



Litunga's Office

Lealui, 19.....

P. O. BOX 33
MONGU
ZAMBIA

MEETING HELD AT MONGU ON FRIDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 1969
WITH THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE WESTERN PROVINCE
THE HON. F. LIBOMA, M.P., AND THE HON. J.A. SIYOMUNJI
M.P. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

- The Hon. Minister of State. Mr. Liboma - Mongu
- The Hon. Minister of State. Mr. Siyomunji - Provincial & Local Government - Lus
- Assistant Secretary (Mr. Sichangwa) - Mongu
- Lady Secretary - Mongu
- 2 Other Officers - Provincial & Local Government - Lus

- The Ngambela Inwaka - Lealui
- The Sambi Matakala - Nalolo
- The Solami Suu - Lealui
- The Kalonga Lipalile - Lealui
- The Muleta Imenda - Libonda
- The Iwakutuli Simunga (Secretary) - Lealui.

Hon. Liboma: Thanked and welcomed the Ngambela and his delegation and told the delegation to discuss matter which has already been presented to His Excellency the President he added but that

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Hon. Liboma: Thanked and welcomed the Ngambela and his delegation and told the delegation to discuss the matter which has already been presented to His Excellency the President, he added, but there was no need for you to go to Lusaka to advise the President to withdraw the Bill.

The Ngambela: Could you please let me know why our requests are not being attended to ?

HON. LIBOMA: We studied the Barotseland Agreement, 1964, and found that some of the points within the agreement are covered in the Constitution of Zambia.

THE KALONGA: I think I do not quite agree with you Mr. Minister, because we wrote this letter to the President and that we want to have a reply from him directly as soon as possible, therefore, you cannot stop us from going to Lusaka to see him.

THE NGAMBELA: If you write a letter to someone, what do you expect from him ?

HON. LIBOMA: You expect a reply.

THE NGAMBELA: Therefore we are entitled to a reply from the Pre-

HON. SIYOMUNJI: What was said by my Ministry in Lusaka was that you come and discuss this matter with the Provincial Ministers and have this matter exhausted, but you must be very careful on this matter because it is a Presidential Proclamation and that cannot be done in this way and we should not be discussing this problem because it is a Presidential Proclamation and this Bill is to be debated in the Parliament very shortly.

If this delegation intends to go to Lusaka and see His Excellency the President on this matter, I am sure they will have no reply from His Excellency the President as they expected.

THE SOLAMI: Hon. Minister, I think this Memorandum or Petition was presented to the President, and your Ministry advised us to come and see the Provincial Ministers, now it seems that we are wondering, who is muzzling us. Is it the President or this Office? I do not think a memorandum of this kind could have no meaning, even the day we came here, I don't think we discussed all the points raised in this memorandum, and I don't know why the President who is a leader of a country like Zambia is trying to deny us the right to see him.

HON. LIBOMA: As for the Bill, I must make it clear that if this delegation intends to go to Lusaka to ask the President to withdraw it, I am sorry I am not with you.

THE SOLAMI: So Minister, you are the one muzzling us!

HON. SIYOMUNJI: The Solami raised few points, he feels that they are being denied the right to pursue their petition and that is why His Excellency does not want to give any explanation on this matter. His Excellency cannot refuse to see anyone in this country.

THE SOLAMI: The points in this petition were not discussed with the Minister. We are not quarrelling with the Government, but we want full explanation. If you have made an agreement with somebody, I don't think it is fair and just to destroy that agreement without consulting the other part, and this agreement was between His Excellency on behalf of the then Northern Rhodesia Government, the Litunga of Malozi people and the British Government. If this agreement is not discussed, what are we going to tell the people as we are their Trustees.

HON. MINISTER: The recognition to each Litunga will be made in accordance with the Barotse Customary law and this is recognised by the Government and I can say this is being done without an agreement and all Chiefs in Zambia are recognised by the Government.

THE SOLAMI: But the Litunga was there before these changes. I attended the meeting of the District Governor, Mongu, at Limulunga who said that all the Chiefs must start afresh as acting Chiefs until confirmed by the District Governors.

HON. SIYOMUNJI: Chiefs are still recognised by the customary law, but the Minister may be approached.

HON. LIBOMA: The reforms announced by His Excellency the President recently are intended for this Province alone, the whole thing is to normalise the situation, we intend to create equal opportunities. I must make this clear to you that this will come into force.

THE SOLAMI: One may think that the Litunga and his Council may say they are deprived of some full and a fair

HON. LIBONA: The Barotse people are to be the reforms, and these are made for many people and not for few who have privileges.

THE SOLAMI: Why should the Barotseland Agreement, 1964 be changed without sitting round the table ?

HON. SIYOMUNJI: This is not a direct consultation.

THE SOLAMI: This was a petition and this was not a demand.

THE KALONGA: We were assured that Tradition will always remain unchanged but I am wondering why all these things are changing. The people who signed the agreement should sit down and discuss this matter. Some of the Ministers laugh and take it as simple.

HON. SIYOMUNJI: It is not an obligation for a Leader to consult. The Kings were not consulted, and a Leader of a Nation has power to do so, he cannot always consult people.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR 15 MINUTES
AS UNIP YOUTHS CASE WITH POSTERS
DEMONSTRATING THEIR APPRECIATION
TO THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

HON. SIYOMUNJI: In looking at this matter, you are a delegation of experienced people, the agreement was made in a Colonial era. An agreement is made with Foreign powers and followed with the Treaties of Foreign powers and not your own country to have an agreement with your own Government. This agreement is of the past, we must look forward. You cannot have an agreement with your own Government, an agreement is made with foreign powers.

THE KALONGA: Even in the then Northern Rhodesia Government, this Province was not like other provinces of the country, and we were not part and parcel of the then Northern Rhodesia Government, but we are in Zambia to-day because of this agreement.

HON. LIBONA: I think the Induna Kalonga doesn't believe in One Zambia, One Nation. Why do you wish to have coments within the frame work. Why do you to have certain special privileges ?

THE KALONGA: I do believe in "One Zambia, One Nation" on the basis of the agreement. Our people were satisfied with the agreement.

THE SOLAMI: These are the conditions of the agreement, and although we are One Zambia One Nation, these are the conditions which the Colonial Rule found and also found suitable to rule the Country, without the agreement, Zambia could not be as it is now.

HON. LIBONA: The Government is trying to change what went wrong with the Colonial Rule.

THE NEMBEJA: I would request the Minister of State to arrange for this delegation to go to Lusaka to go and discuss this matter with His Excellency the President. It appears that, this letter has not been read carefully, therefore, why should the Government complain if the agreement remains as it was, and we heard no information from this Office about these changes.

HON. SIYOMUWI: Mr. Chairman, I as a new comer to the meeting, I have perhaps wrong impression ! Petition was not a demand, any reply from His Excellency will be accepted ! .

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LIBOMA: We have discussed at length, let me make things now very clear, it is not my intention to stop anyone from going to Lusaka, it is my full belief that the Bill will not be withdrawn, I am not with you on that point of withdrawing the Bill, but I am not going to inform the Minister for Provincial and Local Government of your desire to meet His Excellency the President, and if that will be accepted, I shall immediately let you know.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE WESTERN PROVINCE
DECLARED MEETING CLOSED.