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THE MINISTER FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
BOX KAJVIPALA

Honourable Minister,

ON THE CONSTITUTION FOR UGANDA

A constitution is the supreme law of a nation in which the peoples of that nation AGREE to live together and stipulate how they want to live together. The constitution spells out the division and distribution of power in the nation. All the regulations and laws of a nation arise from and are safeguarded by the constitution. Hence every sane national holds the constitution sacred.

Some People are talking of making a constitution for Uganda. It is futile for Ugandans to make a new constitution. It would in addition set a dangerous precedent: that whoever comes to power and does not like the constitution in force, will call a constitutional assembly and frame his own. That way, a constitution loses meaning. And making such a constitution would be a waste of time and energy.

We do not need a constitution because Uganda has a constitution, which was made in 1962. That constitution satisfied all the requirements and definitions of a constitution not like Obote's dictatorial document drafted by his accomplice Binaisa which some wicked and unenlightened Ugandans call a constitution.

Why I say that the 1962 Constitution is Satisfactory

- (a) It was agreed upon by all Ugandans. This is so because each region of Uganda (by then called district) sent delegates to London to debate the constitution. Each region chose their wisest and most trustworthy. Besides that, the Protectorate Government provided and paid lawyers to help each delegation. The political parties existing then (DP and UPC) were also represented.
- (b) The Protectorate government chairing the Constitutional assembly was as impartial as can be hoped for. Therefore the delegates were not cheated or coerced.
- (c) The 1962 Constitution was made such that any changes could be made to it. There is nothing that cannot be added to or subtracted from it perhaps some people are unhappy with it because, according to the Constitution, none can add or subtract anything without the consent of the people.

Some of the people I have discussed the constitution issue with say that Buganda was favoured in the constitution. My answer is that Buganda asked for more responsibilities which they thought they could manage, and those responsibilities were granted. The other regions preferred that such responsibilities be run for them by the central government and it was granted. If today some regions are ready to take on more responsibilities from the central government, the Constitution can be amended.

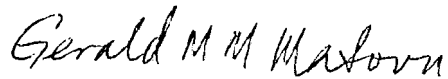
Some people might argue that because some people like Obote, were unhappy with the constitution, many Ugandans may likewise find it unsatisfactory for dictators and villains ; those who want to impose themselves on the people and rob the peoples liberty.

Some Ugandans have been to universities and because they have got degrees they think they are wiser than their fathers. So they would have a new Constitution! Let them observe the most developed nations of the world where the idea of degrees are invented. How many of those nations are in the habit of making new constitutions?

Let those who want a new Constitution tell us what is wrong with our Constitution.

Honourable Minister, my submission is that; do not make a new constitution. Re-adopt our Constitution and, where there is need, amend it.

yours sincerely,



Gerald M M Matovu

**c.c.** The New Vision c. c.  
c.c The star  
**c.c.** Munno  
**c.c.** Ngabo  
**c.c.** Nusizi