**Step up campaign against Aids**

The Press is doing a good job in disseminating information on HIV/Aids. A lot has been written

about the alarming spread of the HIV virus

in Kenya. Day in day out, we read new threatening

statistics.

We have been informed that there is a higher

incidence of Aids among married couples,

than among single people. Polygamy and immorality

are some of the major causes.

Government officials speak out against polygamy

at every workshop, seminars and any

other public forum they get. The clergy speak

out against immorality in most of their sermons

these days. Therefore, every adult Kenyans

must have heard the Aids message loud

and clear.

The problem is not that people have not

heard of the HIV virus and Aids. The problem

is that they do not realise, comprehend, acknowledge

and accept the seriousness of the

Aids menace.

Some people believe that because they have

been fortunate enough to enjoy good health

throughout their lives, their luck won't run out.

Others believe Aids is a diseases that is acquired by "other people", but "not me."

So long as these attitudes continue among

Kenyans, the Aids toll will keep on rising.

Aids is now an integral part of our system. It

transcends all tribal and social barriers. It has

taken its toll among pre-teens, teens, young

adults, the middle-aged and the old.

We must, therefore, create more awareness

,about the scourge and its implications at all

levels of our society. There is currently a commission

of inquiry into the education system.

This commission is collecting views on how

the current system can be changed or

improved.

Headteachers and parents should tell the

commission about the need to make Aids education

an integral part of the school syllabus.

Every child from the age of 10 should be educated on the various ways the HIV virus can be

contracted and the methods of prevention, Perhaps,

it should be taught as a section in the biology

syllabus.

Alternatively, it could be taught as a daylong

class in Christian Religious Education

classes. It is up to education experts to tell us where the subject can be taught to have maximum

impact.

I urge the ministry of education to seek

funding from Unicef for the production of documentaries,

which can be distributed free to

every school. I am sure discussions with Unicef

should yield some literature,

Visual messages can have a great impact. I

believe if more Kenyans saw the pain and suffering

Aids victims go through, they would

take preventive measures more seriously.

Our economy is in dire straits. The only way we can win the battle against the spread of

Aids is for the government to take up the challenge

to seek funds to ensure the dissemination

of information on this scourge ..

Everybody has a responsibility. The clergy

should continue to preach about the consequences

of immoral behaviour. Churches are

the right venues for public talks and lectures on

Aids. A government-led, church-supported approach will have a tremendous impact in the

fight against Aids

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