**Building international pressure for recognition of Barotseland statehood—Face the challenge President Sata**

by Mukunyandela wa Nyandi Mukuyoyisa

Dugue and Kirtley, an international law firm representing the Barotse National Freedom Alliance (BNFA) has challenged Zambia’s President Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata to consent to a Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) process through a [letter](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Barotseland-Cover-Letter-To-PCA-Submission-Agreement-28-.pdf) dated March 28, 2014. The [letter](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Barotseland-Cover-Letter-To-PCA-Submission-Agreement-28-.pdf) challenges Mr. Sata in his capacity as President of the Republic of Zambia to append his signature on the [signed submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/SubmissionAgreement-Signatures-consolidated-batch1-update.pdf), thereby agreeing to take the matter of Zambia’s continued illegal occupation and administration of Barotseland to the Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The Hague, The Netherlands. This allows the PCA, an independent and impartial international arbitral tribunal, to determine the validity of Zambia’s actions as well as the current legal status of Barotseland statehood under public international law following the unilateral abrogation of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Barotseland-Agreement-1964.pdf) by Zambia in 1969, Zambia’s violation of the Agreement since 1965 and Barotseland’s final acceptance of the abrogation on March 27, 2012.

This development is complementary to the petition before African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul both of which are aimed at disengaging Zambia from its illegal occupation and administration of Barotseland as well as building international pressure for recognition of Barotseland as an independent state. The [letter](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Barotseland-Cover-Letter-To-PCA-Submission-Agreement-28-.pdf) from Dogue and Kirtley is a direct challenge to Mr. Sata in particular and the Zambian government in general to vacant Barotseland, thereby, peacefully resolving the Barotseland impasse, which has been pending for five decades due to lack of decisiveness, political will and a sense of justice, fair play and good will. We, therefore, call upon Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata to be a man bold enough to ‘**Face the challenge’.** After all, he is referred to as a ‘Man of Action’, let us see if indeed he is a man of action. His team of advisors, entire cabinet and the whole of his government functionaries are equally called upon to ‘**Face the challenge’** and advise their boss accordingly.

After all, this is a double aged sword whatever Mr. Sata choses to do. If he chooses to sign, we proceed with the PAC process and would have saved his face as an honest leader who is willing to follow the rule of international law. To the contrary, if he chooses not to sign, we still proceed with the PAC process but then he will be proclaiming from every mountain top, hilltop, rooftop and indeed valley that he and his government are illegally occupying and administering Barotseland. In fact, they have been wittingly acting contrary to international law and are prepared to continue to do so.

Further, the PAC process is calling the international community to ‘**Face the challenge’** over the Barotse impasse. As the world watches events unfolding in Barotseland, they should not just fold their hands and open their mouths in awe and wonder as the situation is slowly deteriorates to unbearable and alarming proportions and yet do nothing about it. The [letter](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Barotseland-Cover-Letter-To-PCA-Submission-Agreement-28-.pdf) seeks to resolve the Barotse impasse in a peaceful and amicable manner, all peace loving governments, non-governmental organizations and persons significant enough to stand up and be counted must join hands with Dugue & Kirtley, BNFA and the Barotse people to ensure that Mr. Sata does the needful to allow a peaceful arbitration process to begin and take its natural course to the end. Should M.r Sata decide otherwise by ignoring this noble challenge the world should still unitedly ‘**Face the challenge’** and apply the necessary pressure to ensure that other steps are taken for a quick disengagement of Zambia from Barotseland much sooner than later so that no more lives are lost, disrupted maimed, tortured and or perturbed as a result of the resultant tension from the none resolution of the impasse. Already Zambian has listed key people in Barotseland for elimination, possibly by poisoning in their continued attempts to derail the Banjul process and Barotseland statehood.

Finally and most importantly, the PAC process is calling upon all Barotses (Malozi) of all shades and creeds to ‘**Face the challenge’**,stand up and be counted. The letter and [signed submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/SubmissionAgreement-Signatures-consolidated-batch1-update.pdf) by a representative 363 Malozi’s has been sent to the Zambian President for his signature. Mr. Sata and his government have been given two months within which to sign their part of the [signed submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/SubmissionAgreement-Signatures-consolidated-batch1-update.pdf). It is expected that within the same period *Bana ba Malozi kaufela ko baya ko bakuwa* (all Barotses wherever they maybe) should scramble to continue appending their signatures to the [submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf) as a way of showing their resolve to have this issue resolved, their patriotism and love for Barotseland as well as their willingness to see this matter brought before the PCA for conclusive arbitration of Zambia’s disengagement from Barotseland in a pacific manner. The more signatures, the more the pressure on Mr. Sata and his government to comply and the more legitimate Barotseland statehood becomes in the eyes of the international community. More than three hundred and sixty three initial signatures (363)—according to my count—is a good start, however, we need to do more. All Malozi at home and abroad (in the diaspora) worth their salt and lack thereof should append their signatures to the [submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf) and endeavour to make at least 50 more Malozi to do the same. Kinako Mwanahesu, wherever you are; in Barotseland Naha Yaluna, in the Diaspora of Zambia, mother Africa or beyond the shores of Africa, ‘**Face the challenge’ stand up and be counted for a peaceful disengagement with Zambia.** Ultimately the aggregated list of names and signatures will be the final roll as to ‘who is who’ in and for Barotseland.

All our traditional leaders ko kwa Namuso ni mwa Mileneng’i ye minyinyani kaufela ya Bulozi ‘**Face the challenge’** let your name and signature speak that you stand with the people you are called upon to serve. All leaders of Nationalist or Activist groups which ever it may be ‘**Face the challenge’** and lead by example with your name and signature plus all those you serve. All Members of the Zambian Parliament and councillors within Barotseland, ‘**Face the challenge’** and tell the world where you really belong, the Babylon of Zambia or the Sweet Canaan of Barotseland. All so-called prominent Malozi, hamoho cwalo ni luna bo Kabusule kaufela, let us all ‘**Face the challenge’.** The challenge issimply to sign the [submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf) and make others to do the same.

We call upon you to contribute to this effort, en masse, by appending your name and signature to the [submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf) to enable the BNFA Executive to take this PAC process forward.

How do I submit my name and signature? Simply click on the [submission Agreement](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf) to open it or [click here](http://bnfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/submission-agreement1.pdf), print and sign it with your compatriots, use additional paper to collect more signatures, if necessary. Scan the signed submission Agreement and all names and signatures. Send them by email to bnfa.info@gmail.com as an attachment.

**TU KONGOTE…! WA MWANA NONGOLO SHAA, ISI WA MWANA NALUKAPWA**