**Increasing TB cases worrying medic**

By NATION Correspondent

Increased cases of tuberculosis

(TB) are causing concern among

doctors and medical experts, says

a medical expert.

Dr John Adungosi, who is in

charge of leprosy and TB in the

Coast Province, says in a report

that there is a likelihood that the

increase could he linked to HIV

infection.

"The close link between HIV

infection and TB is worrying and

raising concern in the medical

fraternity in the country."

Between 1992 and last year, Dr

Adungosi says, the country registered

a 73 per cent increase in TB

patients.

He says the number of patients

on the register for treatment had

steadily increased from 14,499 in

1992 to 20,131 last year, compared

with 10,400 in 1985.

Dr Adungosi says Mombasa

leads in TB patients followed by

Kwale and Kilifi' districts.

He attributed the incidence to

poverty and overcrowding in

homesteads in Kwale and Kilifi,

while poor housing is to blame for the Mombasa cases.

The doctor says the province

had 2,858 TB cases in 1993 while

in 1985 there were only 1,500

patients.

Dr Adungosi says the increased

TB cases had reversed the declining

trend the disease had taken

up to 1986.

He says that due to the link

between· TB and Aids, TB patients

had become resistant to

commonly-used drugs.

He says cases of drug-resistant

patients had been reported from

Coast hospitals "with worst recurrence'

for patients who don't

comply with· the full course of

treatment".

On leprosy, Dr Adungosi says

there was a noted decline in new

patients.

He says that the number of patients

had declined by about seven

to eight per cent a year compared to the previous figures.

The doctor says they expect

the leprosy problem to stabilise

to about 400 new cases every year

for the next decade.