

**REPORT OF THE**

**Sexual & Reproductive health and rights of**

**African Women and Girls through an**

**empowered consortium**



**ST. Henry's College Kitovu**  
**18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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## 1.0 Background

The Uganda Demographic Health Survey of 2016 indicates that teenage pregnancy stands at 25%. Additionally, the Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey 2011, states that HIV prevalence among adolescents aged 10-14 years, is at 1.9% for males and 2.3% for females, while 4% of young men and women aged 15-24 have already been infected with HIV.

75% of the Ugandan population is under the age of 35, with 33% below the age of 19 years. While this young population has the potential to be a significant force in economic development and national transformation, today they face rapid urbanization and globalization, media and foreign cultural influence, including exposure to inaccurate, age-inappropriate culturally and religiously insensitive information and materials.

As a result, increasing rates of early sex, unintended pregnancies, child marriages, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, have a negative impact on their education. Young people are also vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence and sexual harassment, as well as alcohol and substance abuse, all of which contribute to high school dropout rates and poor academic performance.

Uganda's Vision 2040 and National Development Plan, both emphasize the importance of life skills, in supporting youth to practice safe sexual behavior and resist negative peer pressure. Accordingly, access to HIV prevention and management programs for adolescent boys and girls, has been prioritized in Uganda's National Development Plans as a key strategic action. It is therefore critical that the government, cultural, religious, and community leaders, parents, and civil society, fulfill their roles and responsibilities in empowering and supporting young people with life skills, in the context of sexuality and self-leadership. As young people grow into leaders and drivers of the economy and nation, it is hoped that they will be better prepared to make safe and healthy decisions, about their lives and future.

In this regard, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, initiated Regional Life Skills Summits, for secondary school student leaders, under the theme: My Life, My Responsibility.

This is a Report of the sixth Regional Life Skills Summit, that was held from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2024, at Saint Henry's College Kitovu and the Stakeholder's Consultative Meeting, held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the State Lodge in Masaka City.

## 2.0 Regional Life Skills Summit for the Masaka Region



The Sixth Regional Life Skills Summit was organized in the Masaka Region at St. Henry's College Kitovu, and was attended by three thousand secondary school students and their teachers drawn from the region. 10 facilitators delivered the Life Skills training designed by the Organisation of African Ladies for Development (OAFILD), under the following theme, topics, objective and methodology:

**The Summit Theme:** *"My Life, My Responsibility"*

**The Summit objective:** *To empower adolescent girls and boys, with Life-Skills and appropriate messages for making informed decisions for fulfilling, safe and responsible lives.*

### **The Topics:**

The Summit covered the following topics biased towards the promotion of the worth and value of the girl child. The students had to understand that they need to shun cultural, religious and traditional practices that undermine the dignity of the girl child.

**a) World Views:** This session exposed the learners to the fact that life choices are based on our worldviews. Worldviews shape and determine how we see the world, our role in it and how we live our lives. The learners assessed their

worldviews and discussed the important place world views have on how we make our life choices.

**b) Sexuality and Relationships:** In this session the learner's defined sexuality from a value-based perspective. They learned about the value of setting boundaries and the importance of considering the short and long-term consequences of the choices we make. They explored the role of restraint and self-control in building healthy relationships, beyond the world's way of pursuing short-term gratification from sex and sensuality. Boys were called upon to be protector and supporters of their female counterparts.

**c) Media and Technology:** Information was shared about the impact media and technology has on the young generation, since these two channels can be used to transform life for evil or for good. Today media and technology are one of the most influential tools in life. For many people the media defines who they are, what they do, as well as where and how they do things. The importance of being conscious of what one consumes from the media and how this information shapes life and destinies, negatively or positively was elaborated.

It was noted that sometimes girls and women are degraded through the way media portrays them. This must stop! Gender violence, sexual harassment and misuse of the media must be fought.

**d) Leadership and Goal Setting:** This session exposed the learners to the fact that, leadership is about how we influence people to achieve a God given vision and mission. Leaders model exemplary lives and great leaders have a high sense of self-awareness. They understand that they must lead themselves well, before they can begin to influence and lead others. Girls were encouraged to carry themselves with dignity and to aim high for their survival and for their thriving.



