

The Rt Rev'd Dr. Joannes Seoka
former Anglican Bishop of Pretoria 1998 – 2015

Wednesday 25th November 2026

Bishop Joannes Seoka reports:

Bishop Mwamba Escapes Treason

The allegations against him remain unproven, and Bishop Mwamba thanked the international institutions, media, individuals organisations, relatives and well- wishers who supported the family throughout the ordeal.

The former Botswana Anglican bishop's son says his father been released after a new Zambian treason indictment excluded the 14 formally listed in the indictment, although a formal discharge order remains unconfirmed.

His detention had also attracted diplomatic attention in Britain. On 16th November, the British government confirmed that its High Commission in Lusaka had raised his case with Zambian authorities, emphasising respect for constitutional rights and due process.

BOTSWANA and UK LINKS
Mwamba served as Anglican Bishop of Botswana from 2005 until 2013 before relocating to the United Kingdom to become Rector of Barking Abbey.

His connections to Botswana extend beyond the church. He is married to Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, daughter of Botswana's late former President Sir Ketumile Masire and former Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. Mwamba subsequently entered Zambian politics, becoming a leader of the United National Independence Party (UNIP).

Although the initial documents did not independently establish whether a formal discharge order had been issued, Eno Mwamba confirmed his father's release on social media, recounting the family's anguish during what he described as 100 days of wrongful imprisonment. See below:

Bishop Trevor Mwamba's son Eno Mwamba in Gaborone Botswana wrote on Facebook social media 24.11.26



Eno Mwamba

Words can't describe the joy I feel after what has been the most traumatic experience of my life!

For 100 days, an innocent man was wrongfully imprisoned. For the first couple of days, he was effectively a missing person, as the authorities dismissed reports of his detention as fake news, leaving my family searching for him all weekend.

My father is a Bishop who has dedicated his entire life to the service of others. So when people heard about his detention, the global outpouring of love and support was truly humbling. From the British Parliament, to the EU, the media, with a special shoutout to BBC News, Amnesty International, the Commonwealth, relatives who visited my dad in prison, and every person who called, prayed or sent a message during the darkest moments, a heartfelt thank you 🙏

This experience has given me a completely different appreciation of life. When times are hard, you really learn who your friends are. One such friend has been President Lt General Ian Khama. Our families' connection stretches back to before Botswana was even a nation, when his father Sir Seretse Khama and my grandfather Sir Ketumile Masire worked together in building the foundations of independent Botswana. Throughout this ordeal, President Khama spoke out tirelessly for my father's release, welcomed me into his home, and my mother and I had the opportunity to personally extend our family's appreciation for standing with us.

Through all the moving parts, at all times God was in control. That knowledge allowed me to keep moving forward with life, even when it felt like we were incarcerated alongside him. I didn't miss weddings or special occasions for the people closest to me, and everywhere I went people showed me such incredible love and support.

The nightmare is over! We have our Bishop back. ❤️

Thank you for every prayer, every message, every call and all the love and support you showed my family over these 100 days.

Glory be to God. 🙏

DITSHWANELO[i] Press Release on the Human Rights Situation in Zambia and the Release of Bishop Mwamba and three others. 27th November 2027, Gaborone, Botswana

DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights notes the recent developments concerning the detention of civic and political figures in Zambia, following our 18 September 2026 press statement condemning Zambia's post-election human rights abuses and restrictions on access to justice.

Arrested on 14 August 2026 and charged with treason on 29 August 2026, Bishop Trevor Mwamba (former Anglican Bishop of Botswana and leader of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), together with Mr Francis Mulenga, and Mr Emmanuel Mulenga were released on 23 November 2026. They were released because the state had no evidence against them. As in the case of his three co-accused, Mr Darius Mwila, was not committed to the High Court for a treason trial, however, on 26 November 2026, his defence lawyer, Mr Milner Katolo confirmed that Mr Darius Mwila is still being held in detention by the State.

The treason case however, continues against the remaining fourteen (14) detainees who have been charged under section 43(1)(a) of the Penal Code for allegedly 'conspiring to overthrow the Government between 1 April and 14 August 2026'.3 They include opposition presidential candidate Mr Brian Mundubile and his running mate Mr Makebi Zulu. Their co-accused are: Mr Harry Findlay, Mr Brazil Soko, Mr Jackson Mutyoka, Mr Bernard Chewe, Mr Richard Banda, Mr Simon Phiri, Mr Ezra Tolopa, Mr Dickson Tembo, Mr Victor Muzyamba, Mr George Chisanga, Mr Patrick Mwansa and Mr Davies Chisopa. They have been reportedly accused of military recruitment, foreign training in Russia and providing funding for logistics and weapons.

On 23 November 2026, the fourteen co-accused were committed to stand trial in the High Court. The treason trial is expected to begin in early 2027.

DITSHWANELO remains concerned about the prolonged pre-trial detention of citizens and political actors, especially when there is no evidence to support charges laid against detainees. They were arrested on 14 August 2026, charged with criminal offenses linked to suspected militia activities and armed insurrection5 and on 29 August 2026, formally charged, by the police, with treason. They were held in detention for a total of 101 days before being committed to the High Court, while investigations were being conducted by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Prolonged pre-trial detention raises concerns regarding the protection of personal liberty, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial, and due process.

We call upon the Zambian authorities to uphold the Constitution and their obligations under regional and international human rights instruments, and to ensure that all persons detained are afforded due process and fair trial guarantees.

We call upon our Government of Botswana to urge the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to review regional state compliance with the Luanda Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, to which all SADC member states are committed. Democratic governance, human rights and the protection of civic space are essential elements for peace, security and stability in our southern Africa region.

DITSHWANELO reiterates its solidarity with human rights defenders, faith leaders, civil society organisations and all individuals in Zambia whose rights to liberty, freedom of expression, association, and political participation have been and are under threat. The protection of human rights and the rule of law remains fundamental to democratic governance, accountability, and justice.

[i] https://worldcoalition.org/membre/ditshwanelo-the-botswana-centre-for-human-rights/