

RITE

Man wanted daughters circumcised

Minors saved from being cut forcibly on father's orders

By NATION Team

A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly attempting to force his two daughters, aged eight and nine to be circumcised.

The suspect was picked up by the police in Mabera division, in Kuria West district.

Child rights activists in the district have rescued more than 200 girls who were being forced to undergo the cut. The girls aged between 10 and 15 were about to face the knife when the activists and church leaders took them away.

In Nandi Central, a boy died following excessive bleeding after circumcision at his Les-sos home.

Area DC Fredrick Ndambuki warned the local people against using cultural and traditional methods which were harmful to young initiates. Apart from exposing initiates to death, the traditional circumcision at the same posed danger to the youth undergoing the cut of contracting HIV and Aids, the DC said.

Villagers told the *Nation* that the boy could not be taken to hospital because of

strict cultural beliefs which require seclusion after the circumcision ceremony.

Speaking during the World Aids Day in Kapsabet Mr Ndambuki said HIV was killing youths in the society and called for efforts to be made to contain the situation.

He discouraged the local youths from drug abuse and excessive alcohol which he blamed for high spread of HIV and Aids in the district.

Highly valued

Elsewhere, a 32-year-old woman is fighting for her life at Kapenguria District Hospital after she was forcefully circumcised over the weekend.

Ms Damaris Chepkite Tuboo had tried to escape the rite that is highly valued in her Pokot community for over 20 years.

The district gynaecologist Mrs Florence Okutoyi said Ms Chepkite sustained serious injuries and suffered from severe bleeding after the cut.

She said the woman underwent a three-hour successful re-constructive surgery and would remain at the hospital under close observation for the next seven days.

Ms Chepkite blamed her mother for secretly organising to have her cut.

She said she was contemplating taking legal action against her mother and her accomplices.

Reports by Elisha Otieno, Tom Matoke and Edward Koech

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