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Celibacy ‘hurts Aids campaign’

By MOHAMMED MAINA

Celibacy practiced by Catholic priests is a major impediment in

the fight against Aids, Permanent Secretary Joseph Kaguthi has said.

The Church’s campaign against the use of condoms, Mr

Kaguthi said, was occasioned by the fact that the priests were governed by the doctrine, which put them out of the Aids circle.

Speaking at the weekend in Nyandarua District, the PS said the Church should be realistic and accept the available practical

ways of checking the spread of

the HIV/Aids. He told churches

to leave those who could not ab

stain from sex to use condoms as

advised by the President.

In view of the deterioration in

the society’s moral standards, he

said, the only way of containing

the spread of Aids was through

the use of condoms.

The Office of the President PS

said if the church had failed to

instil the right morals, the government was obliged to advocate the

use of condoms to check the

spread of the disease.

Nyandarua District Commissioner Claire Omolo said that 40 per cent of bed occupancy in hospitals in the district was by

HIV/Aids patients, and cautioned

Central Province residents not tax

in the fight against the disease in

the false belief that the scourge

afflicted Nyanza Province alone.

The PS was speaking during a harambee in aid of Geta Secondary school where over Shl.5million was realised, with Mr

Kaguthi giving Sh266,500 which included ShSO,000 from President Moi (and Sh 10,000 from Na tion Media Group Chief executive Wilfred Kiboro. The area

Member of Parliament Mwangi Githiomi gave Sh30,000.

Meanwhile, the clergy in Meru town were sharply divided yesterday over whether President Moi was right or not to encourage the

use of condoms in the control of

Aids spread.

Former Presiding Bishop of the

Methodist Church in Kenya, Rev Lawi lmathiu, and the East African Pentecost Church Pastor, Rev

Douglas Ikunyua, said non

practising Christians should be free to use condoms.