THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1999

150,000 children in Kenya are HIV positive

By NATION Correspondent

More than 150,000 children in

Kenya are HIY-positive, the

founder of the Nyumbani Children's

Home, Father Angelo

D' Agostino, says.

"With Aids cases on the increase,

the number of children to

be orphaned as a result of the

-disease will increase tremendously as we enter the new millennium,"

he said.

Father D' Agostino was

speaking yesterday during a

courtesy call by Mama Ngina

Kenyatta at the children's home

at Karen.

He said time had come for

Kenyans to face the reality of the

disease and join the government

in fighting it.

Even with the awareness campaign

on the disease, Kenyans

were doing little in fighting the

disease, he said.

The chairman of the home,

Mr Denis Afande, said more effort

was required to assist children

suffering from Aids.

"Children ~s homes are not

the only alternative to young people suffering from Aids. The

whole (Kenyan community

should fed responsible to cater

for such children," he said.

He also urged Kenyans to assist

non-governmental organizations

or individuals taking care

\_of such children, saying the majority

of donors were from

overseas.

Mama Ngina, who donated

foodstuffs to the home, pledged

to offer assistance to the institution,

saying that such homes

were a good example of what

was needed to be done by all

Kenyans.

Father )' Agostino urged the government 1t to waive taxes on

donations made to the home

from overseas. High taxes discouraged

donors, he said.

The home caters for children

who are HIV-positive and currently

has 120 children.

Others present at the function

included r *IIr* Ephraim Gathaiya

the genes al manager of the

home, Margaret Kenyatta,

Mr Muho 10 Kenyatta and Ms

Nyokabi Kenyatta.