

Headline **Southern Africa in circumscion drive to fight AIDS**
Date **17 Jul 2010**
MediaTitle **New Sarawak Tribute**
Section **World**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **46,471 / 164,773**

Language **English**
Page No **W4**
Article Size **80 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **216**
PRValue **647**



Southern Africa in circumscion drive to fight AIDS

HARARE: Thomas Mukone wonders exactly how he would tell his wife that he wants a circumcision at age 41, even with the government in Zimbabwe urging adult men to get snipped to slow the spread of AIDS.

"It's not easy to discuss this as she is bound to accuse me of promiscuity," he said. "It is a really nice programme, but how will I tell my wife that I want to go for circumcision?"

Zimbabwe has joined the growing list of countries in southern Africa that is pushing, and some-

times paying, for adult men to get circumcised, in the wake of studies that found men without a foreskin are 60 percent less likely to catch HIV.

Scientists think this is because the foreskin has more cells that are easier for HIV to infect.

The findings have sparked a regional drive to make circumcision a routine party of prevention efforts.

Zimbabwe aims to have 30,000 men undergo circumcision by year end, said Owen Mugurungi, head of the national HIV prevention

programme.

It's an ambitious target - 82 men would have to get trimmed every day in a country where the medical service struggles to provide basic care.

Mugurungi said 4,000 men have taken part so far, including many in the army, and donor funding means the procedure is free for volunteers.

But convincing men to undergo the procedure requires tackling issues both complicated and intimate in the region hardest-hit by AIDS. - AFP