Aids campaign at risk

Lobby groups in the health sector have raised

concern about declining funding for HIV

and Aids, noting that this threatens to erode

gains made in combating the disease.

While HIV/Aids has dominated development discourse

in the past two decades, it is increasingly

receding. The US and other western nations that

have traditionally funded Aids projects have cut

their support. In fact, they have changed strategies

and started channelling resources to other areas.

Yet, HIV/Aids remains a deadly predicament that

is ravaging Africa and causing misery all round.

Most African nations rely heavily on donor funds to

fight Aids and any cuts have serious effects.

Even then, the funds cut should be a wake-up

call for the continent. Africa has depended on the

West for far too long. The continent, therefore,

must begin looking inwards for solutions instead of

depending solely on external support. Besides, the

little available funds must be used prudently. Cases

abound of Aids funds being misappropriated while

the infected suffer due to lack of medication.

Cumulatively, donors must be persuaded to continue

supporting Aids programmes while Africa is

also being called upon to seek home