**The Summit Methodology:** The Summit adopted the following methodology:

- Sharing messages on the thematic area: Living a life of purpose using highly participatory methods
- Debates on pre-selected motions:
- Sharing testimonies and experiences on the benefits of living responsibly.
- Skirts, drama, poems, debates and essay writing

**Guiding Questions:** Each session during the Summit is premised on a foundation of four questions, which are fundamental to life and how we live.

**a) Who am I:** *This is a question of identity.*

It provides information on the fact that we are all created in God's image and that God's intention is for man to have a spiritual relationship with Him. God creates every individual, with a distinct identity. He values us equally, regardless of our circumstances or backgrounds. As a result, no matter what others think or say, our identity is found in God.

**b) Why am I here?** *This is a question of life purpose.*

The students were informed that each of them is here on earth, for a reason and we all have a God given purpose. Each one was created to live in fellowship with God and to co-exist with man. God desires that His creation reflects His glory; hence every life has a blueprint from Him. We must therefore endeavor to discover our unique purpose and live to fulfill it. God requires us to be good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care, in our spheres of influence, and to embrace life on a daily basis, as we walk in accordance with His will and godly values.

**c) Where am I going?** *This is a question of vision and destiny.*

Everyone God created has a predetermined destiny. God has a wonderful plan for each of us, and His thoughts about us are all good, regardless of what others may think. Thus everyone must discover God's plans for them and pursue these plans. Defining one's vision and dream is important, because these should be aligned to God's destiny for each of us. God has a unique plan and future, for each one.

**d) How will I get there?** *This is a question of strategy, values and choices.*

Life does not just happen. The bible provides us with a true north, which we must all follow. Just as a compass guides travellers throughout their life journey so that they do not lose direction, godly values provide direction that enables one to navigate life. A life guided by values empowers one to make the right choices and to identify their strategy for accomplishing their life's purpose.

### 2.1 Strategy for Continuity of the Theme Messages

A strategy to ensure continuity of the theme messages in the participating schools and the lives of the students, was put in place as follows:

- a) School Commitment to the "True Love Waits" Message:** Encouraging the Head teachers to ensure that the "True Love Waits" Commitments, are introduced at the school assembly's and other gatherings, with intentionality and that the learners at all levels are encouraged to sign up on the cards.



- b) Peer-to-Peer Learning:** The learners are given "Take Away Messages" on all the four topics, so that on their return to their respective schools they pass on the knowledge and skills acquired, to their peers.

**c) Signing of the “True Love Waits” Commitment Canvas:** The representative and symbolic signing of the “True Love Waits” Commitment Canvas was introduced, to ensure the demonstration of a corporate, public commitment to sexual purity that is witnessed by the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports.

**d) Identification of Accountability Partners:** The young people are encouraged to hold themselves accountable to their parents and guardians, as well as to identify a trustworthy accountability partner, and ensure that at a corporate level they all play the role of being the proverbial “brothers keeper”, while they are at school.

### 3.0 Stakeholder’s Consultative Meeting



The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Kataaha Museveni, hosted a Stakeholders Consultative Meeting, for leaders in Masaka Sub- Region on the second day of the Summit - 19th September 2024.

The meeting, was organized in the context of the Regional Life Skills Summit, held at St. Henry’s College in Masaka under the theme: "My Life, My Responsibility." Representatives from the education sector, government agencies, religious and cultural leaders, as well as a cross-section of leaders drawn from Masaka City were among the stakeholders.



### 3.1 Overview of the Life Skills Summit

Mr. Ben Mwine one of the Life Skills Summit facilitators, provided the Stakeholder's with an overview of the Life Skills Summit and the messages shared with the young people in the two-day engagement, held at St. Henry's College Kitovu. He spoke about the current state of affairs of the youth and the issues they confront in the face of globalization, peer pressure and the flawed choices they make as adolescents. The vulnerability of the girl child was highlighted and emphasized.

