Five million 'to die of Aids'

By NATION REPORTER

Researchers estimate that some

five million Kenyans will die of

Aids by the turn of the century.

A United Nations Development

Programme seminar was

told yesterday that five million of

Kenya's projected population of

35 million will have been wiped

out by the disease by the year

2000.

The seminar was organised for

Permanent Secretaries and was

held at a Nairobi hotel.

The one-day meeting chaired

by Mr Gaylord Avedi, a PS and

director of directorate of personnel

management, was aimed at

increasing awareness of the impact

of the Aids epidemic.

The organisers said it was a

special effort to engage opinion and

decision-makers and the

population in responding to the

epidemic in an informed and constructive manner.

A paper entitled the

"Machakos Declaration," which

was drafted after another UNDP sponsored

meeting in Machakos

this week, said that if the current

trend of Aids infection continued,

the country would need 80,000

extra beds for Aids patients.

This represented 20 hospitals

the size of Kenyatta National

Hospital, for Aids patients only.

Experts also estimated that 10

per cent of the adult population

was infected with the HIV virus.

They said the economy would

suffer the loss of many productive

and skilled workers.

The paper read by Mr Stephen

Karaba recommended the rehabilitation

of Aids victims' survivors

and the enactment of a law

to protect HIV sufferers from

discrimination.