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STATEMENT BY NGAMBELA

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TO THE PRESS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Please be informed that, in her dual roles, as the United Nations (UN) Organisation's Co-ordinator in Zambia as well as being the UNDP Country Representative, Her Excellency Madam Kanni Wignaraja paid Courtesy Calls on the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) today morning, the 19th day of June, 2012 at Limulunga Royal Village. She first met the Right Honourable Ngambela in the Sikalo Kuta from 10:25 to 11:25 then met His Majesty the Litunga in the Kashandi from 11:35 to 11:50 hrs for the Courtesy Call and debriefing by the Ngambela over the earlier meeting in the Sikalo in Kuta. After that she held a private meeting with the Litunga in the Kwandu, main house of the Palace.

In addition to the Right Honourable Ngambela Walnya Sinyinda in Sikalo Kuta, in attendance were Indunas Inete (Hon. Tawila Akapelwa Silumu), Mukulwakashiko (Hon. Batuke Imenda), Katema (Hon. Lubasi Nalishuwa), Angulu (Hon. Kalimukwa Siisii) and Imwangala (Hon. Kalumiana Silumesii); Likombwas led by Imasikwana (Mr. Mulongwe Waluka) and Mutwaleti; and Activists, to name a few, Mombotwa Afumba (Linyungandambo), Mukubesa Ilukena (Linyungandambo), Mwangala Batunda (Barotse National Youth League), Mwangelwa Mbikusita-Lewanika (Movement for the Restoration of Barotseland), Mulasikwandanda Chazele (Barotse Freedom Movement), etc.

After introductions and other formalities, the Ngambela warmly welcomed the visitor who was accompanied by her husband and the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr. Liomba. She was very happy to have had the opportunity to visit, especially meeting the Ngambela so that she may hear the Challenges being faced and also their views that may enhance activities aimed at bring about development. She also stated that she had earlier been to Muyukwayukwa Refugees Settlement, with the view to see how the refugees would be best integrated in the main society. In response, the Ngambela told the UN Visitor that the many challenges that are faced in Barotseland today would only be addressed and resolved once after the Barotse Question was settled, and in a peaceful and amicable way. Then he went ahead read his prepared remarks as per attached.

After the Ngambela's presentation other Indunas also made their comments as follows:

Induna Inete asked the Visitor to take seriously the request by Ngambela for the UNO to urgently address and attend to the Barotseland issue.

Induna Mukulwakashiko noted that there has not been any significant development in Barotseland in the 48 years that it has been part of Zambia. He added that in terms of

Education, there is no University in Barotseland yet other places (like Northern Province) had two. He finished by stating that joining the Union of Zambia was the biggest mistake that Barotseland ever made. And, now it was time for Barotse People to implement their March 2012 BNC Resolutions.

Induna Katema stated that Barotseland has had a long history of warmly welcoming the refugees ever since 1790s, that is, over 200 years ago. He told the Visitor that the Barotse issue was not a domestic one, and solicited the UN to be proactive, taking measures that would avert any violent situation.

One Sikombwa stated that Kenneth Kaunda was the main culprit in the repudiation and abrogation of the Barotseland Agreement, thence, he should be taken to task over that.

The Ngambela clarified that what the people of Barotseland were claiming is the land within the current boundaries, encompassing the seven districts of Mongu, Senanga, Sesheke (including Mulobezi), Kaoma, Lukulu, Shangombo and Kalabo. That is the land in question not the Barotse Empire. He further added that the build up of Zambian Armed forces and Police is not necessary.

On behalf of the Activist Groups, Mr. Mombotwa Afumba urged the UN Representative to take heed of the sentiments by the Ngambela, thereby, soliciting for the UN and the International Community to give the matter the due attention it deserves.

Find attached the Ngambela's Statement, and for any further clarification do not hesitate to ask the undersigned.

Mwangelwa Lewanika