

## Zambia's shadow boxing in Barotseland—a big failure

by Mukunda

It is now common knowledge that the first President of Zambia tried to hide the fact that Barotseland's attempt to form a unitary state with the rest of Zambia through [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) (BA'64) was stillborn. Fifty years down the line, no sporting activity of any serious nature has been held in Barotseland. However, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 stands out as a unique day in its own right. The reason being that for the first time, a boxing tournament was held at Mongu sports ground usually erroneously referred to as Mongu Stadium.

I should point out that the event was in my view, one of those shadow boxing tactics by the Zambian authorities to divert attention from their unilateral abrogation of the BA'64. Instead of the Zambian authorities applying their energies to resolving the Barotse impasse, they are playing hide and seek games with a view of deviating peoples' attention, as always. They are doing all this, notwithstanding that Dugue & Kirtley, a French law firm, representing the Barotse the National Freedom Alliance informed President Sata through their letters dated [28<sup>th</sup> March](#) and [28<sup>th</sup> April](#) 2014 that Barotseland was seceded from the rest of Zambia by the said unilateral abrogation. According to the Barotse law and tradition, once a dispute is still alive over a piece of land, none of the parties to the matter has any moral right to the land in question. Under the English laws, application for a court injunction would be sought, in such a matter. In this matter, one would expect the Zambia authorities to be guided by tenets of civility, but alas this is not the case!

In addition to the latest correspondence from the said legal firm, I wish to challenge President Sata and his cabinet to address themselves to the serious matter of signing the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) submission Agreement so that the matter can be resolved at the Hague once and for all, instead of resorting to hosting useless sporting activities on Barotse soil over which, they have no legal jurisdiction. To all Malozi, my appeal is that you should be on the look-out for Zambian maneuvers aimed at impoverishing you through stealing your money from meaningless events, such as this one. It is a notorious fact the winners in the shadow boxing event held at Mongu sports ground were the Phiris and Chileshe who made huge financial gains out of unsuspecting poor Malozi. How long are you going to allow yourselves to be cheated by these petty criminals who have been trying to steal your country in broad day light? Needless to say the boxing event was in itself a big failure as evidenced by the poor attendance.