Today the youth live in environments that entice them to adopt lifestyles and habits that have a negative impact, on their wellbeing and education. They are pressured to measure up to lifestyles portrayed by the media, which include: sexual immorality, substance abuse, as well as gambling and sports betting, that later result in addictions. They are then forced to use unscrupulous means to raise the financial resources they require to sustain these lifestyles. Many young people are also affected by sexually transmitted diseases, that are life threatening and early pregnancies that affect their quality of life and that lead to dropping out of school.



Mr. Ben Mwine explained about the Summit topics which create awareness amongst young people, about the importance of leading lives guided by godly values and boundaries, which safe guard them from making wrong choices. He discussed the importance of parenting children well, by ensuring that parents and guardians are equipped with skills on how to support their children, through their adolescence. He pointed out the need for parents and guardians to be actively involved in their children's lives, and to take an interest in their children's friends. Parents and guardians should be aware of the activities their children get involved in, when they are in their care and during the holidays.

The Stakeholders were also encouraged to avoid giving the youth access to the unsupervised use of the Internet and other social media channels, which provide uncensored information that leads them into making wrong choices that impact negatively on their lives.

### **3.2 Remarks by a representative Girl Child – St. Johns Comprehensive School Head Prefect**

Ms. Bonita Nassasira the female Head Prefect of St. John’s Comprehensive School, expressed her gratitude to the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, for her compassionate heart for young people. She complimented her for being a virtuous mother and a Godsend to the nation, stating that the young people always dedicate her to the Almighty God.

While sharing about the different topics and lessons learned in the last two days, Nassasira pledged on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Regional Life Skills Summit, to uphold their commitments and support the school administration in their endeavors to improve their schools. She appreciated the work done by the OAFLAD team and the host school.



### 3.3 Remarks by the Deputy Head Teacher Saint Henry's College Kitovu

The only female Teacher of St. Henry's College Kitovu, Ms. Rose Kansiime, presented the outcomes of the discussion, on the factors that affect the education of young people especially girls in the Masaka Region, on behalf of the Stakeholders gathered at the State Lodge Masaka City.

She pointed out that all the stakeholders participated in identifying these issues and proposing solutions to address them. She thanked the participants for sharing their experiences during the group discussion time.

She thanked the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, for hosting the stakeholders at the State Lodge and for her consistency in nurturing the younger generation, in every region in the nation. She then went on to provide the group findings as follows:

#### **Infrastructural Issues affecting the education and reproduction affairs of the Girl Child:**

- Poor sanitation and dilapidated school infrastructure
- Lack of facilities to support the education of the children with disabilities
- Inadequate facilities and study materials in light of the new lower secondary school curriculum

#### **Social Issues**

- Students pressured by parents to take courses they do not desire
- Unregulated bars and night clubs near schools
- Gaps in parenting that result in young people engaging in sex work
- Early and forced marriages in the cattle corridor

#### **Economic Issues**

- Abject poverty in homes that results in stigma of the poor at school and the female gender.
- Young people participating in their parent's businesses in adult environments that corrupt them at an early age
- Young girls who drop out of school having been attracted to making quick money in business

### **Factors that affect young girls and boys in the school environment**

- USE and UPE schools that charge parents exorbitant fees
- Sexual harassment of youth during internships
- The high attrition rate of teachers and the lack of supervision of head teachers in schools

The stakeholders shared their views on proposed solutions to these challenges as follows:

- Men should play a big role in counseling and guiding children with special attention to girls.
- Capacity building of teachers, to equip them to address the challenges the students face
- Advocate for a "Child and Parent Friendly" legislation, to regulate parenting, school time and social media
- Introduce voluntary service for young people, on completion of their university studies to keep them involved in community development
- Re-introduce water and sanitation grants in schools to support the girl child and to promote hygiene

The outcomes of the group discussions were later presented to the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports.

### 3.4 Message by Mr. Joshua Lwere, - Council of President's, Inter Religious Council of Uganda



Mr. Joshua Lwere a member of the Council of Presidents of the Inter- Religious Council (IRCU) stated that from the biblical perspective, education is the mandate of parents, the church and religious leaders. It is when these two institutions fail that government comes in.

