

# THE STAR

VOL. 6 NO. 963\*

MONDAY 10 JULY 1989

150/-

## Adopt Federal system, Bishops urge NRM govt.

By Frank Muhareza

RELIGIOUS leaders in the country have proposed to the NRM administration, the adoption of a Federal type of constitution for a future form of government in the country.

This proposal was made to government by over 200 eminent religious leaders from all denominations throughout the country, at the end of a three-day seminar. The seminar was organised by the NRM Secretariat, to get their opinions, inter alia, about the pre-requisites for constitution making.

The outspoken religious leaders who opposed for the 1962 federal constitution as a working document for the new constitution, are particularly a formidable pressure group, because they are well placed to reach a high proportion of the

population at the grass roots.

Winning over their opinion, therefore, would by far, make it easy to reach a national consensus, which is an essential safeguard for the constitution.

The religious leaders also called for the extension of the period

within which all political party activities should remain suspended, though the seminar did not specify the period.

According to them, the extension is necessary to allow the present administration time to complete the exercise of making the new constitution.

Political party activities in the country, were with the coming to power of the NRM suspended and on several occasions government officials have echoed multi-party issues as being secondary.

Other proposals included the prescription of a national service for all youth in the country, laying out a carefully worked out plan for the youth, the institution of a national youth council to be composed of all recognised religions in Uganda and the adoption of indigenous languages as national languages.

The religious leaders also considered in detail issues pertaining to social services including provisions of water, establishment of irrigation schemes and establishment of cultural institutions throughout the country.

TO PAGE 5

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# Adopt Federal system

FROM PAGE 1  
to enhance cultural pro-  
tection.

They also proposed  
that all marriages, cu-  
stomary or religious,  
births and deaths shou-  
ld be registered as we-

At one time, during  
the course of discus-  
sion session in the

seminar, the religious  
leaders expressed sce-  
pticism as to whether  
their deliberations wo-  
uld not end where the  
y were, but hoped that  
they shall be taken

very seriously.

Officiating at the  
closing, the second  
Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Fe-  
deral Affairs and Re-  
gional Co-operation Dr.

Paul Semogerere stre-  
ssed the need for con-  
tinued dialogue betwe-  
n the church and the  
state, saying, "the  
two should be mutually  
re-inforcing".

"The church and the  
state should plan to-  
gether on how best to  
put the country back  
on road of developme-  
nt", he said, "so that  
we enter the next  
century as a viable  
and progressive nation.

Dr. Semogerere sa-  
id that considering the  
turbulent times the  
country has gone thro-  
ugh, and the resultant  
moral and spiritual  
degeneration, the  
church has a big role  
to play in bringing ba-  
ck sanity.

"Religions can not  
afford to remain passi-  
ve and observers in  
this important task",  
he stressed.