

➤ **I won't support draft until amended, says Ruto**

The chapters on land, abortion and devolution according to the minister would negatively decide the fate of the constitution if left as they are.

"Both supporters of 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns agree that the document has flaws, but we argue that we amend it now, but they insist we pass it first," he said.

The draft constitution in its current form, he said would impose on Kenyans a dictatorial presidency more powerful than the current one.

"We wanted a servant president, but the current constitution has made him more powerful than even a king," he said.

Ruto said the abortion clause remained open to abuse as people could exploit the loopholes to terminate pregnancies.

➤ **Treasury sweats over Sh9b to fund referendum**

Up to Sh9 billion of taxpayer funds will go down the drain should the proposed new constitution be rejected in a referendum due in July.

And that is not counting the hundreds of millions already spent by the Committee of Experts collecting views of citizens across the country, and by Parliament in hosting MPs to build a consensus for the draft.

This includes the infamous aborted retreat by MPS planned for Naivasha in March that cost taxpayers up to Sh4 million.

The enormity of the cost of a 'No' vote victory in the upcoming referendum hit home on Monday, after Treasury revealed that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Uhuru Kenyatta will seek MPs' approval to draw the money from the Consolidated Fund in a Supplementary Budget.