Holistic education addresses the 4H's namely:

- The Head which includes academic, knowledge, accumulation of facts
- Heart which includes character, integrity, honesty, the fear of God, wisdom, personal discipline,
- Hands which includes - soft skills, strength
- House which includes the community awareness and responsibility

He explained that a holistic approach to education requires the involvement of all the key stakeholders, pointing out that Jesus summarized this holistic education in the two most important commandments in **Matthew 22:37**:

*"Love the Lord with all your heart with all your mind (head) With all your strength (hands) and your neighbor as you love yourself (house)."*

Lwere thanked the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, for recognizing the role of religious leaders in discussing policy matters in the education sector. He appealed to all the stakeholders to take full ownership of their responsibilities. He talked of the biblical concept of "Owners and Hirelings" as stated in **John 10:12**:

*"The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it".*

He pointed out that shepherds are different from hirelings. The former have a strong commitment to being good stewards, unlike the former who only work to fulfill a duty. With regard to faithful stewards, Mr. Lwere attested to the faithfulness of the First Lady's late father Mzee Kataha, who was a committed Christian. He gave land for the education of the girl child and a school was built for children in his area. He stated that while this contribution was localized and did not achieve anything at the national level, God took this seed that was sown to the next level and now his daughter is making a difference at the national level in charge of the education sector. He pointed out that whatever sacrifice is made today, God will use it and the seed will grow into a large tree.

In concluding he expressed his gratitude to the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, for spearheading the efforts to mobilize all the education sector stakeholders, to commit to fulfilling their God given responsibility, of creating a platform for the future generation.

### **3.5 Remarks by the Resident City Commissioner Masaka**

The Resident City Commissioner Masaka City, Mr. Hudu Hussein welcomed the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, to the City. He thanked her for coming to visit the students of Masaka City and for choosing to host the Life Skills Summit in this City. He pointed out that the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, commitment to God including her open demonstration of her gratitude to God, challenges many leaders to focus on their service to God and not man.

He appreciated her contribution over the years to improving the lives of the young people in Uganda and for the great wisdom she shares as she grooms the next generation. He expressed concern over the evils young people are exposed to, which he likened to the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, stating

that without a guiding hand, young people are bound to lose track of the path of purpose and purity.

Mr. Hussein thanked the Stakeholders for participating in the meeting and urged them to follow up on the proposed solutions to the issues raised in the discussion groups. He pointed out that every stakeholder has a critical role to play in nurturing the young generation.

### 3.6 Remarks by the Executive Director of OAFLAD Uganda



*Ms. Beat Bisangwa, ED OAFLAD Uganda*

Ms. Beat Bisangwa, Executive Director, of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD-UG) Uganda, thanked the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Museveni, for hosting the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting, which she said is the sixth in a series of eleven meetings, scheduled under the activities of the Regional Life Skills Summits around the country. She appreciated partners, especially the anonymous one through the OAFLAD Addis Head Office that make these engagement possible.

She provided the genesis of the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting pointing out that it brings together a cross section of leaders in the Region, that have a key role to play in the education of the youth, beginning with the parents and guardians. She observed the futility of talking to young people and creating awareness about the need for Life Skills, without addressing the same concerns with the gatekeepers; who are the people entrusted with the stewardship of their education.

The significance of stakeholder's meeting is to enable a forum for sharing information and for guiding the education sector stakeholders, to support the youth

on the right path of life. She therefore called upon the Head teachers and their teaching staff, to work closely with parents and guardians, to address the factors that negatively impact the younger generation. She stated that the school administration, couldn't take on this role without the active support of parents and guardians.

She explained that the young people received training in four topical areas namely: World Views and Choices, Sexuality and Relationships, Media and Technology and Leadership and Goal Setting. She said that the Summit adopts participatory learning methods, which include group discussions, experience sharing, debates and skits to reinforce learning during the sessions. They also discussed how to live purposeful lives.

Ms. Bisangwa explained about the current "Safe Spaces" phenomenon, which encourages young people to undermine parental authority, while clandestinely misdirecting them, using messages about sexual orientation and sexual rights, and encouraging them to undermine parental authority. Therefore, there is need for the school administration, to be alert and mindful of negative elements in society and to protect students from their influence.

She informed the meeting that during a time of prayer, she had received a confirmation from the Lord through **Isaiah 59:19-20:**

*"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. "The Redeemer will come to Zion, "And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the LORD."*

We therefore have hope for our young people, as the religious leaders work to support the children." she said.

