

Ngambela Manyando unleashes Zambia police on BNFA gathering at the Kuta

by Observer

Over 200 members of BNFA gathered peacefully at Limulunga Royal Palace grounds on June 10, 2019. They were waiting to be addressed by Ngambela Mukela Manyando. Earlier, they had notified the KUTA Secretary of their presence as per custom. Little did they know that Ngambela Manyando had called Zambia police and instructed them not to allow the gathering. By 10:00 hours there were over 500 police who surrendered the Palace, some with machine guns placed in front of Palace gates.

This did little to deter the gathering as scores of BNFA women sang praise songs of the Litungaship, pointing out that it was an abomination for the Kuta and the Ngambela to sign summons, which required the Litunga to appear in Zambia courts. They also sung praises to show how great the Barotse plain were— a land of plenty where nobody could die of hunger (LYONDO LA N’UWA LYA SILILA NE’KE LYA MEI BEBI ...). They further sung that it is an abomination for one person or institution to sell it.

Furthermore, they sung that King MULAMBWA was great. He was a symbol of great Mercy because history records that he welcomed foreigners and assimilated them in his governance system but consulted his people.

“The songs annoyed Ngambela Manyando”, said one insider Induna. The restless Manyando kept on saying, “mapokola ba kiñi habasabitami fela (why are these police not arresting them)”?

While observing the unfolding events, I saw police officers inviting leaders of BNFA, with whom they discussed at length. Thereafter, the leaders went into the Kuta. After the leaders came out of the Kuta, the vicious looking police relaxed. One junior police officer said, “these people are peaceful. Now it is 16:00 hours we are still here and hungry”. Clearly, police handled the matter professionally by listening to both sides. Thanks to Chief Inspector Mbanga and gallant BNFA leaders, led by Mubita Sikwa. Others in the BNFA leadership were Katukula Mwiya, Nyambe Mumbuna and Sinonge Lutangu.

However, Wainyaye Sinyinda remained missing. Some youth from Lusaka, Kazungula and Etezhitezhi were not happy with his absence. The Mongu youth confirmed that he does not visit members arrested nor attend court sessions of arrested members.

I advise the BNFA to listen to their youth while Ngambela Manyando and the BRE are beyond redemption.