

18<sup>th</sup> July, 1964.

CABINET OFFICE CIRCULAR NO. 82 OF 1964.

To: All Permanent secretaries.

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS TO PORTFOLIOS:  
BAROTSELAND

I refer to Cabinet Office Circular No. 7 of 1964, relating to the allocation of subjects to portfolios, and to the reference to "Constitutional aspects of Barotseland" which appears in the Prime Minister portfolio.

2. This responsibility has included political and local government aspects, and the Prime Minister has now decided with the approval of His Excellency that the responsibility for the local government organisation and administration in Barotseland should be transferred from his portfolio to that of the Minister of local government. The Prime Minister, through the Cabinet Office, will retain responsibility for constitutional matters in Barotseland and in particular for the interpretation and implementation of the Barotseland Agreement 1964. The Prime Minister will also retain responsibility for the Litungaship and the Royal Family, since these form part of the general subject of Chiefs.
3. At the present time when the organisation of Provincial and District Government is undergoing change in all Provinces, it is particularly necessary that any Ministry which is undertaking new responsibilities in Barotseland should ensure that no changes are made to the existing form of administration in Barotseland which might lead to conflict with the terms of the Barotseland Agreement 1964. This Agreement comes into force on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1964, and a copy of it is appended for your information. Your attention is drawn in particular to clauses 4 and 5 which set out the powers of the Litunga and National Council in relation to certain subjects including land.
4. Until Independence Day relations with Barotseland will still be governed by the various agreements between the Litunga and Her Majesty's Government, and in particular the 1954 Barotseland Agreement which relates to the Barotse Native Authority and to the Barotse Courts, and it will be necessary to fulfill the obligations of these agreements until such time as the Barotseland Agreement 1964, comes into force
5. It is the Prime Minister's intention at a later date to have discussions with Ministers concerned with the implementation of the 1964 Agreement; and meanwhile until the 24<sup>th</sup> October it is of considerable importance that any Ministry having responsibilities in Barotseland shall refer to this office any doubts which they may have in the interpretation of their responsibilities in terms of either the existing Barotseland Agreements or the new Barotseland Agreement of 1964.
6. I shall be glad if the contents of this circular may be brought to the attention of all officers in your Ministry who may be concerned.

I.M. ELDRIDGE  
for SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

c.c. Chief Establishment Officer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.