



**MBERENGWA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(RDC) MASTER PLAN**



Report of Study

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Preamble

After observing the poor service delivery in nearly all the local authorities, urban and rural alike, His Excellent the President of the 2ND Republic of Zimbabwe called all local authorities to new dispensation in terms of service delivery in a call to action called ‘No Compromise to Service Delivery’ in all local authorities. In this call the president said every local authority should, from organisational systems and physical planning perspective, drive development towards 2030 vision of an upper middle class economy. In line with this thrust the government will come up with minimum service delivery levels to be achieved by all local authorities. What is not planned for will not be executed. What is planned for and not executed will not be achieved. This call is in line with the government’s mantra of achieving an upper middle class economy by 2030. The Presidential proclamation is a call for all local authorities to adopt proper planning that will see orderly development in all local authorities. It is also a move towards putting an end to the chaotic planning that has recently characterised many cities. This chaotic planning has seen mushrooming of illegal settlement in and around major cities. Most of these developments are characteristically slum development mainly due to lack of essential services for sustainable human settlement. It is against this background that the President has seen it fit to call all the local authorities to order for provision of essential services in all human settlements in line with 2030 goal of an upper middle class economy. The advance towards this vision is heavily predicated on systematic development planning, which starts with preparation of master plans that will lead the development towards this goal.

Chapter 1

1.1 Background

The government of Zimbabwe has recognised that there is chaotic land management in almost all local authorities, and this has prompted His Excellency, the President to make a call to action called “No Compromise to Service Delivery”. This is in line with government’s Vision 2030 aimed at achieving an upper middle class economy. In an attempt to achieve this vision, the government has called all local authorities to make plans towards modernisation for improved quality of service delivery. The improved serviced delivery should be commensurate with upper middle class economy. The major hindrance towards achieving an upper middle class economy in Zimbabwe was observed to be the use of outdated master plans and the chaotic land management especially in the peri-urban areas. There has been a lot of developments in the peri-urban areas, which has no reference to any system of planning and this has led to degraded living conditions characterised by poor service delivery. It is due to these conditions that the President made a proclamation that calls for all local authorities to offer an acceptable quality of life that matches the upper middle class economy. The first stage towards the march to an upper middle class service delivery in local authorities is coming up with master plans that will direct developments in these local authorities. The preparation of a master plan is in accordance with the provisions of Regional Town and Country Planning Act

1.2 Objectives of the Master Plan

- To produce a report that maps existing natural and man-made features within the planning area
- To assess the existing features in light of future development in the planning area and the immediate surrounding
- To document the social, cultural, economic, and institutional and administrative framework in the study area

1.3 Methodology

The master planning is going to take an accelerated mode were all activities should be done in six months. The preparation will adopt a mixed methods approach to data collection. There will be a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methodologies employed to collect all the data that will be used to come up with a master plan for Mberengwa rural district council.

1.3.1 Qualitative Methodology

The qualitative methodology will employ a combination of methods that largely includes the utilisation of existing documents (desk research/ historical research) together with field observations, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews.

This will collect data through desk research., field observations, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Interviews guides and observation checklists will be used to collect data through interviews and field observations. Interviews will be done with heads of various ministries in the areas and local organisations and traditional leaders on the development needs of the area. These views from interviews will be developed into development plans that will lead the development of the district. Field observations will be done in the district to

appreciate the development potential of the area that will be integrated into the master plan.

1.3.2 Quantitative Methodology.

Under this methodology questionnaire will be used to collect data on development needs of the area and this data will be on various development issues that should spearhead development in Mberengwa area. The questionnaires will be administered to the general population in the district to collect information on development potential of the area that should be included in the master plan. Issues on housing, education, economic activities, development potential of the area and all other information that should be integrated in the master plan.

1.4 Planning area

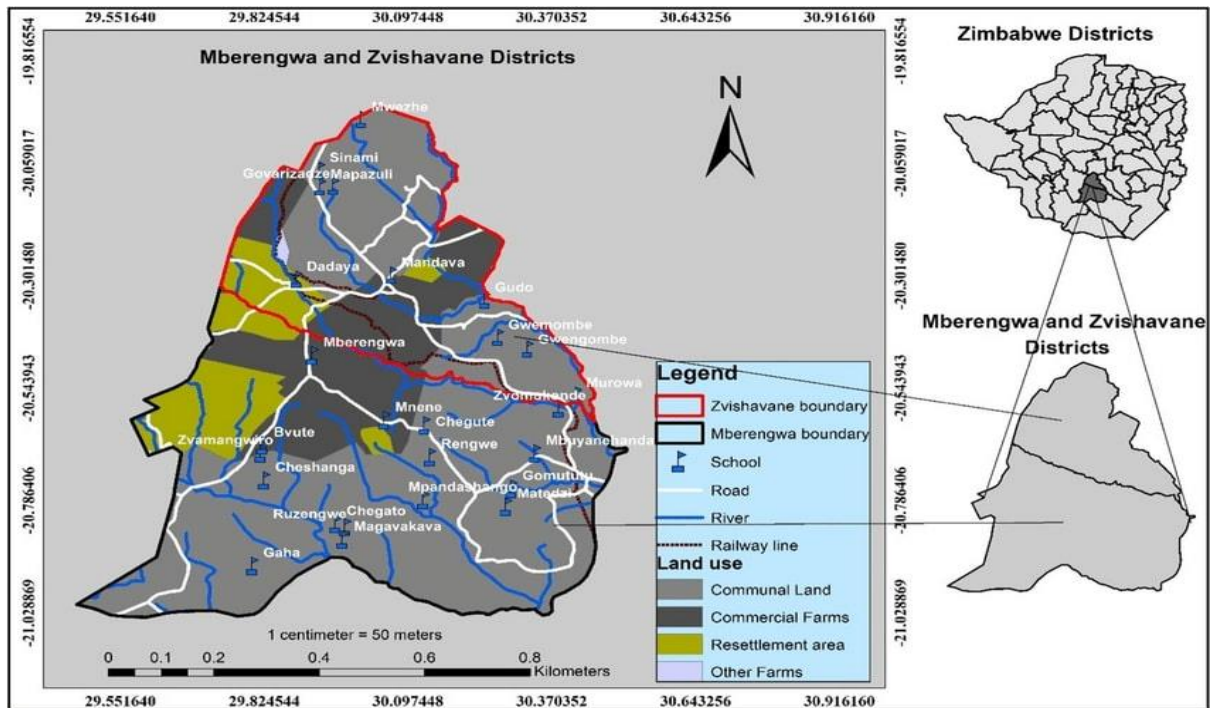
Mberengwa district is in the Midlands Province to the southern part of the province. It is bordered by the following districts; Zvishavane to the north, Mwenezi to the south-east, Chivi to the north-east, Gwanda to the south-west and Insiza to the west. The climate is predominantly of ecological region 4 and 5, which receives an average annual rainfall of 450mm-600mm and effective rainfall is usually received by end of November. Characterised by mid-season droughts, and the district always experience crop failure as frequent droughts are also frequently experienced in the district. Maximum temperatures reach 38 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures reach 15 degrees Celsius. However, the district is hugely endowed with various minerals because it is situated in the southern part of the Great Dyke, which is Zimbabwe's mineral rich belt stretching front North to South of the country. The minerals found in the district includes: gold, lithium, chromium ore, iron ore, limestone, emeralds, tantalite and other rare minerals.

