

Facts about Barotseland—What you ought to know

by BNFA Publicity Wing

1. The Zambian government has no legal and moral right to administer Barotseland. The Zambian constitution or municipal/domestic law has no application in Barotseland in line with territorial or international law.
2. Barotseland is no longer part of Zambia.
3. Zambia is no longer a unitary state.
4. The failed unitary state of Zambia comprised of two territories: (i) Barotseland and (ii) Northern Rhodesia.
5. Barotseland is under occupation by the Zambian government.
6. The Zambian government is illegally administering Barotseland by force, alienated part of its territory and reduced it to a province. Kaunda unlawfully renamed Barotseland as Barotse Province and later Western Province in an attempt to obliterate its history. He alienated the Kafue National Park west of the Kafue River to Central Province and Kazungula, Livingstone, Kalomo, Namwala and Itezhi-tenzhi to Southern Province. Now Itezhi-tezhi has been moved to Central Province.
7. Kaunda and successive Zambian regimes attempted to steal the territory of Barotseland and its people. To date the Zambian regime jointly with the Bembas, Nyanjas and the rest of the tribes from North Eastern Rhodesia are still attempting to cling to the territory.
8. Barotseland is one of the oldest nations in southern Africa, and it was the first nation state north of the Zambezi River to sign a treaty with the United Kingdom.
9. At the threshold of independence and based on the United Kingdom's counsel as well as the undertaking by the government of Northern Rhodesia that Barotseland would maintain its autonomy as a self-governing state, Barotseland embarked on an experiment to proceed to independence with the rest of the former protectorate of Northern Rhodesia to form Zambia, pursuant to the terms of a treaty known as [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#).
10. This treaty was signed on May 18, 1964, by Sir Mwanawina III, KBE, the King of Barotseland, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, the Prime Minister of Northern Rhodesia and the Right Honourable Duncan Sandys, Her Majesty Principal Secretary for Commonwealth Relations and the Colonies. It was witnessed by Sir Evelyn D. Hone, the British Governor of Northern Rhodesia, on behalf of Northern Rhodesia; Imenda Sibandi, the Ngambela (Prime Minister) of Barotseland, on behalf of Barotseland; and Richard Hornby, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and Colonies, on behalf of the British Sovereign.
11. Barotseland had the option to proceed to independence as a separate nation upon termination of its pre-independence treaties and agreements with Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom.
12. Barotseland agreed to become part of Zambia only because of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#), as successor treaty to the pre-independence treaties, established that the Litunga and his people would maintain the same autonomy they had enjoyed for centuries, with recognition of the Litunga and his Council as the principal local authority for the government and administration of Barotseland, the

continuation of its sophisticated legal tribunals and the maintenance of Barotseland control over taxation, as well as the preservation of its rights to land and minerals, forests, fishing rights, game reserves, and the management of the Barotseland treasury.

13. Barotseland has the option to proceed to independence as a separate nation upon violation of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) in whole or any part thereof by the Zambia government as embodied in the law of treaties.
14. The first President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, illegally set about destroying Barotseland's centuries of existence almost immediately upon independence. He first stripped the King and his council of their powers the year after independence, which set into motion the separation process of the territories of Barotseland and Northern Rhodesia. This process was delayed by the people of Barotseland's attempts to get [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) restored prior to March 27, 2012.
15. All the tribes of North Eastern Rhodesia overwhelmingly voting against [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) in the Zambia Referendum of 1968, thereby rejecting the unitary state of Zambia in other words seceding Northern Rhodesia from Barotseland.
16. All the tribes of Barotseland overwhelmingly voting for [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) in the Zambia Referendum of 1968, thereby supporting the unitary state of Zambia in other words not seceding Northern Rhodesia from Barotseland.
17. Zambian government expropriated the Barotseland treasury by armed force, unilaterally abrogated [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) through Constitution Amendment Act No. 30 of 1969 and usurped the administration of Barotseland.
18. Today, North Eastern Rhodesia is shamelessly accusing Barotseland of succession when it is themselves who voted against [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) in 1968, their government who unilaterally abrogated it in 1969 and continue violating it as well as violating the human rights of the Barotse.
19. For decades, the Barotse peacefully resisted the violation of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#), while enduring the abuse of having their institutions destroyed, their treasury stolen, their physical assets taken over, their economy plundered, and thereby mutating from one of the most affluent to the poorest territory of the two, which constituted the failed unitary state of Zambia.
20. After numerous attempts to reason with the government of Zambia, the people of Barotseland finally became fed up with the continued violation of their human rights and on 26th-27th March 2012, a National Council representing the people of Barotseland recognized the wholesale repudiation of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#) by Zambia and arrived at the inevitable conclusion that Barotseland was now an independent nation.
21. The people of Barotseland have exercised their right to revert Barotseland to its original status as a sovereign nation, so that the people of Barotseland shall determine their political, cultural, social and economic development.
22. Since Barotseland's recognition of the repudiatory breach of [the Barotseland Agreement 1964](#), the constitutive instrument on which the unitary state of Zambia was founded, Barotseland has been accepted as a member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). This means

that Zambia has lost its self-imposed mandate to represent Barotseland interests anywhere in the world.

23. Barotseland has also brought a claim for the violation of its human rights, including its right to self-determination, which has been accepted and is currently being examined by the African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights.
24. Well over 10,000 Barotse have also signed a Permanent Court of Arbitration submission agreement, calling for the legal status of Barotseland to be determined peacefully, on the basis of international law, before an international tribunal based in The Hague.
25. The Government of Zambia refuses to enter into disengagement talks, imprisoned Barotse activists, increased human rights abuses in Barotseland, stepped up the Zambia security presence in Barotseland and refuses to sign the arbitration agreement that would allow a neutral international arbitration tribunal to peacefully determine the current legal status of Barotseland in accordance with the rule of law.
26. Zambian government continues to run away from international arbitration using all manner of tricks.
27. It is time for the Zambian government to get out of Barotseland.
28. We call on all the peoples of Barotseland to say NO to Zambia's illegal administration of Barotseland and start supporting and participating in the civil disobedience campaign.

BAROTSELAND KI NAKO