HIV-positive rapists 'killers'

Biwott: Charge culprits with murder

By NATION Correspondent

Kerio South MP Nicholas Biwott

yesterday suggested that rapists

are confirmed Aids carriers

could be charged with murder.

"A law should be enacted to

impose heavy penalties on HIV

victims who knowingly infect innocent

women by raping them,"

he said.

Mr Biwott asked why rapists

with the Aids virus should not be

charged with murder.

Mr Biwott was addressing a

workshop on Aids for Rift Valley

Province held at Hotel Sirikwa in

Eldoret.

Among the participants were District Commissioners, Members

of Parliament, provincial

and district heads of department,

chairmen of civic bodies and

medical experts.

Mr Biwott said sufficient funds

should be raised to fight the Aids

scourge. He decried the pathetic

condition of mortuaries in the

country and urged the Ministry

of Health to rectify the situation.

The meeting, opened on

Thursday by Health Minister

Joshua Angatia, was closed yesterday by Public Works Minister

Prof Jonathan Ng'eno.

Mr Angatia said that Aids prevention

should not be the work of

medical experts alone but all

Kenyans who value human life.

He said the outcome of the

two-day workshop proved that

education was the number one

priority in controlling the spread

of Aids. '

Prof Ng'eno called upon leaders

to be instrumental in enlightening the public on the dangers of

Aids.

Meanwhile, sources in Nairobi

said on Thursday that the World'

Health Organisation will from

next year adopt a new approach

to the fight against Aids.

The sources said WHO's Global

Programme for Aids will, under

the new arrangement, be implemented

and funded by four

other UN agencies as well as the

World Bank.

The agencies are the UN Development Programme, Unicef,

the UN Population Fund and

Unesco. The agencies under the

auspices of a new UN Aids

programme, UNAids will finance

future global efforts against

Aids.

The UNAids programme, says

an WHO official, represents an

internationally co-ordinated response

to the HIV/Aids scourge.

It will draw on the experiences

and expertise of the six cosponsors.

UN Aids, expected to be in

place by January 1 next year, has

an estimated budget of $140 million

for the 1996-1997.