According to the 2022 population census, the district holds 208 457 people and is covering an estimated 498 030ha of which 75.4% is under communal land

ownership, 16% is under large scale commercial farming and the remaining 8.6% is under resettlement schemes.

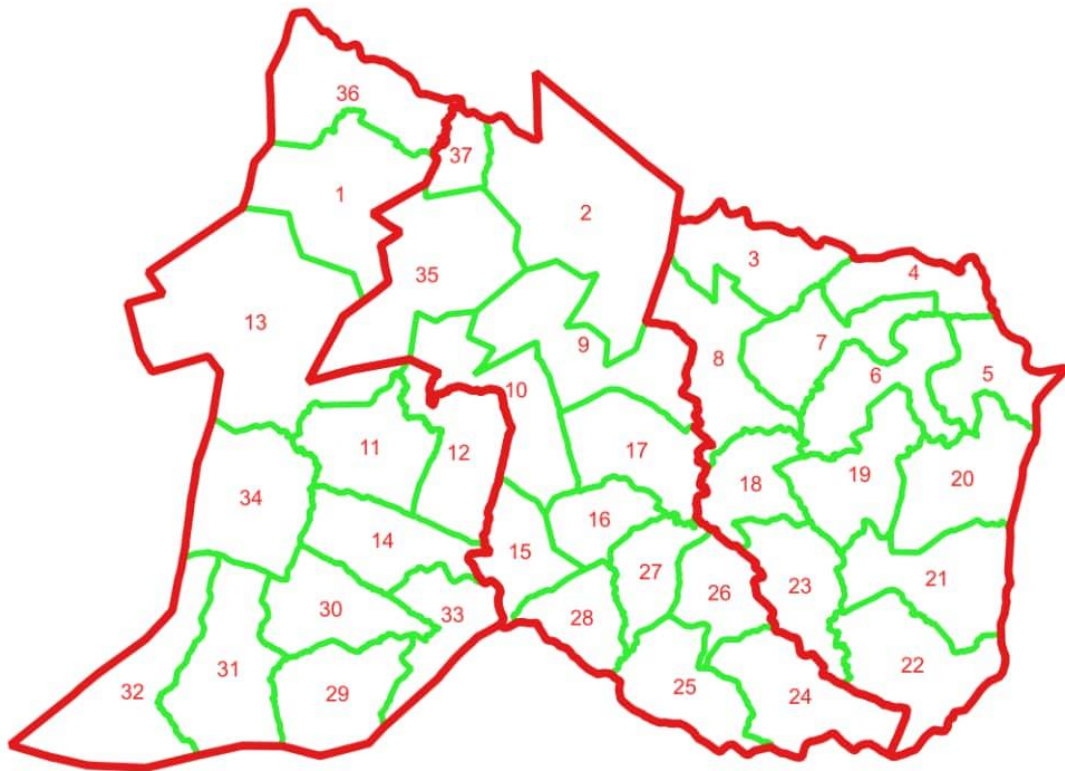
The major languages spoken in the district are: Shona, Ndebele, Tshangani and English. The area is predominantly of the Varemba culture. The district has also mountain ranges which include Mumburume, Mt Belingwe, Dolo, Buchwa, and Mwezha which form the extension of the Great Dyke. There are two major business centres, Mataga Growth point and Mberengwa centre and several small business centres. However, Mberengwa centre is growing faster than Mataga, which is the designated growth point and is [promising to quickly develop into a small town. This centre seems to be attracting major economic activities in the district and is housing offices for nearly all government ministries. Most organisations are also preferring locating at Mberengwa centre rather than at Mataga growth point. York is another fast growing rural service centre and the growth is spurred by several mining activities in the areas. Mberengwa Centre has its growth pinned on the mining activities around the centre and a good transport network that links the centre to Zvishavane and Bulawayo. The map1 below shows Mberengwa district and its northern district of Zvishavane.

Map1: Mberengwa District and Zvishavane District



The district has 37 wards according to the new delimitation results of 2022, which were done for the 2022 census and these are shown in the map 2 below.

Map2: Mberengwa District and its Wards



1.5. The Policy Guide lines for Development

1.5.1 National Tourism Master Plan

Tourism has been developing rapidly in both developed and developing countries and as such has been a major contributor to economic development. In Zimbabwe the importance of tourism industry to the economy has made tourism sector one of the four major economic development pillars together with agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Since the 1990's, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe has advocated for a policy of promoting the development of community based tourism enterprises (CBTEs) in order to increase national tourism competitiveness, support community initiatives to alleviation of poverty, increase environmental conservation, and preserve local cultures and heritage (GOZ, 2017). It is therefore a government policy to establish grassroots

enterprises in tourism industry. The country has experienced a steady flow of tourists despite a bit of some economic dive experienced in 2015. The “National Tourism Policy” developed in 2013 makes tourism a focal industry for the country’s development with the expectation that it can increasingly contribute to national Gross Domestic Product. The country is positioning itself to be a major tourist destination through facilitation delivery of high quality, sustainable tourism products and services that contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe. The government of Zimbabwe has also engaged with bilateral organisations to stimulate community based tourism enterprises that will help to alleviate poverty.

