EMBU North MP Njagi Mbarire accused some civil servants of inflating Government tenders for personal gain, thus contributing to not only serious corruption, but also heavy expenditure on projects.

Mr. Mbarire was contributing to debate on Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1982 on the Development Prospects and Policies. He gave the example of schools, saying that to put up even one dormitory was costing about half a million shillings. And he underlined the need for all wananchi to work hard.

Mr. Mbarire also emphasised the importance of practical university education where graduates contributed to the welfare of the people. On investment he said that in River Road and Biashara Street areas should be left to Africans. Foreign investors should go to the Nairobi’s Industrial Area, he said.

Kenyan leaders were told that if they kept on talking about foreign exchange they could find themselves worshipping it. Juja MP Juuga Kahengeri said the Government should concern itself with food self-sufficiency. He said: “If we continue missing this foreign exchange, I don’t know whether we are going to hang ourselves. Some people say that without magendo we cannot get foreign exchange. But the President has told us we can do without magendo. We should stop crying about foreign exchange.”

Mr. Kahengeri said that while leaders continued to cry for foreign exchange, he had been informed that a civil servant in Thika had filled up a GK Land-Rover with fuel to travel 40 kilometres in search of a bag of charcoal.

That was one way how public servants were misusing money for development, he said. He added that African businessmen could not succeed because they were being frustrated by experienced and long-established traders.

Assistant Information and Broadcasting Minister Eric Khasakhala said Kenyatta National Hospital was too big to be managed efficiently. He said it was the biggest hospital in the world.

He said it should be decentralised to build better hospitals in every province.

Kwale Central MP Njama Boy accused a Government official who allegedly refused to organise the sale of coconut seedlings to a buyer from the Middle East. He said the buyer had to move on to Zanzibar to get the seedlings.

He said it was unfortunate that when the country was suffering from lack of foreign exchange, a government officer could prevent the sale of the seedlings.

Mr. Boy, who is the secretary-general of the Central Organisation of Trade Unions, said the National and Social Security Fund money should be used to help the ordinary worker as well.

Assistant Commerce Minister Wilberforce Kisieru appealed to the well-to-do businessmen, especially manufacturers, to help lift their “African brothers by appointing them distributors”.

Belgut MP Ayub arap Chephwony said leaders who said the control of the economy should be equitably distributed should not be referred to as racists. “They are commercial tribalists,” he said.