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**Aids: 6,000 infected daily**

By NATION Team

Six thousand people and 500 babies

are infected with HIV/Aids daily,

especially in developing countries.

The statistics were read by the

World Health Organisation representative during a ceremony to

mark the World Aids Day at Gusii

Stadium in Kisii.

Prof P. Chuke said the World

Health Organisation estimated that

by mid this year, more than 20 mil

lion people, 3.5 million of them

children, had been infected with the

virus.

Prof Chuke called on governments, politicians, religious leaders

and NOOs to ensure communities

were informed about the disease.

He said governments and politicians should develop policies, strategies and resource allocation plans to ensure that the rights of those infected with the disease were rejected.

Health Minister Joshua Angatia said the spread of Aids was putting

stress on Kenya’s economy.

Mr Angatia said the percentage of HIV-positive people in urban

areas was 11 to 12 while that of the

rural areas was five to six. “It is a

war which all of us must be out to

fight,” he said. Mr Angatia said

the country’s resources would be

drained should the spread of the

disease continue. -

The Minister assured Kenyans

that the Government was commit

ted to fighting the disease.

Mr Angatia said the National

Aids Control Programme estimated

the number of infected Kenyans at

about one million and added that

this figure was expected to rise to

1.6 million by the year 2000.

Among those who attended the

national Aids Day was Agriculture

Minister Simeon Nyachae. Mr

Nyachae said the disease should be

discussed openly.

The Nairobi Provincial Medical

Officer, Dr Lilian Kochola, urged

the community to provide simple

health care to HlV/Aids victims,

and added that the “already over

stretched” health care services

were being stretched further.

Marsabit acting District Medical

Officer of Health Matayo Dawas

said the number of Aids cases in the

district had risen from three in 1993

to 300 this year.

Speaking in Marsabit, he attributed the upsurge to outdated cultural values such as wife-sharing.

Acting Kisumu Municipal Officer of Health Fredrick Odero said

Aids patients bed occupancy in

hospitals had shot up from 30 in

January lo 707 by the end of

November.

Speaking at Bandani Market in

Kisumu, he said Kisumu residents

were vulnerable (O the killer virus

because of sexual irresponsibility.

The Kisumu District Medical Officer of Health, Dr Oluoch, attributed the high rate of HIV infection in the town to the large number of migrant workers.