1.5.2 Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (2019-2023)

The country's industrial sector is diversified and integrated with the rest of the economy, exhibiting linkages with agriculture, mining, construction and commerce. This policy is made to address the ailing economy, which has resulted in de-industrialisation as a result of a plethora of challenges which impacted negatively on all productive sectors (GOZ 2013). The vision of the policy is to achieve a technologically advanced, competitive and diversified industry by 2030. In the short term, the policy aims to facilitate and promote the development of sustainable, innovative, inclusive and globally competitive industrial and commercial enterprises for improved consumer welfare and economic growth. The specific policy objectives are to attain:

- Manufacturing sector growth rate of at least 2% per annum
- Contributing towards attainment of a gross domestic savings rate of at least 30% of GDP;
- Manufacturing Value Added growth of 16% per annum;
- Merchandise export growth rate of (10) % per annum to orient the manufacturing sector toward exports and generate capital for a high savings rate; and
- Increasing the manufacturing sector share of employment to 20% in 2023.

The policy thrust anchors on investment-led and innovation-led industrialization guided by the following policy principles and core values;

- Stable macro-economic environment;
- Policy consistency;
- Value addition and beneficiation;
- The upgrading and modernization of industrial equipment and machinery;
- Prioritization of standards and quality infrastructure;
- Promoting sustainable industrial development (green industry);
- Rural industrialization in line with the devolution agenda;
- Strong research and innovation;
- Effective cooperation between private sector and government;
- Encourage corporate social responsibility; and
- Promoting gender and youth mainstreaming in industrialization programmes.

The pillars of the policy include; Development and Strengthening of Industrial Value Chains; Agro-Based Industrialization; Mineral beneficiation; Export led industrialization; Commercializing of intellectual property; Heritage/Natural Advantage based industrialization; ICT Led Industrialization; Emerging Industries and Start-ups; Backward linkages with SMEs; Anchor Industries and Industrial Clusters; and Industrial Parks and Innovation hubs.

For the pillar of agro-based industrialization, the major activities will include; Coordinating to strengthen linkages between agricultural producers and the agro-processing industry; Using the Local Content Strategy to increase value addition of agricultural produce; Promoting the utilization of locally produced inputs such seed, fertilizer and agro-chemicals in agriculture; Encouraging Research and

Development targeted at the Agro-processing industry; and Adopting and using best agricultural practices.

To capture the contribution of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the policy highlights that efforts will be made to ensure that industrialization programmes and projects provide for the effective participation of MSMEs. Focus will be made on addressing industrialization constraints being faced by MSMEs. The government is to promote a decentralization of industrialization; Provincial and District Authorities will be required to come up with local industrialization and incentive frameworks. The government will promote industrialization through provision of incentives and targeted financing, policy support and business development services for the establishment of micro, small, medium and large scale manufacturing industries in rural areas. The policy is to be implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce through the Industry Trade and Economic Relations Committee (ITERC). The ITERC, an inter-institutional consultative forum, will draw membership from government economic ministries, parastatals, private sector, academia and civil society, who will drive the economic development.

The Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (2019-2023) is aligned with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, whose aim is to industrialise sequentially from factor driven to investment-driven, then to efficiency-driven and ultimately to high growth trajectory driven by knowledge, innovation and business sophistication. The development policy essentially seeks to create a conducive environment for business to thrive and produce under acceptable competitive conditions for the good of the economy. Investors both domestic and foreign are encouraged to invest and do business in Zimbabwe by tapping from the diverse opportunities available in the country. The country's motto is "Zimbabwe is open for business".

The industrial sector has great potential to drive economic growth and development. This is particularly so, given the strong linkages it has with other key sectors of the economy, namely, agriculture, mining and services. The national industrial development policy is key to facilitating structural transformation towards economic growth and development as well as employment creation. To enable the envisaged structural economic transformation, government is committed to creating a conducive environment for industrial growth and development in the country. The policy seeks among other things to:

- ✓ Curb deindustrialisation,
- ✓ Attract new investments and
- ✓ Generate foreign exchange through exports of value-added goods and services.

Export oriented policies and strategies will be pursued as part of efforts to advance the country's industrialisation agenda. A National Trade Policy and National Export Strategy give specific measures and interventions that will be pursued over the development period to facilitate trade and growth of export.

1.5.3 National Climate Policy (2017)

The Zimbabwe's climate policy is a stem from African Climate policy called the Africa's Agro ecology for Climate Action Campaign, whose main objective is to put African agro-ecology on the agenda of African Union and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change policy spaces. Nations have to develop agro-ecological adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change. The country has developed strategies and plans to curb the escalation of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions. For instance, the Climate Change Response Strategy and the National Climate Change Response Strategy were developed to provide a framework for a comprehensive and strategic approach on aspects of adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing, public education and awareness. The main thrust of the climate change policy is to mainstream climate change

adaptation and mitigation strategies in economic and social development at national in order to reduce adverse effects of climate change (GOZ 2019).

Rainfall in Zimbabwe ranges from above 1,050mm to as low as 650 mm per annum in Regions I to III, while in regions IV and V, receives below 650 mm per annum. Most of the agricultural activities are carried out in regions, I, II and III, which have favourable climatic conditions for intensive crop and animal production. The Government of Zimbabwe therefore regards that climate change has the potential to undermine many of the positive developments made in meeting the country's development goals, hence the need to mitigate the effects of climate change and maximise agricultural production.

The climate change policy addresses the following five thematic areas: Vulnerability and Adaptation, Mitigation and Low Carbon Development, Education, Training and Awareness, Weather, Climate Modelling and Change. The purpose of the policy is to guide climate change management in the country, enhance the national adaptation capacity, scale up mitigation actions, facilitate domestication of climate related global policies and ensure compliance to the global mechanisms.

1.5.4 Mining Policy

Zimbabwe is geologically placed on granite backbone of Africa. There are a lot of minerals throughout the country. The richest mineral belt is the Great Dyke mineral belt that strides more than 500km from the Northern to the Southern part of the country. The major mineral resources in the Great Dyke include gold, chrome, platinum and various rare metals. Zimbabwe has between 4000-5000 mines, the majority of which are small scale mining operations (GOZ 2020). Before independence, Zimbabwe's mining sector was managed on ad hoc basis because although all mineral rights were given to the government, it allowed easy acquisition, and sale of minerals. After independence the government was the main investor in mining industry and this was spearheaded by a state mining

house called the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZIMDC). This was supported by establishment Mineral Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ), which was responsible for marketing all exported Zimbabwe minerals. The government of Zimbabwe has been fighting to control artisanal mining activities, where more than 300 000 mining activities are happening. This failure led to government decentralising these activities to local authorities, whom they saw were better placed to control such activities. The mining industry has very little regulations to deal with the environment. However, there is a moral obligation for mining concerns to rehabilitate their areas of operation at the fold of their mining activities (Dale 1999) Today, with the assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies, it is now a requirement for mining companies to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before operating a mining venture. Also accompanied with this EIA report is an Environmental Management Plan, that will outline how the mining venture will manage the environment.

