

THE CLOSING SPEECH OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE NGAMBELA OF BAROTSELAND DELIVERED TO THE BAROTSE NATIONAL COUNCIL HELD AT ST. LAWRENCE GROUNDS IN LIMULUNGA MONGU FROM 26TH TO 27TH MARCH 2012.

As I close this momentous gathering in the History of our nation I wish to begin by thanking all delegates for maintaining peace throughout the two days. I also feel indebted to the organizers who have kept the proceedings smooth and orderly. I am tempted to believe that the success of this conference has not come as an accident but as a result of our inbuilt nature as a people used to the culture of orderly governance over the centuries of our existence.

This council has come up with far reaching resolutions which signals the beginning of a new era for Barotseland. The gist of the resolutions is that this August council has given a clear mandate to the Ngambela to energize the various segments of the Barotse Government and people of Barotseland in meeting the main theme of the resolutions, which is, the reconstitution of Barotseland into a viable nation state. In accordance with our nature as an orderly society, it goes without saying that haphazard implementation of these deep rooted resolutions is something that is not expected of us.

What is expected, and what will happen, is that the Barotse Government that I am privileged to be the administrative head as Ngambela shall, in close liaison and consultations with the Litunga and his privy council, set in place a mechanism that will work to bring into fruition the lofty aspirations of the people of Barotseland as contained in the resolution of this National Council. The process of setting up the instruments for processing these resolutions will commence within the next few days and logic demands that it will have a gestation period of a few weeks or months. However it is my desire and objective to ensure that within a reasonable time the people of Barotseland should be able to detect a forward motion and progress in as far as implementation of these resolution is concerned.

In our expectation and anxieties we need to exercise maximum patience and tolerance as we await implementation of these lofty objectives we have set for ourselves on this great day. The great Nelson Mandela, Africa's living legend and hero of the liberation struggle wrote two books from whose titles, we can learn great lessons; **'No easy walk to freedom'** and **'The long walk to freedom'**. The meaning of these two book titles put together is that the walk to freedom is not easy and it is usually long. Consequently, we need to exercise both tolerant patience and endurance. It is not a short distance run but a marathon. Let's not be weary and faint hearted.

To the Zambian community at large I wish to assure you that we mean no harm to anyone. We are simply exerting ourselves to seize what has always been ours by right. We therefore expect that the Government of the republic of Zambia will be civil enough in handling this matter without using unnecessary force or undue duress. The Zambian Government must realize that in matters of this nature **might is not always right**. We especially call upon the current Government to tone down and desist from provocative language that will add fuel to the anger that is prevalent among our people to turn it into an inferno. Until now we have applied our Anger Management Skills to manage the anger of this nation in turmoil. However, there is a

point at which even the best Anger Management skills prove inadequate. Surely it is not necessary for the head of state to call me 'fake Ngambela' before I even clock a month in the office. Such an insult is directed not to me as Wainyae Sinyanda but to the people of Barotseland who saw it fitting to give me the honor of being Ngambela at this crucial time.

I want to thank all for the sacrifice that you have exhibited by being here at your own expense and at so much inconvenience. I also want to recognize the sacrifice of many sons of Barotseland who may not be here in person but have contributed financially or otherwise to the success of this meeting. Those from within Barotseland and those in the Diaspora of Zambia, beyond its borders and indeed beyond the shores of Africa are equally appreciated. I want to challenge you that if you think you have sacrificed enough you are far from the truth. You will be called upon from time to time to sacrifice more and more until we realize the fruits of our aspirations. The Bible gives an admonishing that we should not be weary of doing well.

We cannot thank our Tonga friends enough for the solidarity that they have shown for being with us through the presence of their Royal highness as we make these crucial decisions. Let the spirit of brotherly love between our peoples continue.

Finally I want to give a charge to all of you that are gathered to represent Barotseland as a whole

O Barotseland!

Today we begin a new life

Today we shed our old skin which has too long suffered the bruises of failure and the wounds of mediocrity.

The path we have chosen is laden with opportunity yet fraught with heartbreak and failure. Many who embark on this path fail and cast a shadow on the path.

Yet we will not ail like others for we hold in our hands the mutilated Barotseland Agreement 1964 and the BNC Resolution of the 27th March 2012 as our Chart and compass which will guide us through perilous waters which only yesterday seemed but a dream

Failure will no longer be the payment for our struggle. Now we reject failure and are prepared for wisdom and principles which will guide us out of the shadows into the sunlight of wealth, position in the world and happiness far beyond our most extravagant dreams until even the even the golden apples in the garden of Hesperides will seem no more than our just reward.

Today we begin a new life and we make a solemn oath to ourselves that nothing will be allowed to retard our new life growth or progress. We will walk tall!

Oh Barotseland! Lineki lineki ki nako. Bulozzi ki bwa luna luli!

May our good God Bless Barotseland