PS decries increasing

lack of jobs

By MAGUTA KIMEMIA

All Kenyans must rededicate

themselves to nation-building for

the country to curb the current

level of unemployment, the Permanent

Secretary in the Ministry

of Manpower Development and

employment, Mr Johnson

Hungu, said yesterday.

He said that there was no

shortcuts to the solution of the

country's economic- and-social development challenges.

Mr Hungu, who was addressing

the Young Men's Christian Association

(YMCA) National Annual

general Meeting at Ufungamano

house, Nairobi, said the responility

of meeting the set employment

objectives should be ared among the Government,

private and public sectors, religious

and community

organisations and individuals.

The meeting was chaired by

YMCA national chairman,

Attorney-General, Mr Amos

Wako. It was also attended by the

National vice-chairman, the Rev

Lawi Imathiu, senior officials

the association and delegates

from all branches.

Noting that unemployment in

Kenya and the world was a serious

issue, Mr Hungu said that in

country, its nature and chareristics

depended on the structure and stage of economic

development.

He said that a slowdown in economic activity resulted in reduced

growth in employment. It

was made worse by a high rate of

population growth.

The PS said that Kenya's

labour force was projected to rise

by four million in the next 10

years. To absorb the number, the

economy had to grow at a similar

or much higher rate.

Mr Wako said that the rate of

unemployment could only be

raised through higher economic

growth and productivity.

Noting that 60 per cent of the

country's population was the

youth, he said they should be assisted

to become self-employed.

He told Kenyans that the adage

that "necessity is the mother

of creativity" would not apply in

population control, urging them

to match their resources with the

size of their families.' .

Mr Wako called for creativity

and hard work as means of creating

employment:.,

He noted that the country was

threatened with Aids and said

that between 750,000 to a million

Kenyans were HIV -positive.

At this rate, about 300,000 children

would be orphans in the

near future, their parents having

died of the incurable disease.

The Attorney-General urged

the YMCA, as a Christian

organisation, to educate Kenyans

on the need to change their sexual

behaviour.