According to Section 97 of the Environmental Management Act mining activities are some of the projects that cannot be carried out without the EMA approving the environmental impact assessment report and issuing a certificate. The Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate is key to the commencement of mining activities. In addition, EMA should also authorise the following:

- Waste Disposal Licence;
- Effluent Discharge Licence;
- Emission Licence; and
- Import/Export Licence for controlled substances.

1.5.6 Current issues on Mining in Zimbabwe

The government has stopped export of unbeneficiated minerals and made pleas for value addition before they are exported to increase the revenue generated from mineral exports. This culminated in a series of statutory instruments by the Minister of Mines and Minerals Development in which the export of raw base minerals was prohibited and only allowed in certain circumstances. Under the Base Minerals Export Control Act [Chapter 21:01], the Minister is empowered to put in place rules regulating the export of base minerals. In July 2022, the Minister issued an order banning the exports of unprocessed granite through the Mines and Minerals (Prohibition Order of Exportations of Unprocessed Granite Notice, 2022). A further statutory instrument was put in place banning the export of unbeneficiated lithium through Statutory Instrument 213/2022. This was repealed a few weeks later and replaced by the Base Minerals Export Control (Unbeneficiated Base Mineral Ores) Order, 2023, which was gazetted on 6 January 2023 as Statutory Instrument 5/2023. In terms of this Order, a written permit issued by the Minister of Mines and Mining Development is required before one can export un-beneficiated base mineral ores. This was primarily directed at the lithium sector, given the rush towards the mining of this mineral that hit the country in 2022 (GOZ 2020). Beneficiation is now mandatory with base minerals. A ban on exports of certain unbeneficiated minerals has been imposed through the Mines and Minerals (Prohibition Order of Exportations of Unprocessed Granite) Notice, 2022 and Base Minerals Export Control (Unbeneficiated Base Mineral Ores) Order, 2023, which was gazetted on 6 January 2023 as Statutory Instrument 5/2023. In some cases, higher taxes are imposed to push the mining industry players to invest in beneficiation. In order to realise maximum value from the mineral beneficiation during NDS1, Government will target the following mineral value chains: -

- Gold ore to bullion processing;
- Diamond cutting and polishing;

- Base metals (nickel, copper, iron, cobalt) recovery from PGMs;
- Coal to Coke; and Chrome to ferrochrome. Dyke,

CHAPTER 2

2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 National Development Context

2.1.1 National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1)

The Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (ZNIDP) (2019–2023) was developed to leverage on the positive momentum gained during the implementation of the Industrial Development Policy (2012-2016). The policy is aligned to the vision and path to transform Zimbabwe into an upper middle income economy by 2030 and is shaped to respond to regional, continental and global developments in terms of industrial development. Zimbabwe’s industrial sector performance has been subdued for a long time hence the need for a policy that can resuscitate it by stimulating industrial growth and development. Vast opportunities are however, available for the country to exploit, and these include, a highly-skilled diaspora, the on-going global trend away from combustion engines towards battery-powered vehicles which will increase the demand for the battery input, lithium, which is abundant in Zimbabwe. The mineral is also abundant in Mberengwa district, so the district can participate in the resuscitation of the industry.

The government of Zimbabwe is pursuing a development trajectory that is aimed at achieving an empowered and prosperous upper middle-income society by 2030. This national development is going to be achieved through the National Development Strategy 1: 2021-2025 (NDS1). This is a first 5-year Medium Term Development Plan aimed at realising the country’s Vision 2030, while simultaneously addressing the global aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063 (GOZ 2020). The NDS1 aims to intensify efforts to generate growth through intentional mobilisation of domestic growth vectors. NDS1 aims to develop and capacitate key national institutions, which will create the enabling environment for transformative economic growth. NDS1 is hinged on the thrust of ‘leaving no-one behind’ mantra in the development

process. The economic development blueprint is aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth, creation of employment and forging methods of wealth creation, national development and poverty alleviation. It is also aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, necessary for economic recovery and growth, and conferring new opportunities for wealth creation, innovation and enterprise development to achieve sustainable development. Broadly NDS1 endeavours to:

- i). Achieve and sustain inclusive and equitable real Growth Domestic Product growth;
- ii). Promoting new enterprise development and employment;
- iii). Strengthen Social Infrastructure and Social Safety nets;
- iv). Ensure sustainable environmental protection and resilience;
- v). Promote good governance and corporate social investment; and
- vi). Modernise the economy through use of ICT and digital technology.

The five-year economic development strategy is expected to grow the economy at an annual average rate of 5% anchored on agricultural productivity, increased investment, mining exploration and beneficiation. Hence the key drivers of economic development in the five years will be sectors such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism, energy, improved service delivery, public infrastructure development and Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These sectors will play a pivotal role in achieving the overall goal of sustainable economic growth and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Agriculture

This sector is key to drive pro-poor development intervention and provide food security to the country. The government will provide bankable projects in the agricultural sector through support of contract farming, livestock production and also provide institutions that will support agri-business. Droughts have been causing too much devastation in agriculture which calls for drought proofing agriculture through; irrigation rehabilitation and expansion, promotion and adoption of research that improves productivity of seed and animal varieties,

upscaling of climate smart agriculture conservation practises such as Pfumvudza/Intwasa. This will be complemented by strong initiatives to capacitate extension services so that farmers will be trained and supervised to improve crop and animal production. The NDS1 seeks to improve food self-sufficiency and to retain the regional breadbasket status. The main objective is to increase food self-sufficiency from the current level of 45% to 100% and reduce food insecurity from the high of 59% recorded in 2020 to less than 10% by 2025 (GOZ 2020). The target is also to increase maize production from 907 629 tonnes in 2020 to 3 million tonnes by 2025 and beef production from 49 115 tonnes in 2020 to 110 000 tonnes by 2025. Agricultural productivity will also be driven by sustainable production systems through enhancing the resilience of social-ecological systems, which will be driven by continuous learning and experimentation for best crops that are resilient to climate change. The continuous learning and experimentation is aimed at producing adaptive and resilient crops. Initiatives to ensure attainment of resilience and sustainable agriculture will include:

- Upscaling irrigation rehabilitation and expansion utilising existing and new water bodies to fight effects of climate change;
- Climate Smart Agriculture through adoption of conservation agriculture techniques and principles such as Pfumvudza/Intwasa
- Promote water and input use efficient technologies such as Precision Agriculture;
- Develop stress tolerant, high yielding crop varieties;
- Promote traditional grains in low potential areas which are climate smart;
- Implement commercial contract farming that is led by financial services with government providing guarantees;

- Implement a Commodity Value Chain Financing Model where private sector players are expected to finance up to 40% of their raw material requirements;
- Implement a climate proofed Presidential input support scheme that is anchored on the Pfumvudza/Intwasa Concept which adopt conservation agricultural techniques or principles such as minimum soil disturbances and mulching;
- Soil fertility management through soil conditioning management practices including liming and manuring;
- Diversifying food production and consumption by moving away from maize to other food crops such as potatoes and cassava;
- Capacitating extension services for effective service delivery;
- Speeding up of mechanisation facilities for the importation of agriculture mechanization equipment; and
- Introduce private sector led production and marketing initiatives such as the Hub and Spoke Model which will provide smallholder farmers with access to finance, inputs and markets.

