Nyachae **calls for research** **solutions**

By NATION Reporter and Correspondent

Researchers should step up efforts

to find solutions. to the country's

economic, problems, and help

achieve ,fast and sustainable

growth, the Minister for Finance

said yesterday.

. Mr Simeon Nyachae (said research

is critical in the effort to reduce

poverty levels, unemployment

· and HIV/Aids. He said

the spread of HIV/Aids Had been

exacerbated by poverty.!

Mr Nyachae's remarks were

read by an assistant minister, Mr

Charles Kinui, during the closing

of the three day symposium on

HIV/Aids. and Development in

Nyanza at the Ukweli Pastoral

Centre in Kisurl1U. ,

The minister said' Aids had led

to increased health expenditure

and in the process taken away resources

from activities that would

lead to increased economic

,growth: " I.

Karachuonyo MP Adhu Awiti

'accused Kenya's post colonial

governments of neglecting Luoland in their development agenda.

Dr Awiti said the economy of

the region had collapsed! because

the government had never thought

it prudent to help alleviate poverty.

,in the province. He also accused

intellectuals from the Luo community of

ignoring the peasants

who continue to toil with minimal

returns from their sweat:

The MP was presenting a paper

at the leadership 'symposium.

He asked leaders. to adopt a development

approach that would

respond to the basic needs of the

people of Nyanza.

Former Cabinet Minister

Dalmas Otieno said the Nyanza

Professional Caucus, which organised *the* event, should be institutionalised

to become a development

vehicle for the community.

He said the current political environment

in Luoland was conducive for implementation of a' development

agenda .and. asked

'leaders to use it to the community's

advantage. '

Prof Gilbert Ogutu of the *Uni*versity

of Nairobi said poverty in

Luoland could only be tackled by

,first sorting out the problems in

the fishing industry. He warned

the community against accommodating

poverty as away of life.

At the same event, Mrs Hilda Orimba of the Widows and Orphans Society, of" Kenya said

scores of widows in Kisumu had

lost their land' and property to

people masquerading as wife inheritors.

'

The men conspired with relatives

of Aids, widows to rob the

women of their property, she said ..

Delivering a paper on the plight

-of orphans and widows, Mrs

Orimba said about 70 per cent of

Aids widows had been conned of

their land. ,,' ",;

She said out of 500 widows in

the region, 400 had been tested

HIV ,'positive and. *20,000* of

60,000 children had been orphaned

after their parents died 91'

Aids in the past four years, '