

# HIV infection among drug users high in Zanzibar

AT least 67 people among drug users in Zanzibar tested HIV positive last year, an indication that the spread of the deadly virus among the group needed addressing.

Mahmoud Ibrahim Mussa from the department of Education, Treatment and Reform of Drug Users said in Zanzibar recently that concerted efforts were required to control the spread of HIV in the islands.

“Although we have managed to keep HIV prevalence at one per cent and below, the spread among drug users is

high,” Mussa said.

He said in efforts to control the spread among drug users, his department had opened 14 treatment and drug addicts rehabilitation centres in collaboration with two NGOs - Zanzibar Youth Forum (ZYF) and ZAYEDES.

Mussa said the ongoing efforts were part of a World Health Organization (WHO) campaign to monitor drug users in safe environments globally. Statistics still show that HIV spread is high among drugs users and youth engaged in commercial sex.