

## COMPLEMENTS OF THE SEASON FROM BNFA

by BNFA Executive Committee

It is that time of the year again when the air is filled with the feeling of goodwill!

*“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men”, Luke 2:14.*

As BNFA we want to take this opportunity to wish all Barotse patriots and people at large at home and abroad, including the Diaspora of Zambia and beyond the shores of mother Africa and our compatriots who are under Zambian incarceration, Complements of the Seasonô Merry Christmas and a Happy prosperous New Year *mina bana ba Poho Yensu kaufela!*

The Year 2015 is gone forever and now part of history, 51 years of our sad history of Zambian domination and forced dominion over Barotseland. The efforts made in this year to reverse the sad state of affairs will forever be remembered. Among such efforts are; the decision by the African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) on admissibility which we are yet to find out the details of after the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Union (AU) Heads of States and Governments summit. The other is the formal admittance of Barotseland to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), which was signified by Mutompehi Mutungulu Wanga signing the UNPO Covenant in Brussels and exchanging of flags with UNPO on behalf of Barotseland. Of course it is a known fact that the UNPO flag has caused a whirlwind in Barotseland and Zambia. The fact though is that the Barotseland flag is flying high at the UNPO offices in Brussels alongside flags of other Members of UNPO and the UNPO flag is on Barotse soil. Despite the fact that the Zambian police force has forcibly confiscated one of the UNPO flags.

The year 2016 is in many respects the Year of Action. Firstly, we expect the much awaited ACPHPR report after it has been endorsed by the 26<sup>th</sup> AU Heads of States and Governments summit. We are now aware that preliminaries of the 26<sup>th</sup> AU summit commence on 21<sup>st</sup> January culminating with the Heads of States and Governments session which sits on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Based on that report a multi-pronged chain of actions and reactions are bound to ensue. Secondly, 2016 marks the hundredth anniversary of the passing on of King Lewanika the Great. It will certainly be a fitting centenary celebration gift if we can crown the celebrations a lot much more.

We wish to challenge all Barotseland citizens to start the year 2016 with the unflinching anticipation that this must be the Year of Action. This anticipation will propel all to exert the necessary efforts to achieve the required milestones to reach the destination. It is clear that the Barotse have settled for nothing less than the total independence of their territory from occupation by the rest of Zambia. Nothing less will do and nothing else will satisfy the hunger for freedom and the thirst for self-rule in Barotseland. Yet it must be understood that freedom for Barotseland will not come on a silver plate. It requires the collective effort of all of us. May we each and collectively exert the required pressure and make whatever effort shall be required of us in this, the year of our Lord 2016. Let us put aside all malice and ill feelings against each other and embrace one another. Much more, let us be willing to pay the price and plant the seed from which the tree of Barotseland's freedom shall grow.