were offered at the event.

Themed "Step Up for HIV Prevention: Youth Na Plan," young Kenyans were called upon to get tested and know their status. Local artists entertained the participants who also had a chance to visit various organizations exhibiting at the celebrations.

Presiding over the ceremony, the chief guest and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr. Julius Korir said that Kenya has made tremendous progress in HIV response with notable achievements.

"We have recorded a reduction in new HIV infections, more people are receiving antiretroviral treatment and there is growing recognition of the benefits of treatment as prevention," he noted. "We have seen an enhanced uptake of services of Kenya's unique HIV Tribunal. Systems for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, commodity availability have increasingly been strengthened. However, despite these advances, it is noted that indicators such as new infections among adolescents and young people, are off-target demonstrating that the work is not yet done."

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, was the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda, who noted that the University of Nairobi continues to adopt a multi-faceted approach focusing on clinical practice, research and policy formulation. He said that much work remains to be done in a multidisciplinary approach focusing on most at risk populations to prevent new infections.

"The University of Nairobi HIV/AIDS policy helps in implementing various interventions thus allowing the University to make progress in HIV/AIDS control and management," he revealed. "UoN has continued to partner with other stakeholders on research, training and dissemination of HIV/AIDS information. Through its networks, UoN provides sponsorship for HIV fellowship programs to enhance capacity building and management of HIV/AIDS."