

# Finger injury that led to medic's 16-month fight with skin TB

After pricking his little finger while attending to an HIV patient, the intern was misdiagnosed

By GATONYE GATHURA

A 27-year-old medical intern contracted a rare tuberculosis strand from a needle prick on the little finger at a local referral hospital as he was attending to an HIV-infected patient.

A study published in the journal Clinical Case Reports by doctors at the hospital, Moi University and the Ministry of Health revealed how the intern spent almost a year undergoing incorrect treatments.

"He sustained a small cut that bled a little and he immediately washed it with water and soap," says the study which was led by Mercy Jelagat of the Moi University Clinical Research Centre.

He was immediately put on a 28-day HIV preventive treatment with anti-retroviral after which he was confirmed negative.

However, within two weeks after the injury, the little finger had started swelling and was accompanied by a persistent dull pain for which he sought surgical intervention.

A small surgical procedure was carried out to clean and drain the infected area and he was treated for other possible infections.

"His little finger now had an open wound that persisted for several months despite repeated medical cleaning and generous prescription of var-

## INJECTIONS CAUSE 2PC OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS

- According to the Kenya Aids Indicator Survey, a number of new HIV infections in Kenya are from injections either self-administered or from health facilities and traditional healers

- In 2008, it was estimated that 2.2 per cent of new HIV infections in Kenya were a result of unsafe injections received in health facilities, the report revealed

- The study, said the problem is pegged on several factors such as a love among Kenyans for the needle against a pill and a high number of injections for HIV patients

ious types of antibiotics," the report revealed.

The study shows the HIV positive female patient was being investigated for meningitis and died soon after but her results were not followed up until several months later.

For next six month, the finger would continue to swell, even spreading to the rest of the hand

"This was accompanied by fever, night sweats, and weight loss and at this point he underwent another surgery and was put on further medication," the report showed.

### HARVESTED TISSUE

During this period he underwent a whole battery of medical tests including radiology, blood counts, for liver and renal functions but he was still not responding to treatment.

Ten months later and with

no improvement he underwent yet another surgical procedure and this time around harvested tissue from the wound indicated the presence of the tuberculosis causing bacteria.

He was put under TB treatment for six months at the end of which he had fully recovered and was confirmed to be both TB and HIV negative.

While all seemed to have ended well for the intern, the four-man team is now advising that though skin TB is rare, "It should be suspected in all patients who present with skin cuts that do not respond to antibacterial treatment and may very likely infect health workers". In May the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes, quoting the Kenya Aids Indicator Survey said a significant number of Kenyans are getting HIV infections from medical injections.



The casket which was to carry the body of Josphine Wanjiru, who later emerged alive in Nakuru Municipal Mortuary. Family members attacked Standard journalists, who had turned up to cover the event at Wanyororo in Lanet. [PHOTO: BONIFACE THUKU/STANDARD]

## Drama in morgue after woman 'resurrects'

By LEONARD KULEI

Drama unfolded at the Nakuru Municipal Mortuary on Saturday after a woman, whose 'body' her family had showed up to collect for burial 'resurrected', much to the shock of morgue attendants and relatives.

According to morgue superintendent Alois Momanyi, a body was brought to the facility two weeks ago but two different families, one from Kaptembwa estate within the town and another one from Wanyororo in Lanet, identified separately and claimed ownership. Unfortunately, the Wanyororo family, Mr Momanyi explained, did not do prop-

er identification but nonetheless, went ahead with funeral arrangements. "We later learnt that the 'dead' woman from Wanyororo had separated with her husband and her family just got wind from someone that a body of a woman resembling their kin was in the mortuary," said Momanyi.

And on the material day, relatives of the Wanyororo woman arrived at the facility with a coffin complete with a white cross and the name of Josephine Wanjiru christened on it. Momanyi said the family went straight to the morgue's registry, where they were informed that the supposed body, which bore different names had been picked by an-

other family. "They accused us of wrong dispatch, yet we knew well there was no body registered under their kin's name," said Momanyi.

As confrontations ensued, Ms Wanjiru emerged to the shock of everyone and *The Standard* team, which had been called by a news source over the impasse. More drama awaited *The Standard* journalists after they were lured by the 'mourners' to the home where the burial was to take place.

As soon as the team arrived, a group of youths demanded to know what the journalists were doing at the homestead. They yelled as they attacked the journalists, who luckily sped off to safety.

## Ombudsman summons two civil servants

By GEOFFREY MOSOKU

The Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman) has summoned two civil servants to answer to charges of failure to perform their responsibilities.

The head teacher of Kibos School for the Blind Meshack Too and Thika District Lands Registrar Felix Nyakundi could face jail terms or be fined if the Ombudsman finds them guilty of being unresponsive public officers.

Mr Too is accused of failure to pay a former employee of the institution, Philip Oloo Nyangweso, Sh362,440 as workman compensation for injuries he sustained in the line of duty.

Yesterday, Ombudsman Director of Legal Affairs Yuvinalis Angima said the head teacher misled the commission on several occasions that he was awaiting funds from the Ministry of Education to offset the bill.

Mr Nyangweso was awarded the amount under the Work Injury Benefits Act by the Kisumu Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Officer on June 22, 2009, after assessing his injuries that emanated from an accident when he fell

from a ladder and fractured his leg, occasioning partial impairment.

"About a year ago, we were told the school was waiting for money from the ministry and later the same head teacher wrote to us saying the complaint had been withdrawn by the victim and a new payment of Sh25,000 had been agreed upon which we found suspicious. It later turned out to be a lie hence the summons," Mr Angima said.

On the other hand, Mr Nyakundi is accused of failure to transfer a parcel of land in Thika to the administrator of the estate of the late Nderitu Muchonu.

His case had been referred to the Ombudsman by Muchonu's son Peter Gikonyo Nderitu in September 2013.

"In spite of Gikonyo's request and the inquiry from this commission there was no response from this officer prompting the commission to issue summons," Angima said.

The commission said it had summoned the two officers to give their side of the story and failure to give a convincing explanations for the actions or inaction may land them in jail.

### REPUBLIC OF KENYA



### ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT THE SENATE

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

#### In the Matter of Consideration of

1. The Intergovernmental Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2014, (Senate Bill No. 36 of 2014)
2. The Office of the County Attorney Bill, 2014, (Senate Bill No. 37 of 2014)
3. The Public Service (Values & Principles) Bill, 2014 (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2014)

Article 118 of the Constitution and Standing Order 130 of the Senate Standing Orders.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECEIPT OF MEMORANDA

Following the introduction of the above listed Bills in the Senate, the Bills were committed to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for consideration pursuant to standing order 130 of the Senate Standing Orders.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 of the Constitution and standing order 130(4) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights now invites interested members of the public to submit any representations that they may have on the above listed Bills.

The representations may be made orally or by submission of written memoranda in the following manner:

1. Public Hearings shall be held on **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Shimba Hills Hall, First Floor, KICC Building, Nairobi;** or
2. Written Memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the Senate, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**, hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, First Floor, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi** or emailed to **csenate@parliament.go.ke**, to be received **at or before 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015.**

The Bills may be found on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.go.ke/plone/senate>.

**J. M. NYEGENYE, CBS,  
CLERK OF THE SENATE.**