Probe into HIV women’s

sterilisation claim starts

**BY NATION REPORTER**

The office of the Director of Public

Prosecutions has started investigating

cases of women living with HIV

and Aids who claim they were sterilised

without their knowledge.

The DPP, Mr Keriako Tobiko, on

Wednesday appointed a taskforce to

inquire into the matter and report

back to him.

The seven-member team, drawn

from Mr Tobiko’s office, will be led

by senior State counsel Catherine

Mwaniki.

The public prosecutor said the

team would work with African

Gender and Media Initiative, which

exposed the allegations by the affected

women.

The taskforce and the organisation

will interview victims and

collect relevant evidence which can

help prosecute those involved in the

sterilisation.

“The findings will enable me make

a decision whether there is evidence

to sustain criminal charges against

any person or group of people responsible

for the sterilisation,” Mr Tobiko

told the *Saturday Nation*.

The prosecutor has also written to

the executive director of the gender

initiative, Ms Faith Kisava, requesting

her to submit to the taskforce

any relevant information and material

that may assist his office in the

investigations.

The study by the gender initiative

released a report recently on the

cases of 40 women who claim to

have been sterilised without their

consent.

The report titled, Robbed of

Choice: Forced and Coerced Sterilisation

of women with HIV in Kenya,

claims health workers were forcing

women living with HIV to undergo

contraceptive sterilisation.

The report captures grim experiences

the women went through when

they went to give birth but instead

went home with their reproductive

organs tampered with by the same

doctors who helped them deliver.

The affected women are from

Nairobi, Kakamega, Meru, Kandara,

Tigania and Kisumu.