Aids testing

kits approved,

says ministry

**BY NATION CORRESPONDENT**

The Public Health ministry

has dismissed reports that it had

procured HIV testing kits not

approved by the World Health

Organisation.

Public Health director Shahnaz

Shariff said its staff were using

three sets of kits approved by WHO

10 years ago. They will continue

using them until advised otherwise

by the global health body, the director

said.

A committee of health experts

and academics was set up in 2011

to assess the 60 kits approved by

WHO and selected three — Colloidal

Gold, Card Test and Uni-Gold

— which are used in carrying out

three line tests to ascertain the

HIV status of a patient.

Uni-Gold, used in the third

and final test line, replaced SD

Bioline, which was banned by

WHO in January last year after it

was found to be faulty.

**Counter reports**

“We wish to assure Kenyans that

we are using only WHO-approved

kits, which have a higher specificity

and sensitivity as well as short

turnaround time,” said Dr Shariff,

referring to the time it takes for

the kit to show results.

The health official spoke at his

office during a press briefing to

counter reports in sections of the

media that the government had

bought HIV testing kits that are

not approved.

Dr Shariff said the ministry had

not bought any kits this year as

there was a directive for government

departments to shelve large

procurements during the transition

from the old government