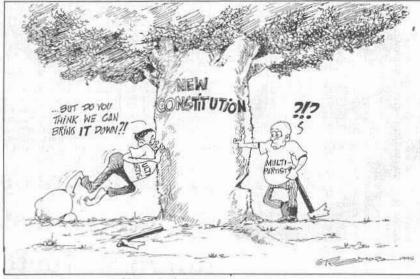
It is high time the public knew the truth about this matter

Every one has helped to make new constitution



By G.W. Kanyeihamba

Thas been very sad to listen to and read about menacing utterances of some multipartyists both within and outside the CA denouncing the new Uganda constitution, the making of which they were influential instruments.

It is high time the public

It is high time the public knew the real truth on this matter.

Of the very influential chairmen and deputy chairmen of the select committees in the CA which discussed and made recommendations on the articles of the constitution, half of them were multipartysists. They included such personalities as Ringwegi (UPC), Mulenga (DP) Katenta Apuuli (CP) and Dick Odur (UPC). Their recommendations on the new constitution were accepted and adopted by the CA in plenary sessions, in the open with their cloquent advocacy for adoption.

The influencial Rules Committee which guided the CA on rules and procedures was chaired by a UPC delegate, Omara Atubo. The Legal and Drafting Committee which advised the CA on law, constitutional matters and CA disputes and impasses had a multipartyist as deputy chairman, Ben

Wacha of the UPG. Other multipartyists on this committee included Charles Owor, Dan Nabudere and Owiny Dollo.

Presently, there are 287 articles in the draft constitution. There was consenson on nearly 286 of them for it is only on one single article that some multipartysis felt sufficiently aggrieved by the democratic decision of the majority in the CA to walk out temporarily. The walkers out were members of the so-called National Caucus for Democracy, the brainchild of Prof Dan Nabudere which often had Mr Ssebauna Rizito as a spokesman. Their main assault was on the famous original Article 94 which is now Article 69 of the final draft. So that the people of Uganda know that the dissenting multipartysis are not revealing the whole truth, it is important to reproduce the contents of that article.

It provides that "(1) The people of Uganda shall have the right to choose and adopt a political system of their choice through free and fair elections or referenda."(2) The political systems referred to in Clause (1) of this Article shall include (emphasis mine)

(a) the movement political

system

(b) the multiparty political system

(c) any other democratic and representative political system."

It is on the basis of this article that the multipartyists who walked out claimed falsely that the majority movementists were excluding political parties and entrething movement in the Constitution.

In reality, they were only objecting to paragraph (a) of the article which they wanted to delete from the constitution. It is on this provision that some of them temporarily walked out of the CA.

However, any reasonable Ugandan regardless of party or organisation allegiance, can see that by including all possible political systems the CA was being fair and just.

Admittedly, there were one or two minor provisions which also attracted criticism of some of the multipartyists.

For instance, they objected to a provision which says that when one political system is in governance for five years, the others not adopted by the people of Uganda shall refrain from engaging in certain activities which confuse the population and lead to instability and chaos in the republic.

Recently, the Business Committee of the CA set up a team consisting of the six-teen chairmen and vice chairmen of all the committees of the Assembly to finalise and proofread the Draft Constitution and to ensure that it accurately reflects the decisions of the CA on reconsideration.

This team's proceedings were dominated by the multipartysis who included delegates Mulenga, Odur, Wachs, Owiny Dollo, Omara Atubo, Ringwegi and Dick Neal ne of these delegated successfully moved motion to improve one provision which it multipartysists had an objetion on, and the team is report its adoption of it motion. The team has give the stamp of approval to draft as accurately reflect the decisions of the CA.

Just before one of me walkabouts, it was to multipartysts in the GAW stated knowledgeably flothat time, 98% of the Ca stitution had been made consensus which include their own support. On this evidence and fac

On this evidence and fact there can be no justification whatsoever for any Use politician, let alone a L. La egate, to claim that the laconstitution is a creaturthe President of Ugandaof the majority only in the

It is inconceivable that a CA delegate could present attoral reason to disclathis Constitution, the ming of which he or she free participated in.

It would be a manifest surdity for any delegate refuse to be recorded; posterity as having part pated in the historic exerc of making a constitution this country even if it is ephasized that delegate's natures are not required all for the validation of a constitution.

It would be sheer made and political irresponsible for any Ugandan lead whether within or outside borders, to wish to ear chaos and bloodshed of because of disagreeing who was provisions of the a constitution even when it created adequate meet hisms for those who do a agree with some of its prositions to amend it.

Ugandans will judge so politicians correctly, unit the evidence svailable.

The writer is chairman L and Drafting Committee of Constituent Associate and egate for Rubanda East.

The private life of a public servant