In the livestock section there are also interventions proposed by NDS1 to spearhead and up-scale agricultural productivity and these include:

- Upscale hay cutting to supplement stock feed,
- Development of green belt pastures
- Creation of forage banks;
- Promote on-farm feeds formulation using cassava and cow peas to produce survival rations;
- Intensify dipping programme and blitz tick grease application to prevent and control entry and outbreaks of animal diseases;
- Provide laboratory diagnostics for confirmation of animal diseases and researches on animal diseases;

- Strengthen implementation measures against Tsetse Fly and undertake operational research;
- Create livestock business centres for small stocks (goats, sheep, pigs) based on the Hub and Spoke Model;
- Strengthen pass on schemes for dairy, and small stock producers;
- Increase watering points for livestock;
- Establish a national bull centre and semen processing laboratory to strengthen conservation of animal genetic resources and research and develop stress tolerant animal breeds and further promote artificial insemination by cascading the programme to A1 small holder farmers;
- Implement financial services-led livestock development initiatives models which gradually phase out government guaranteed command programme through banks to a wholly private sector driven financing model;
- Climate-proof Livestock Production through commercialisation of fish, rabbits, bees and small stock;
- Establish breeding and genetic improvement centres and champion farmers, breeding and distribution of improved breeds, targeting export markets, and support surrounding farmers with trained livestock extension officers;
- Harmonise collection of levies in order to reduce the cost of compliance in livestock production

Mining

The country is richly endowed with a variety of minerals, which can propel the economy to greater heights. This sector can hugely contribute to the targeted 12-billion-dollar national economy. The sector has been however bedevilled by poor governance, which has led to poor performance of the sector through mineral leakages, which has disadvantaged the economy. The government of Zimbabwe is putting in place a suite of measures to upscale the performance of the mining

sector. The government is trying to put in place ways of making it easy to do business in the sector through reviews of regulatory frameworks that governs the mining sector. Government will also prioritise approval of Exploration Title and capacitation of Mining Promotion Corporation to undertake targeted exploration in order to know how rich the country is in terms of minerals contained in the country. The NDS1 will also prioritise formalisation and capacitation of the small-scale miners through the Mining Industry Loan Fund and to prevent speculative hoarding of claims across all minerals through strengthening and enforcement of the “Use It or Lose It” principle.

To maximise benefits from national minerals, the NDS1 is proposing beneficiation of our minerals in order to scale up benefits from the mining industry. Value addition is targeted the following minerals:

- Gold ore to bullion processing;
- Diamond cutting and polishing;
- Base metals (nickel, copper, iron, cobalt) recovery from PGMs;
- Coal to Coke; and
- Chrome to ferrochrome.

The government is also planning to capacitate artisanal miners so that they become key players in the mining industry, who are key but neglected sector in the mining industry. The country also wants to take advantage of large world class quality chrome deposits. The upscaling and value addition to this mineral will go a long way in job creation. NDS1 is going to promote processing of chrome by increasing chrome smelter from 6 to 11. Other initiatives to promote mineral beneficiation in the country include:

- Strategic promotion of mining development, Mineral Beneficiation and value chain creation (over-the-counter exchange to fund the ASM sector);

- Enhanced Mining Research and adoption of ICTs (Computerised Mining Cadastre) Information Management System);
- Enhanced Mineral Resource Governance;
- Improved Compliance and Risk Management;
- Improved Mining Title Management;
- Mining Performance Management (Use it or lose it principle); and
- Effective Provincial Administration in mining.

Tourism

The sector is anchored on abundant natural resources such as wildlife and scenery, which sustains tourism development in Zimbabwe. NDS1 will promote the tourism sector by riding on fortunes of the sector and taking advantage of the low hanging fruits such as low investment and high output sector. Further, the improved operating environment such as continued economic stability and enabling infrastructure developments such as the ongoing upgrading of the national highways will widen opportunities for further tourism growth. The broader interventions that will be adopted to drive the resuscitation of tourism industry include:

- Product Development and Diversification;
- Markets Development and Diversification;
- Destination accessibility;
- Tourism investments promotion; and
- Tourism Policy and Legislative Review

All the development interventions will have mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth, persons living with disabilities, employment creation, environment and information communication technology.

Small-Medium Enterprises

This sector has for long been marginalised in the development of the country. The downward spiral of the formal sector has however made this sector an important player in job creation and has been a source of livelihoods to millions of people in the country. In the NDS1 the government is proposing to increase productivity and value addition in the sector so that it mainstreamed in the development of the country. This can be done through:

- Increasing the percentage contribution of SMEs in volume of manufacturing index;
- Increase the number of SMEs in the manufacturing sector by 15000 in the period 2021 to 2025;
- Increase the number of SMEs in the manufacturing sector operating in the rural areas by 5 000 from 2021 to 2025
- Providing training for SMEs in Business Process Re-engineering, product development, standardisation and certification and other production related training;
- Provision of funding for working capital and production machinery at concessionary rates;
- Provision of appropriate and affordable infrastructure;
- Engage development partners to assist SMEs with machinery;
- Development of innovation hubs and clusters in the Provinces to aid rural industrialisation;
- Implement one village, one product concept

2.1.2 Decentralisation and Devolution Policy

Devolution was adopted as a key component of the new 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe and is component for building national unity, the democratic participation in government by all citizens and communities. To achieve this the government of Zimbabwe saw it fit to devolve power and responsibilities to lower tiers of government. This policy is aimed to achieve inclusive development in the

country and is enshrined in the 2013 constitution, which states in Section 264(1) that: whenever appropriate, governmental powers and responsibilities must be devolved to Provincial and Metropolitan Councils and Local Authorities which are competent components that can carry out those responsibilities efficiently and effectively. This implies that national government has the right to retain some functions of a national nature such as Defence and Security, maintenance of trunk highways and operation of civil aviation controls. The major objectives of the devolution policy are many folds and they include:

- to give powers of local governance to the people and enhance their participation in in making decisions;
- to promote democratic, effective, transparent, accountable and coherent government in Zimbabwe as a whole;
- to preserve and foster peace, national unity, and indivisibility of Zimbabwe as a sovereign State;
- to provide recognition of the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their own development;
- to encourage and ensure the equitable sharing of local and national resources;
- to transfer local fiscal responsibilities and resources from the national government to sub-national entities in order to establish a sound financial base for each provincial and metropolitan council and local authorities in rural areas.

