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800,000 Kenyans ‘HIV-positive’

By PAMELLA MAXOTSI

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More than 800,000 Kenyans are

HIV-positive, the chairman of

the National Aids Advisory Committee, Dr M.S. Abduilab, said

yesterday.

Dr Abdullab said Kenya bad

300,000 Aids orphans.

The human immuno-deficiency

virus (HIV) is believed to cause

the killer disease Aids.

Dr Abdullah was awarding certificates to 15 nurses after a one

course on training people

to care for HIV and Aids patients

organised by the Aga Khan

Foundation.

He said spouses and relatives

of Aids patients must be trained

on how to care for them at home

so that the patients could live

and die in their homes with the

dignity they deserve.

, Even if we doubled the number of hospital beds in the country, we could never accommodate

all the Aids patients,” he said.

He said a survey conducted ¡n

Uganda, Tanzania and Zaire bad

revealed that 50 to 60 per cent of

hospital beds were occupied by

Aids patients.

“We have not conducted

the survey here but the figures

are likely to be the same because

the environment is similar,” he

said.

He advised HIV positjve

people not to waste time pointing

fingers at other people but to look

to the future instead.

Dr Abdullah urged society to

change its attitude towards HIV

positive and Aids patients.

Meanwhile, the director of the

Kenya Medical Research Institute, Dr Davy Koech, yesterday

said the publicity given to foreign

doctors who made unfounded

statements on Aids in Africa after short visit may jeopardise efforts to control the killer disease.

Dr Koech said should

ignore “dangerous claims by a

team of British and American

medics that the NW virus that

causes is “harmless

“Some of these people are simply tourists and their irresponsible claims that HIV cannot cause

an Aids epidemic Africa

be ignored and strongly rejected,”

he said.

In a related matter, a

official in the Ministry of Heal.

Dr P. Achola, this week warn

Kenyans to ignore reports

the Aids-causing virus could

through condoms. He

people to continue

condoms to protect themselves

against pregnancy and sexually.

transmitted diseases

Aids.