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Train counsellors, says don

By NATION Correspondent

Health workers should be given

training in counselling as a strategy

to lengthen the lives of people

who have tested HIV positive.

Dr Elizabeth Ngugi, a lecturer

in community health at the University

of Nairobi says efficient

counselling of people with HIV

enabled them live longer with the

virus before succumbing to full-blown

Aids. She said majority of

health workers lack sufficient

training on counselling.

The lecturer said the basic

training curriculum for health

workers was reviewed only last

September to include a course on

counselling targeting HlV /Aids.

She said none of the serving

health workers had sufficient

skills to counsel Aids patients

"unless they had sought additional

training" .

She was speaking on the second

day of a leaders' workshop on

home-based care for Aids patients

at Kisumu's Museum view Hotel

last weekend.

Home-based care, the workshop

heard, should be promoted

as a strategy for reducing the stigmatization

that is often associated

with Aids.

The workshop is jointly organized

by the UK-based Mid may

International and the Futures

Group International who are implementing a new initiative against the spread of AIDS in Nyanza Province.