Devolution policy is very critical in achieving the government goal of achieving an upper middle income by 2030. The devolution policy has therefore decentralised the decision-making and authority to lower tiers of government in order to provide most basic services to Provincial and District levels. This therefore means that subnational development plans should be drawn to drive

national development thrust, i.e. the Vision 2030. The devolved functions to subnational levels include:

- ✚ Planning and implementing social and economic development activities;
- ✚ Coordinating and implementing government programmes;
- ✚ Planning and implementing measures for the conservation, improvement and management of natural resources;
- ✚ Promoting tourism and developing facilities for that purpose; and
Monitoring and evaluating the use of resources.

The devolution and decentralisation policy should therefore see sub-national governments involved in the following activities that will development from the grassroots:

- Policy making;
- Spatial and development planning, land surveying and GIS;
- Engineering and analysis of local services value chains;
- Designing correct cost recovery systems for delivered services;
- Conducting baseline surveys and analysis of the data;
- Establishing viable revenue streams and effective revenue collection mechanisms;
- Streamlining local investment with national development plans;
- Promoting ease of doing business and capacity to develop bankable project proposals at the Local Authority level;
- Ability to operate modern accounting and financial management systems and packages;
- Preparation of revenue estimates for submission to fiscal authorities as well as generating appropriate financial statements, in approved formats, to enable audits of Local Government entities to be audited in accordance with the Constitution.

2.2.3 Regional Development Context

At the continental level, national development vision is enlightened by the aspirations of African Union (AU) member states, which are enshrined in the Pan African Vision of the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. This aims to create “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. One of the key pillars of Agenda 2063 is to create an Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This grand free trade area has been ratified by the requisite AU member states to enter into force. Its aim is to facilitate industrialization through diversification and the development of regional value chains and agricultural production. The vision 2030 therefore aims to contribute to the Africa we want by achieving an upper middle class economy by 2030.

At the regional level, the Zimbabwe Industrial policy is aligned to the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015 – 2063), which envisions the region to ‘progressively move from being factor-driven; to investment driven, then to efficiency-driven; and ultimately to the high growth trajectory driven by knowledge, innovation and business sophistication. The regional industrialization strategy is also linked to the national strategies of Member States and to the African Union’s Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and Agenda 2063. The aim of the SADC industrialization strategy is to transform the region from dependency on export of primary products to one driven by manufactures and innovation and it is based on the following three pillars:

- Industrialization as a champion of economic and technological transformation;
- Enhanced competitiveness at firm/industry, country and regional level; and
- Deeper regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

The vision of the Industrial policy is to create technologically advanced, competitive and diversified industry by 2030. This is also the main anchor of the Zimbabwean President's call to modernise service provision towards attaining an upper middle class economy by 2030.

CHAPTER 3

3.METHODOLOGY

3.1 Location of Mberengwa Rural District Council

Mberengwa district is in the Midlands Province to the southern part of the province. It is bordered by the following districts; Zvishavane to the north, Mwenezi to the south-east, Chivi to the north-east, Gwanda to the south-west and Insiza to the west. The climate is predominantly of ecological region 4 and 5, which received an average annual rainfall of 450mm-600mm and effective rainfall is usually received by end of November. Characterised by mid-season droughts and district always experience crop failure as frequent droughts are also experienced. Maximum temperatures reach 38 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures reach 15 degrees Celsius.

3.2 Research Methods and Techniques

3.1 Consultations

The preparation of Mberengwa rural district council master plan was conducted by the Lead Planner with assistance from planning office, chiefs and councillors. The councillors facilitated stakeholder meetings where development issues in the district were discussed and captured. These consultative meetings gathered information from people, which enabled sharing of data needed for development Mberengwa Rural District Council master plan. The data collected was documented and produced in a report of study that was shared again with stakeholders to authenticate the data collected before it was turned into a written statement, which are the policy proposals for the development of Mberengwa district. In the sharing of report of study, the document was updated and realigned to reflect the real development needs of the district. The preparation of the plan was made to reflect the national development thrust of Vision 2030. There were four consultative meetings and several interviews with chiefs, members of parliament and business people that were carried out to complement the stakeholder meeting. Information on energy, communication, agriculture,

livestock, culture and heritage, irrigation schemes, social services and sanitation was collected.

The first meeting was held at Mberengwa centre and this was to share with key stakeholders which include heads of government, donors, council officials on the need to rally behind the presidential call for local authorities to prepare master plans. At this meeting the inception report was submitted to the council and this was like a kick off to the master plan making process. Like any other planning activities, all the work started by situational and deskwork analysis to document various information that formed the framework of the master plan making process. This was followed by consultative meetings conducting investigations, data collection, land survey and physical analysis. All this culminated in a draft report development. Dissemination and public awareness were conducted in the selected Sectors where the lead planner and the district officials met with local communities to share and authenticate the information gathered. These meetings also acted as validation meetings which presented interim results.

Fig1: Consultative meeting for data collection



Mberengwa centre Meeting with Chiefs



Mataga centre meeting

3.2. Assessment of the Biophysical Environment

This was done through field observations of grazing areas, mining areas, mountain sites and various water bodies. The field observations were done to assess the environmental conditions in selected areas in the district. These sites include areas where there are illegal mining activities, areas where there are informal settlements and other sites of cultural and heritage significance.

3.2.3. Agriculture and Irrigation

These areas were visited to assess the crop situation, and also view the supporting infrastructure for irrigation schemes. These visits were done with the help of an agronomist, who helped with crop assessments

3.2. 4 Non-spatial data collection

In order to develop the literature and text of the master plan with the purpose of getting comprehensive secondary data, a variety of policies, laws, orders, guidelines and land use master plans as indicated in the above regulatory and policy framework were consulted. Policy documents that guide mining operations, climate change, environments, national and regional development plans were studied to give the development trajectory that the district should take. Report on district population, livestock production, crop production and even provision of social services were studied to formulate policy trajectories in various development areas.

