

Constitutional Amendment Bill No 3.: What ordinary Zimbabweans are asking

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Executive Director of the advocacy group [Youth Decide Zimbabwe](#)

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Hon. Lynette Karenyi-Kore

"This amendment DOES NOT answer the question what ordinary Zimbabweans are asking."

That is what Hon. Lynette Karenyi-Kore told the National Assembly. And in a chamber where some were busy rearranging political furniture while the country burned, her voice landed like a mother walking into a room where everyone has been pretending.

She was not performing. She was not auditioning. She was representing Chikanga [a residential suburb and a parliamentary constituency in the city of Mutare.] And she was furious in that quiet, dignified way that only a woman who has carried real burdens can be. 🙌

She began by listing what she actually hears when she travels across her constituency.

I do not hear mothers asking for #CAB3. I do not hear unemployed youth demanding CAB 3. I do not hear pensioners, vendors, farmers, teachers or workers calling for CAB 3.

What I hear are cries for jobs. Calls for affordable education. Pleas for food on the table. Demands for reliable transport, decent accommodation, functional hospitals with medication, and an end to the drug abuse destroying our young people.

That is the conversation taking place in homes, in churches, in buses, in markets. Not constitutional experiments. Bread. Not political engineering. Opportunities.

She asked the question that should have ended the debate right there.

Whose problem is CAB 3 solving?

It does not create a single job. It does not lower the price of mealie-meal. It does not improve the state of our hospitals. It does not build schools. It does not bring investment. It does not put food on the table for struggling families.

The people did not ask for this bill. The people deserve leaders who focus on their daily realities rather than on arrangements that benefit those already in power.

Then she connected the dots that the Bill's architects hoped no one would notice.

The prices of oil have gone up due to the war in Iran. The price of fertilizer has increased due to the war in Ukraine. There is need for our government to make interventions to cushion our people from these hardships.

But instead of interventions, they are getting CAB 3. Our country remains internationally isolated, without access to international credits or markets. And at this moment, they want to amend the constitution?

She was not being theatrical. She was being logical. And that was far more dangerous to the Bill's defenders.

Hon. Kore proved to be a master of constitutional law without ever losing the people's voice.

She exposed the conflict of interest that should shame every MP who votes for this. Parliament stands to materially benefit from this amendment. So will the President. To make these two institutions the alpha and omega of this bill is to invite a serious conflict of interest.

The only cure, she said, is a referendum. Send it back to the people. If they support it, they will vote it in. If they oppose it, they will vote it out. Why are they afraid of that question?

She named the region.

Botswana has an independent electoral commission. South Africa has the Electoral Commission. Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Angola, DRC, Mauritius, Zambia, Tanzania — all have independent bodies handling voter registration.

The Registrar General reports to a politician who is also a beneficiary of the electoral process. You cannot transfer voter registration from an independent institution to a non-independent institution and call that progress.

Zimbabwe must go along with the majority in SADC and the world at large. Not backwards. Forwards.

She closed with words that should be printed and framed.

Our constitution is not the cause of poverty. Our constitution is not the cause of unemployment. Our constitution is not the cause of corruption. Our constitution is not the cause of poor service delivery.

The challenge before us is not a constitutional crisis. It is a governance crisis.

History will not ask whether we protected the politicians. History will ask whether we protected the rights of the people.

Today I choose to stand with the unemployed youth. I choose to stand with the mothers struggling to feed their families. I choose to stand with farmers and workers and vendors and pensioners who deserve to be heard.

The voice of the people must remain the voice of our democracy.

I need to say something personal.

I don't know what happened to Hon. Karenyi Kore's party politics posture over the years. Politics changes people. Sometimes it hardens them. Sometimes it silences them.

But growing up, she used to be a model mother for me. A representative who put the people at the center with motherly care. Not the kind who shouts from podiums. The kind who listens. The kind who wipes tears before she makes speeches.


Watching her in that chamber, I saw that woman again. Unchanged. Unbought. Unbroken.

She spoke for Chikanga. But she also spoke for every Zimbabwean who has been told that their daily suffering is less important than political longevity.

Every mother who cannot afford school fees. Every graduate sending CVs into the void. Every vendor counting coins to buy mealie-meal.

That is the voice history will remember. Not the procedural bullies. Not the constitutional architects. Her.

Salute to Hon. Karenyi Kore. One of the most progressive voices in that Parliament of Zimbabwe. A mother to her constituency. A reminder that representation is not about power. It is about presence. Showing up. Speaking truth. Refusing to confuse constitutional tinkering with governance.

 *Share if you believe the people's voice must remain the voice of our democracy. Share if you are tired of leaders who solve problems that do not exist while ignoring the ones that are killing us.*

Lynette Karenyi-Kore is a politician from Zimbabwe. She is a member of the [Citizens Coalition for Change \(CCC\)](#) party. In August 2023, she also became a Member of Parliament (MP) for the Chikanga Constituency in the Manicaland Province after contesting under the CCC party ticket.

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Learnmore Munhangu is a Zimbabwean human rights campaigner, pro-democracy advocate, and public intellectual, rather than a mainstream journalist. He is the Executive Director of the advocacy group [Youth Decide Zimbabwe](#) and has served as the Harare Region Communications Focal Person for the [Zimbabwe Human Rights Association](#).

His work focuses heavily on amplifying youth voices in governance, constitutional awareness, and elections. While he frequently writes opinion articles and commentaries on society, his primary professional identity is that of a civic leader, youth champion, and Youth Advocate rather than a member of the press.

You can follow his public interest advocacy and commentaries on the [Learnmore Munhangu Facebook Page](#)