

The Kingdom of Barotseland

I. The Freedom Charter

To be Adopted by the people

We, the People of the Kingdom of Barotseland, declare for all our country in its diversity and the world to know:

That the all peoples of Barotseland in their diversity come first, no government or monarch can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

All Peoples of Barotseland shall have the right to existence. They shall have the unquestionable and inalienable right to self-determination and independent existence. By virtue of that right, they shall FREELY determine their political status and shall pursue their economic and social development according to the policies they have freely chosen.

That our people have been robbed of their right to self determination, liberty and peace by successive Zambian governments based on force and forced assimilation;

That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in unity, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

That only a democratic Constitutional Monarchy, based on the will of the majority of the people, can secure to all their

birthright without distinction on the basis of tradition, ethnic background, belief, and gender;

And now therefore, we, the peoples of the Kingdom of Barotseland, in our diversity together as equals, country folks, brothers and sisters, adopt this Freedom Charter;

And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

II. The People Shall Govern

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country on the basis of equality and without discrimination on grounds of race, gender, sex, marital status, ethnic or social origin, age, disability, religion, conscience, culture, language and birth.;

The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of ethnic background and gender;

All three arms of government, the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary shall be established through democratic means, while the fourth arm of government shall be a Constitutional Monarch. The boards, councils and authorities shall be established through democratic means

III. All National Organs Shall have Equal Rights

There shall be equal status for all people in all bodies of state with respect to national groups and ethnic backgrounds;

While English shall be the official language of the Kingdom and Silozi the national lingua franca, all people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folklore, culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults on the basis of their race and ethnic grouping;

The preaching and practice of discrimination and contemptuous behavior towards people's ethnical backgrounds shall be a punishable by law;

IV. The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of the Kingdom of Barotseland, is bestowed in the King on behalf of the people;

The mineral resources beneath the soil shall be administered as a sacred trust of our nation through state organs to the benefit of the peoples as a whole;

All sectors of the economy shall be regulated for the benefit of the people of the Kingdom;

All peoples shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

V. The People Shall have Equal Opportunity to Land

The state shall protect people's rights to land;

All peoples shall have the right to access land;

The right to private property, including cattle and other products from their ancestral lands shall be protected by law.

VI. All Shall be Equal Before the Law!

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;

No one shall be condemned by the order of any government official;

The courts shall be independent and representative of all the peoples of Barotseland;

Imprisonment of persons shall be imposed only for serious crimes in accordance with the law, and shall aim at rehabilitation, not vengeance or retribution;

Membership of the police, security and armed forces shall be open to persons on equal basis and shall play the role of keeping the peace and protect the people from external threats to peace in the realm;

No laws shall discriminate against any person on grounds of ethnicity, religious views, gender, disability or other status.

VII. All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!

The law shall guarantee to all people their right to express themselves, to organise, to peaceful assembly, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;

The privacy of the family home from police raids shall be protected by law;

All persons shall be free to travel without restriction;

VIII. There Shall be Work and Security

All employees shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their own representatives and to bargain freely and to enter into collective agreements with their employers;

There shall be equal pay for equal work;

There shall be a forty-hour working week, paid annual leave, and paid sick leave for all workers, and 90 days maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

All employees shall have the same rights;

There shall be no child labour.

IX. The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;

All the cultural treasures of humankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour our humanity, liberty and peace;

Basic education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children;

Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state and private allowances/scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

X. Access to Shelter, Security and Safe Environment.

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, in safe and secure environments, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, amenities and recreational facilities, playing fields, creches and social centres;

A health care system, comprising preventive care, clinics and hospitals, shall be run by the state and shall be accessible to all citizens, irrespective of their social or economic status;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all:

XI. There Shall be Peace and Friendship

The Kingdom of Barotseland shall be a fully independent nation state which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations and peoples who live in it;

The Kingdom of Barotseland shall strive to maintain world peace and security and the settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and friendship amongst all our peoples shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;

The Kingdom of Barotseland shall recognize the right of all peoples of Africa to self-determination and true democratic governance, and that shall determine the nation's foreign policy and co-operation with other states all over the world.

Let all peoples who love their people and their country anchor our words here:

**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE,
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON SELF
DETERMINATION**

God Bless Our Land Barotseland

Mulena Buluka Sichaba Sa Hesu.