

Test Politicians For HIV As Well

I READ with shock the suggestion that couples who plan to get married should be required to undergo HIV-AIDS tests. I do not know why some political leaders find it necessary to infringe on the private lives of some people.

This suggestion comes soon after Government decided to subject potential overseas students sponsored by Government to an HIV test. I agree that it is expensive to transport a corpse from overseas or a physically incapacitated Motswana when the test could have prevented that.

I support this move because we are going through a period of economic hardships and need to save money. But I am disturbed by the latest idea. If we are to do it, we should start with politicians by asking them to undergo an HIV test before they campaign for political office because some of them are cared for by the state and taxpayers' money is spent to pay for their medical expenses.

Therefore, if such leaders are not tested prior to attaining office, then the country can incur expenses that can be avoided by subjecting them to a test.

It is also important to test those aspiring to take political office as parliamentarians and councillors because it is expensive to run a by-election as a result of the death of a politician while in office. It also denies people effective political representation due to ill health of such a representative if s/he fails to perform satisfactorily. Upon his/her death, constituents may stay without a political representative until after a by-election.

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In Praise Of Namibian Land Stance

THANK you for your great and explicit article on "MPs press for urgency, cool heads on land issue" (May 23).

As a Namibian now living in Germany it gives me much pleasure to see democracy in Namibia not as something people just talk about like in other African countries, but as something the people are actually practising. In fact Namibia could be seen to be even