

# THE STAR

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## *Make comparative study of 2 constitution*

- THE Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Sam Njuba, early this week explained that the on-going seminars on the constitution in the various parts of the country are not meant for passing resolutions on what should be embodied in the new constitution.
- HE said that these seminars are intended to provide a forum where Constitutional Commissioners can educate participants regarding the dynamics of the process of constitution making.
- COMMISSIONERS are during these seminars expected to put across to participants such matters as the various options open to constitutional makers and the basic contents essential in a national constitution.
- NJUBA explained that the current seminars are aimed at initiating a dialogue that would assist participants to make better proposals on the national constitution at the appropriate time.
- WE think that the explanation by the minister has been very timely. As the minister did observe, some seminar participants had resorted to passing premature constitutional resolutions.
- EARLY this month in one of our editorials we did say that the participants are expected to go back to the people, educate them on what has been discussed in the seminars, carry out extensive consultations. Then and only then should definite recommendations be made to the Constitutional Commission.
- HOWEVER, we think that it is not seminar participants who should be blamed for hurriedly making recommendations on what should be embodied in the new constitution. The problem is that these people have not at all been properly guided as to the objectives of the current seminars.
- It is up to the Constitutional Commissioners to give the necessary guidance to seminar participants and present an agenda for issues to be discussed. It is unfortunate that rather than giving an objective guidance, some Commissioners spend time telling participants their own political views or arguing against a given political system in favour of another.
- WE think the role of Commissioners is not to sell to the participants any particular political system but to expose them to various options available so that at the appropriate time people can effectively make recommendations. We think it would have been of great assistance if people were availed with copies of the 1962 and 1967 Constitutions to make a comparative study and find out where improvement can be made.