She concluded her remarks by expressing appreciation to the Head Master and staff of St. Henry's College Kitovu and the leadership of the participating schools for their cooperation, in mobilising the students in large numbers and for their unmatched hospitality. She thanked the students for their willingness to participate in the



Summit and called upon them to urge their peers to become Champions of these teachings, when they go back to their schools.

### 3.7 Remarks by the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports



The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, expressed her pleasure on meeting the Education Stakeholders, whom she thanked for participating in the Stakeholders Meeting.

She pointed out the need to raise awareness about parental responsibilities, since some parent's seem to have abdicated their roles to the schools. She observed that in the past, life was different and the challenges young people faced were smaller in magnitude to the issues they confront today. Furthermore, they were accountable to all the adults in the community. Girls were well protected.

*"Today the youth require guidance and support from adults and so I thank you for making the time to be here, to discuss these issues so that you are aware of the challenges, that we need to help our children with."* she said.

A good number of African girls grow up being undermined, looked down upon and ignored. Hence, they have very little confidence and this results in their falling prey to men, who take advantage of them and abandoned them. Some of them are in school and being used by teachers and adults, who meet them on the road twice and entice them with gifts.

*"Through the news we witness a number of African youth who believe that if they go abroad they will succeed and yet many die on the high seas after leaving a continent where they can thrive and prosper."*

She pointed out the African Proverb: “It takes a village to bring up a child.” Which stats that we all have the responsibility to ensure the youth are disciplined and that they espouse godly values. She appealed to parents everywhere to speak to their children, to respect the elderly and the vulnerable in our midst, and especially those who do not have the capacity to reciprocate kindness and compassion.

The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports concluded her remarks, by appreciating the Executive Director OAFLAD, Ms. Beat Bisangwa for her efforts in implementing the Regional Summits and for doing all it takes to ensure that the young girls and boys receive the life skills they require, to lead productive and fruitful lives. She appreciated all the stakeholders for their commitment to promoting education in the region and thanked them for their participation in the fruitful deliberations. She recognized the amazing role of the head office in Addis Ababa in resource mobilization and coordinating First Ladies’ programs.

#### **The Regional Youth Summit - Closing Ceremony**

After the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting, the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports officiated at St. Henry’s College Kitovu in Masaka, on the last day of the Summit, where over three thousand students from various schools in the region, were in attendance on a wet and rainy day.

#### 4.0 Remarks by the Headmaster St. Henry's College Kitovu



*The Head Teacher St. Henry's College Kitovu, Brother Martin Wanambwa making his remarks.*

The Head Teacher St. Henry's College Kitovu, Brother Martin Wanambwa, expressed gratitude to the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, for selecting the School to host the Regional Youth Skills Summit and for making her first visit to the school, which he said had recently commemorated her centenary.

He explained that in 2022 in memory of the College's Centennial anniversary, the school began building a Multi- Purpose Education Center. The 3.4 billion shillings project, is meant to equip the students and the Masaka community, with skills in tailoring, ICT and hair dressing, carpentry, amongst other vocational skills in line with the Governments policy of promoting technical and vocational skills.

He thanked the Executive Director OAFLAD-UG, Ms. Beat Bisangwa for the great effort put into planning and organising the event, stating that the various sessions and teachings, had been very beneficial to the students and the teachers. He introduced the Deputy Head Teacher, noting that she is the school's first ever-female Deputy Head Teacher.

He urged the students to endeavor to be role models; by ensuring that the messages they had received, will be cascaded down to all the students in their schools, with the support from the teaching staff. He thanked all the visiting schools for their active participation and the organisers of the Summit, for their commitment to the young generation.

He reiterated the importance of fighting teenage pregnancy and any form of gender violence.

He appreciated the First Lady for all that she does to support the children of Uganda to grow into productive and healthy citizens and thanked her for her tireless efforts that span over several decades. He also congratulated her upon being a champion for the Girl Child.

#### 5.0 True Love Waits Declaration by the Students

The Summit Facilitators then led the students in waving their **True Love Waits Cards**, in the presence of the First Lady and the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports and the gathering of Education Sector Stakeholders.



