Come out to fight stigma,

‘celebs’ living with HIV told

The National Aids Control Council wants prominent personalitie living with the virus to come out openly in a bid to reduce stigma.

The council’s deputy director, Dr Sobbie Mulindi, said this would go a long way in convincing ‘common’ citizens that anyone can get the virus and still live a normal life.

He noted that many people living with HIV assumed that prominent personalities were above the virus. “Such people feel inferior and may not exhaust their potential especially the youth,” Dr Mulindi

(below) told the *Nation* in Nakuru

at the weekend.

A study by NACC released last

year showed that an estimated

49,126 people died of HIV-related

causes last year. The report further

projects HIV-related deaths this

year to be approximately 26,720.

The drop is associated with

awareness through the media

and other channels on the use of

anti-retrovirals and information on

healthy living.

However, these deaths would be

lower if prominent personalities

came out openly about their HIV

status and how they are able to

cope with life, Dr Mulindi said.

The prominent people include

politicians, DJs, musicians, actors,

actresses, bishops and others. Professionals

were asked to disclose

their status to inspire infected

people that they too can work.