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LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: BONFACE MUTUKU, PETER MUYONGA AND SAID IBRAHIM — SEE PAGE 20

14,000 KENYAN GAYS GET HIV



MSM WARNING: UNAIDS' Peter Piot

Homosexuals more at risk than prostitutes and truck drivers

BY STAR TEAM

Around 15 per cent of all HIV infections in Kenya occur through Male Sex with Males (MSM) but this is ignored by government so there is no health education for this endangered group.

With an estimated 90,000 new HIV infections in Kenya annually, this means that around 14,000 Kenyans are being infected with HIV each year as the result of gay male activity. Just to be clear, that means that 14,000 Kenyans were infected directly or indirectly through MSM in 2007, and the same number of new infections through MSM will occur in 2008, and in the

following year unless something is done.

It is therefore likely that as many as 300,000 of the 2.1 million Kenyans living with HIV today were infected by HIV as a result of male gay sex. Yet this reality remains unrecognised by government.

Twice as many Kenyans are being infected as a result of MSM as by sex workers and truck drivers combined.

The shocking data was presented by Kenya UNAIDS to the 2008 World Conference on Aids in Mexico City last month.

The UNAIDS figures indicate that

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Age limit of 65 years for presidents opposed



TARGET?: Raila



PROPOSER: Linturi

BY FRANCIS OPENDA

THREE MPs have opposed the proposed motion by Igembe South MP Mithika Linturi that would limit the age of presidential contenders to 65 years.

They said leadership should not be tied to age considerations and each presidential aspirant should be judged on the basis of their track record.

Two of the MPs, Jakoyo Midiwo and Gitobu Imanyara, read mischief into the motion, saying it targeted Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Chepalungu MP Isaac Ruto said age should not be used as an issue to bar anyone from standing for the presidency.

But Linturi defended the move, arguing it neither targeted Raila nor Internal Security minister George Saitoti, who will be both aged over 65 in 2012, and is simply aimed at ensuring the retirement age of the President is brought in line with that of other constitutional office holders and civil servants.

"They should get out of their cocoon that the motion is targeted at particular individuals, or that it is not my idea and is being sponsored by someone else," he said.

He went on: "Many might think there is a target, but I do not know Raila or Saitoti's age."

He argued that if senior public officers retire at 55 then the President, who is the national chief executive officer, needs to be young and strong in view of the rigorous nature of the office.

Midiwo, the ODM Chief Whip, dismissed Linturi as "insincere and dishonest" and said the motion is "ill-advised".

"How come he did not vote for some one

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