

**THE NGAMBELA'S POSITION PAPER TO THE UN REPRESENTATIVE
HELD AT LIMULUNGA ON 19TH JUNE 2012**

The Barotse National Council (BNC) held on the 26th and 27th of March 2012, representing the Barotse people at a Village, Branch, Ward, District and Provincial levels arrived at a position that Barotseland be separated from Zambia and, thus, free to pursue its own self-determination and destiny. That action was arrived at as a consequence of Zambia's repudiation of the Barotseland Agreement 1964.

In the process of actualizing its intents and purposes, the BNC took cognizance of the importance of the United Nations in international politics and conflicts. In doing so, they among others, resolved that:

- The Barotse Government should, within 30 days request the UN to oversee the transition process.
- We mandate the Barotse Government to immediately to engage the Zambian Government with the sole purpose of working out transitional arrangements towards self-determination for Barotseland within the shortest possible time under the auspices of the United Nations.

ACTION TAKEN

Given a spate of 3 months by the BNC in which to implement the resolutions, the Barotse Royal Establishment prepared:

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1. A bundle of documents of the Barotse National Council proceedings was presented to the President of the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations Resident Representative. And
 2. Consolidated a final BNC position by putting into effect the dictates of Resolution number 5, whereby a Declaration of Dispute letter was written to State House with copies to the UN Resident Representative and all Embassies accredited to Zambia.
 3. Visitations to all Embassies with a view of making our position clear to the International Community regarding an action that might wrongly be perceived as drastic and irrational. And
 4. Requested the Catholics to facilitate a constructive engagement between the Government and ourselves. Our well meaning efforts have since proved futile.

THE BAROTSE ROYAL ESTABLISHMENT POSITION AND REQUEST TO THE UN

The Litunga and his Council committed to establishing a democratic Barotseland in which every citizen will have a right to participate and enjoy their civic rights of association, assembly and expression. The BRE is prepared to negotiate the time table for the transition in terms of how long it should take. However, it is guided by popular sentiments in the territory and will not accept delaying tactics as it (BRE) cannot guarantee the patience of the people. The mood in Barotseland at the moment is for immediate implementation of the resolutions of the BNC. Thus, the BRE bound by those decisions and has no power what so ever to delay the process or to depart from the real demand for self-rule and self-determination.

The people of Barotseland are no longer interested in discussing the merits or demerits of restoring the Barotseland Agreement 1964. They have, as I earlier alluded to fact in my preamble, resolved to revert to the status that obtained prior to the Agreement, given the fact that the Agreement was never implemented by previous Zambian Administrations.

Given the fact that the Barotse issue is legitimate, legal, and backed by history and international humanitarian law, BRE believes that this matter does not necessarily need to be taken to international arbitration. It is a matter that the

current Zambian government can realistically resolve. It is within their power to grant Barotseland its demand and avert a protracted and potentially divisive conflict over the right of Barotseland to exist as a separate nation, autonomous of Zambia.

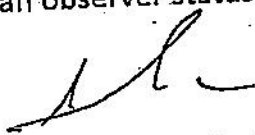
Should the Zambian government dismiss the people's popular demand for autonomy and self-rule, the BRE will have no option but to take this matter to the International Community and invite international arbitration and therein comes your point of intervention. It is within your powers to avert violence and possible genocide against our people as we witnessed it last year on 14th January. I wish, at this point reiterate our long standing conviction and resolve in conflict resolution and peace building. In our pursuit for our rightful demands for our freedom, we stand by that principle.

Conscious of the above, we implore the Zambian government not to take peace currently being enjoyed for granted. It is, therefore, imperative that the government does not provoke a situation which will force the anxious young freedom fighters to use other means to attain our freedom and emancipation. We believe in non-violent resolution of the Barotseland dispute, but as BRE we cannot guarantee what will happen if the government does not grant the people their legitimate demand for autonomy as a first step in their quest for self-rule.

In a nutshell, we request the United Nation to:

- Bore pressure on the Zambian government to engage the BRE in talks leading to a transitional arrangement.
- Make concrete and necessary arrangements to take up an arbitration role in an event that the Zambian Authorities chooses not to co-operate.
- Oversee the transitional process up to the stage of full independence.
- Avail Barotseland an observer status at the United Nations Assembly.

I thank you


Wainyae C. Sinyinda
Ngambela of Barotseland

19th June, 2012