HEALTH | Governors urged to intensify prevention and get people to be tested in the 5,500 centres

Warning against false Aids cure

Experts meeting identifies nine counties as contributing 54 per cent of new HIV

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Health experts have warned

Kenyans, yet again, against

claims that Aids is curable.

Speaking during the closing of a

meeting at the Safari Park Hotel, Dr

William Maina of the Aids control programme

said there was no cure for

Aids and the infected should adhere

to antiretroviral treatment.

He said he was disturbed that some

people had publicly claimed to have

cured Aids and some religious leaders

have had ‘miracle healing’.

Dr Maina added: “These are serious

claims, which lack scientific backing.

Those taking antiretroviral drugs may

stop taking the medications and lead

to drug resistance.”

Currently, 604,000 adults and

55,439 children, out of the 1.2 million

HIV infected people, are using

the life-prolonging drugs.

With 100,000 new HIV infections

yearly the head of the National Aids

and Sexually Transmitted Infections

Control programme, who spoke in

Nairobi, encouraged governors to

intensify prevention in their counties

and encourage people to be tested in

the 5,500 centres countrywide.

He attributed the shortage of rapid

testing kits to laxity and logistical

problems in some counties.

“What needs to be addressed is

the re-distribution mechanisms in

the counties to ensure constant supply”

Dr Maina said.

During the meeting that ended on

Wednesday, the National Aids Control

Council identified nine counties

— Nairobi, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya,

Migori, Mombasa, Turkana, Busia and

Kisii — as “high incidence cluster”,

which contribute 54 per cent of new

HIV infections.

“With a population of 10,632,820, the counties have an HIV prevalence rate of between 10 and 28 per cent

with 900,900 people living with the

virus.

Thirty one “medium incidence

cluster” counties contribute 45 per

cent of new infections.

They include: Nakuru, Kakamega,

Kiambu, Trans Nzoia, Murang’a,

Machakos, Kajiado, Makueni, Bomet,

Uasin Gishu, Kitui, Meru, Bungoma,

Kericho, Kwale, Nandi, Narok, Kilifi,

Nyeri, Vihiga, Nyamira, Kirinyaga,

Nyandarua and Taita Taveta.