3.2.5 Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analysed using various computer software, which included SPSS, and excel. Maps that were drawn were also analysed to show existing features that are present in the district and these analyses were very useful in coming up with development proposals that shaped the master plan of Mberengwa district. Data from Geographic Information Systems were studied to

show the distribution of various uses such as schools, clinics, dip tanks, mineral claims, population, business centres, dams, irrigation schemes roads and geological features were analysed.

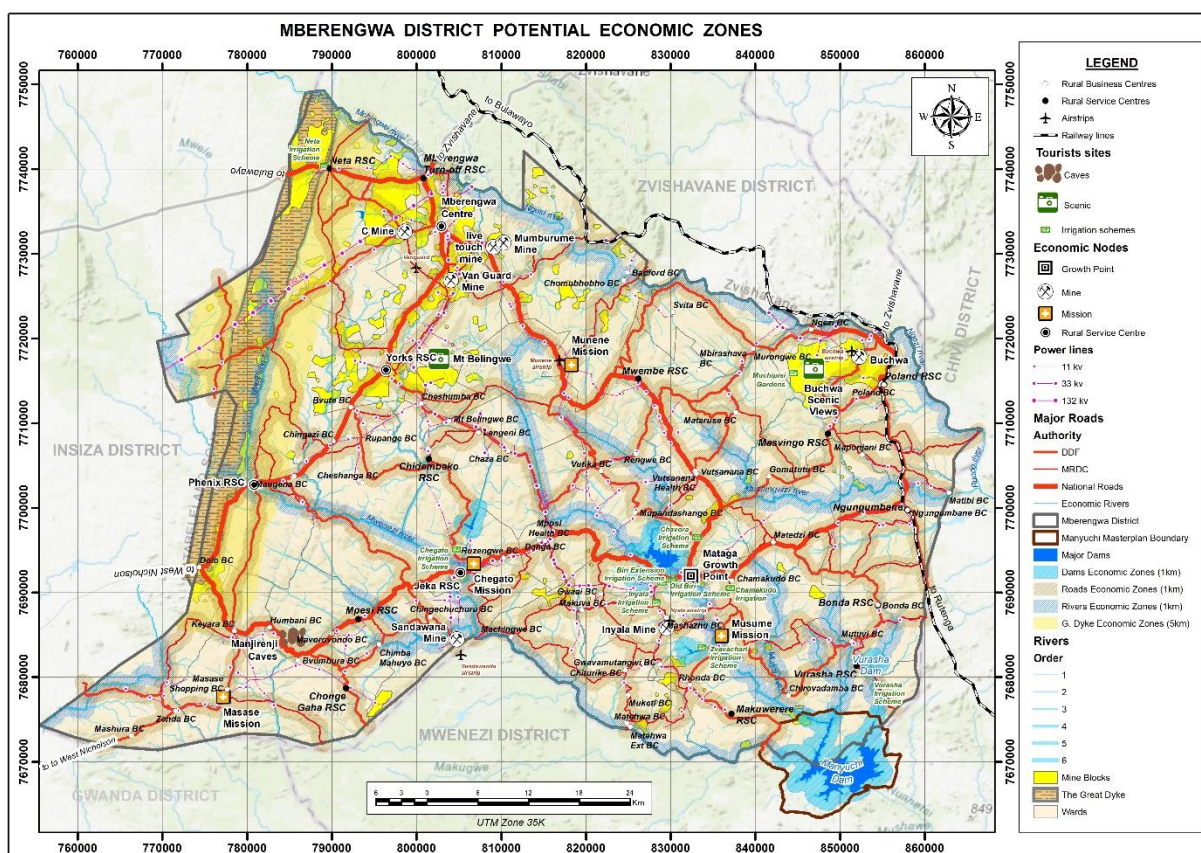
CHAPTER 4

4. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND LAND COVERAGE

4.1 Hydrology

Mberengwa district has two major dams, Mundi Mataga and Manyuchi . There are also rivers that are in the district and these include Mundi, Mwanezi, Mwele and several small rivers. The map 3 below shows some of the rivers in Mberengwa District.