## 5.1 Remarks by The Executive Director Organisation of African First Ladies For Development (OAFLAD-UG) Uganda



*The Executive Director of Organisation of African First Ladies For Development (OAFLAD-UG) Uganda, Mrs Beat Bisangwa, making her remarks.*

The Executive Director Organisation of African First Ladies For Development Uganda (OAFLAD-UG) Ms Beat Bisangwa, thanked the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Museveni, for her support in organizing the sixth Regional Life Skills Youth Summit.

Mrs. Bisangwa explained the contribution made by the Uganda AIDS Commission to the Summit and thanked them for their cooperation in the planning process. She thanked the Masaka City and District Administration, as well as the leadership of St. Henry's College Kitovu and the entire student body from the Masaka region, for their participation in the Summit.

She thanked the First Lady and the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports for her availability and dedication to young people all over the nation and for her special love and focus on the Girl Child.

## 5.2 Remarks by the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports

In her remarks, the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, expressed her pleasure with regard to the successful implementation of the Youth Summit in the Masaka Region.



*The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Museveni speaking to student leaders during the gathering at St. Henry's College Kitovu in Masaka on Thursday, September 18, 2024.*

She urged the youth to use the information gained at the Summit to create awareness about the current status of the youth amongst their peers and to protect themselves from the evil forces that surround them. She informed them to flee from evil as the bible advises in 1 Corinthians 6:18:

**“Flee from sexual immorality. All the other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.”**

She pointed out that the Summits held in the last five regions have all been held under the theme: **“My Life My Responsibility”**, because it is critical that when young people pursue their education, they are aware that they are responsible and

accountable for the choices they make. She observed that for every choice one makes there are consequences. The good and well thought through choices lead to positive outcomes, while the bad choices that are influenced by societal and negative peer pressure, may lead to negative outcomes which have far reaching effects.



She appealed to the youth to take the lessons learned under the guidance of their Life Skills Facilitators, seriously. She urged them to think through the values they have been taught and to make a conscious decision, to live their lives with purpose and commitment. She called upon them to do all it takes to succeed in their education and in life!

While referencing the power of making right choices, the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports thanked those students who had signed the cards, for choosing to do things the right way. She pointed out that the cards represent a commitment made before God, their peers, as well as their parents and guardians. She urged them to share the decision they have made with their friends and loved ones, so that they hold them accountable since this is a life changing decision, that they will always be proud of having made at a young age.

The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, thanked the administration of St. Henry's College Kitovu for hosting the Regional Youth Summit as well as the Uganda AIDS Commission for their support. She expressed her sincere appreciation to the Resident City Commissioner, the City Administration and the Masaka City leadership for all their support.

She expressed her appreciation to the Executive Director of OAFLAD Mrs. Beat Bisangwa and her team of facilitators, for their consistency in ensuring that the Regional Youth Summits are well organized and implemented in the last five regions.

The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, urged all the young people to ensure that they share the messages and information received during the Summit, with the students in their schools and to intentionally model a life guided by godly values and boundaries. She urged them to become Champions of the Summit wherever they go.

#### **6.0 Symbolic Signing of the True Love Waits Commitment Card**

The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports, then signed the True Love Waits Card, as a witness to its symbolic signing by student representatives on behalf of their peers and the head master of St. Henry’s College Kitovu on behalf of parents and guardians.



*First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Museveni signing on the board as the national champion for adolescents.*





*Mrs Ruth Ssenyonyi, Uganda AIDS Commission board chairperson, signing on the board.*

## 7.0 Conclusion

The Sixth Regional Youth Summit was an overwhelming success. Over three thousand students from the Masaka Region, received information and skills to equip them to navigate the challenges of adolescence.

The young girls and boys expressed great interest in the sessions and they demonstrated the desire to apply the information and knowledge acquired to lead focused and value based lives. They shared testimonies and stories about the learning that took place and expressed the determination to share the information with their peers and teachers, on their return to their schools.

The Education Stakeholders left the Consultative Meeting with the resolve to engage the young people in their lives and to challenge them to lead lives with purpose, while being role models to their generation.