

## Nacada blames drugs for school strikes

BY SAMUEL OTIENO

Drinking among students is to blame for the rising cases of indiscipline in schools, the national anti-drug abuse agency has said.

Mrs Jennifa Kimani, the National Co-ordinator for the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (Nacada) also blamed liquor companies for the alcohol abuse among teenagers.

Kimani said the Ministry of Education and school authorities had not put adequate measures in place to detect alcohol and drug abuse early enough.

"The advertisements being churned out by alcohol companies are so appealing that they may render this country an alcohol state," she said.

The Nacada alarm comes at a time when the number of strikes in schools has hit 300 in just a month.

### BAN ON BOARDING SCHOOLS

Kimani called for boarding primary schools to be banned to ensure that parents take charge of their children.

"The culture of boarding schools, especially for primary children, has been on the rise where parents disconnect with their children before they are 10," she said.

She said teachers who have counselling skills should be relieved off their teaching duties to concentrate on counselling to curb indiscipline among students.

In most schools, Kimani said, teachers performed their teaching duties and left more vital roles to prefects.

She said the agency was yet to conduct studies on the number of students involved in drug abuse.

However, she said, there was overwhelming evidence that many youngsters were caught in the vice.

A research done last year revealed that alcohol abuse among students had gone up to 71 per cent over the last four years.

The Nacada official called upon schools to constantly monitor students to identify those that abuse drugs and alcohol.

She also said schools should evaluate students based on their talents rather than written examination.

# Officers accused of 'engaging in orgy of rape'

## Regular police and those from the GSU were accused of taking advantage of the chaos to rape girls, women and sodomize men

BY BEAUTTAH OMANGA

Law enforcers took advantage of post-election violence to participate in an orgy of rape and sodomy, the Waki Commission heard.

The Commission was also told the country faced a rise in HIV/Aids infections following the rape of HIV-positive victims.

"Some of the victims warned their attackers of their HIV status but their caution was ignored by the rapists, who included Government agents," said a witness.

Gender-based NGOs told the Commission that law enforcers raped women and young girls at will, including those who turned to them for assistance.

### TESTIMONY

"We had narrations from rape victims, some who implicated the police. They are ready to recount their ordeals *in camera*, while others are ready to testify in the open," said Ms Millicent Obaso from Care-Kenya.

The Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya (Fida) Executive Officer, Ms Jane Onyango, told the Commission some police officers participated in rape during the post-election violence period.

"While some victims told us they were turned away at police stations, others told us some General Service Unit officers raped them as their colleagues watched," said Onyango.

Dr Regina Karega, who chaired the Gender Commission, told the Waki Commission that some officers took advantage of the chaos to sexually assault men, women and children.

The three women were giving evidence on Day Six of the Waki Commission's sitting. They, however, commended the military for taking rape victims to hospitals whenever they came across them.



### WHAT HAPPENED ON DAY SIX OF THE WAKI COMMISSION?

Gender-related NGOs gave evidence implicating law enforcers in rape.

The NGOs demanded the prosecution of perpetrators of rape and interdiction of all police officers involved.

Commission told some rapists ignored warnings by victims that they were HIV positive.

The three women were giving evidence on Day Six of the Waki Commission's sitting. They, however, commended the military for taking rape victims to hospitals whenever they came across them.

"The Army did a commendable job of escorting besieged women to

Fida Executive Director Jane Onyango testifies at the Waki Commission, yesterday. [PHOTO: TOM MARUKO/STANDARD]

safety and giving First Aid to and defilement victims," Onyango.

A videotape containing counts of victims of sexual violence was played to the Commission.

Obaso also said that women and girls confessed willingly engaging in sexual activity in exchange for food, security and shelter.

Justice Waki ordered the to submit lists of their witness their statements and produce same to the Commission.