

The NEW VISION

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Who says consultations did not take place?

It is not our practice to engage in controversy with other newspapers but it does seem that *The Star* is presently attempting to make a mountain out of a molehill by claiming that the Constitutional Commissioners deny that consultation took place during the preparation of the 1962 Constitution. This is not true.

On page 4 and 5 of its Monday December 11 edition, *The Star* wrote "Stop the lie: Ugandans participated in formulation of the 1962 Constitution" and then went on to say "A number of our politicians.....have been going around the country claiming that people were not given the chance to participate in the formulation of all Uganda's past constitutions. This sweeping statement becomes even worse when some members of the Constitutional Commission continue telling people in some of the on going constitutional seminars that consultations were never held."

The Star went on to say that it was "disturbing and hypocritical" that some politicians who had presented memoranda in 1962 were allowing the ordinary Ugandan to be misinformed. *The Star* then published a list of individuals and organisations who had contributed memoranda.

Who are these Constitutional Commissioners who allegedly deny that consultation took place for the 1962 Constitution? Let *The Star* come forward with names and dates on which these statements were uttered.

The truth has been clearly set out by Mr Justice Ben Odoki on our front page today. Consultation took place in a period of ten weeks between January 16 and March 30, 1961. The three Commissioners collecting views were all British citizens.

Today's Commissioners have never claimed that no consultation took place in 1961. They have only said that consultation for the 1962 constitution was limited because it was done quickly and could not properly reach the grass roots and because it was conducted under British colonial rule. These are reasonable and objective comments.

This is why we say *The Star* is making a mountain out of a molehill. It is *The Star* which should stop its lies.