Those who use tablets

unwilling to speak up

**BY SAMUEL BORN MAINA**

There has been debate on

whether people who engage in

casual sex should be allowed

to take PREP.

Dr David Bukusi, who heads

the VCT and HIV prevention

unit at KNH, said use of the

drugs was a danger to public

morality.

Those who have abused the

treatment are reluctant to be

identified, for fear of being

stigmatised.

“I did not even know her

name nor do I have her contact,”

said a 28-year-old college

student in Kisumu who said he

had sought the medicine after

he had a sexual encounter with

a stranger who had insisted on

not having safe sex.

He had gone to a disco in

July, got drunk and went home

with the stranger. She did not

even introduce herself.

“That alone made me to

suspect her,” he said. “I had

to do something.”

For 28 days, he took the

medicine religiously and in late

October went for a HIV test.

The results were negative.

Another user, who was not

willing to be named either, said

he had a sexual encounter with

a sex worker.

“I am sure she was (HIV)

positive,” he said. “I had a

choice of reversing the possibility

of having acquired the

HIV virus or living with the

repercussions for the rest of

my life.”

He chose the former and

obtained the drugs. “Now I

have no worry,” he said.

After completing his dose,

he went for a series of tests.

They all turned out negative.

However, the drug is not

without side effects, which

can include nausea, diarrhoea

and weight loss.