



TALC to embark on mass AIDS campaign

[Logout](#)**By Sandra Lombe: Monday March 06, 2006** [[Print Article](#) | [Email Article](#)]

TREATMENT Advocacy Literacy Campaign (TALC) has said it will soon start mass HIV/AIDS campaigns during the forthcoming tripartite elections.

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) part-time programme officer Satoko Koga said the need for partnership in the fight against HIV/AIDS was crucial.

In separate interviews after a JICA/TALC orientation meeting at Care International on Friday, Paul Kasonkomona, from TALC, said HIV/AIDS was also an elections issue.

He said there was need to involve parliamentarians in the fight.

"We want them to know how they are going to look at us living positively. They should not neglect us because our vote counts," he said.

Kasonkomona said there was need for the president to appoint a person living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) among the nominees in Parliament to speak for the infected.

"We need a person that has come out in the open that he or she is HIV positive to represent PLWHA," Kasonkomona said.

He said there was also need to seriously look into HIV drugs for paediatrics to ensure that HIV infected children lived long.

Kasonkomona said currently most children died below the age of one and that there were no testing facilities for children below 18 months.

And Koga who led a group of Japanese that want to be experts in the field of HIV/AIDS said the disease should be given maximum attention.

The nine Japanese from colleges, non-governmental organisations are in the country to learn more about HIV/AIDS.

Koga said some of them had expertise in social work and Psychology.

She said Japan had very few people to share experiences because the number of the infected was small.

The trainees who came in the country on February 27 are expected to go back on March 7, 2006.

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