Move on Aids long

Overdue Gatabaki

The declaration of Aids as a

national disaster should have

come earlier, Githunguri MP

Njehu Gatabaki said yesterday .•

He said it was evil for the government

to wait until more than a

million Kenyans had died.

He gave an example of Uganda

which, he said, formulated policies

in the late 1980s and- early

1990s and arrested the spread of

the scourge. Mr Gatabaki also

wondered when Kenyans would

stop involving themselves in what

he described as reckless and casual

sex. He was contributing to a paper

presented by the permanent secretary

for Health, Prof Julius Meme

on social and economic implication

of Aids in Kenya. Prof

Meme said there was need to put

in place necessary laws to protect

the rights of all those infected

with HIV so that they might not

be discriminated against. An

idea floated by Dr Odongo

Oman1o that students be screened

was rejected by some MPs. Mr

Kiraitu Murungi argued that the

move will provoke protests from

human rights activists.