Map 3: Mberengwa District River Network



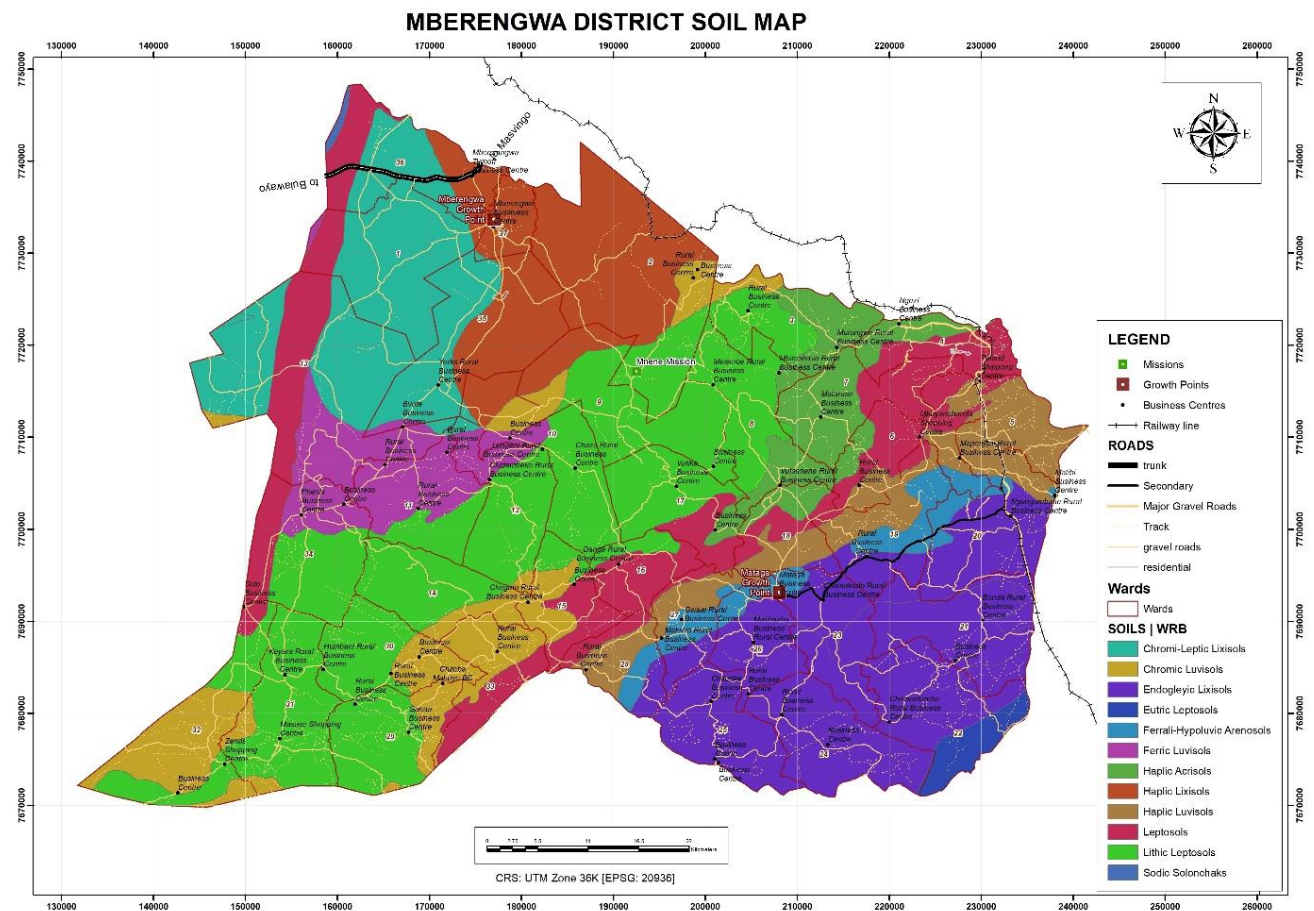
4.1.1 Climate, geology and soils

Climate

Mean annual rainfall is 450mm and effective rainfall is usually received by end of November. The district is characterised by mid-season droughts and district as it is located in ecological region 4 and 5, which frequent experiences droughts. Maximum temperatures reach 38 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures

reach 15 degrees Celsius. Silty soils are common to the south of the district, which have fair drainage because of their particle sizes (GOZ 2021). These soils are good for vegetables and fruit trees; however, they are easily eroded by water. The map 4 below shows the soil Map of Mberengwa District.

Map 4: Mberengwa Rural District Soil Map



The northern part is dominated by the ferralitic soil types, which are primarily red and patchy yellow-red in colour. These soils have a high anion absorptive capacity. There also are smaller and insignificant portions of lithosols, which are a type of soils that are composed of mainly unweathered rock fragments. Its characteristically shallow soils (about 10cm of surface). These soils are fairly stable but if subject to mismanagement they get exposed to agents of degradation.

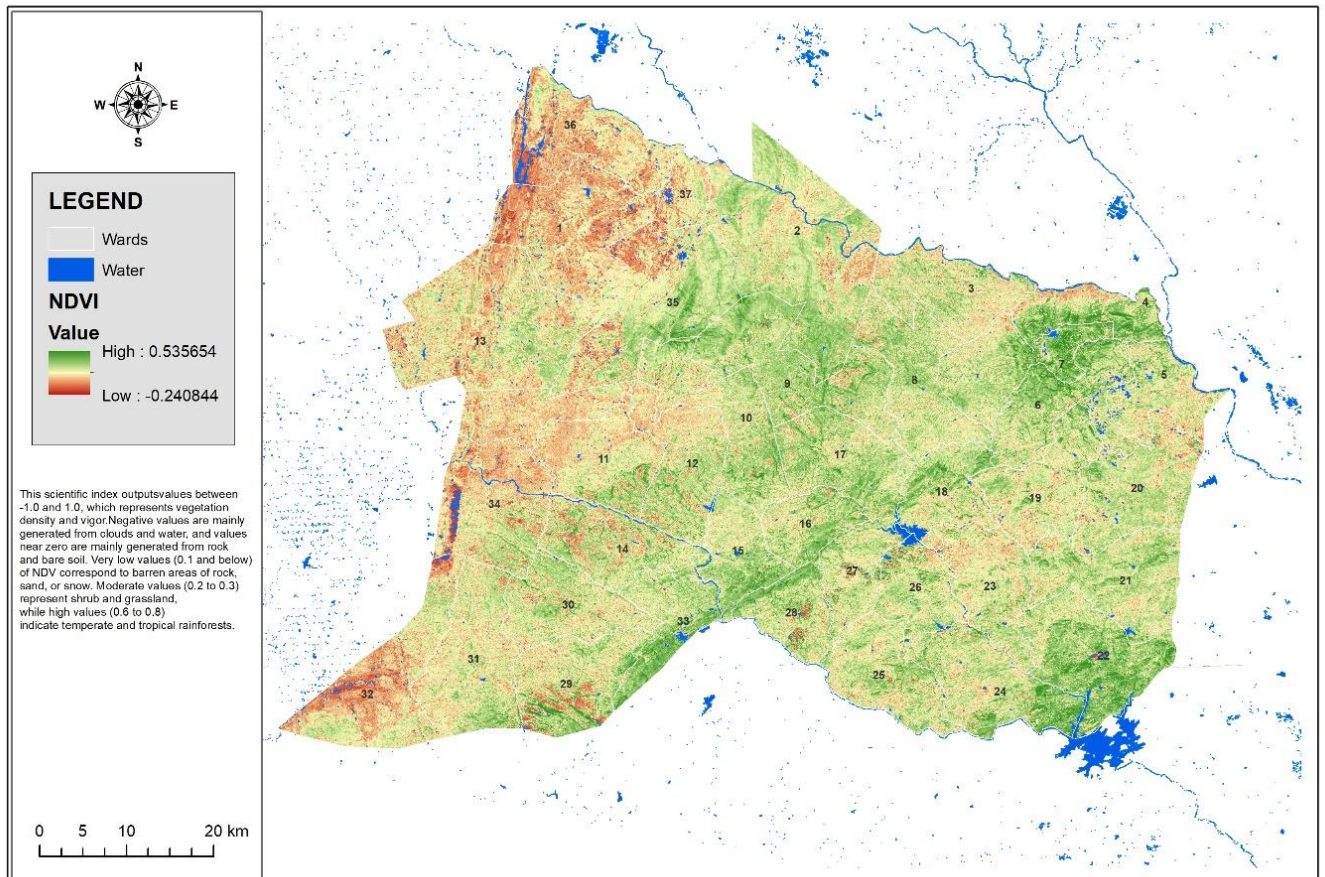
4.1.2 Physical features and Land cover

Mberengwa district is experiencing massive cutting down of trees for fire wood and agricultural expansion. Firewood is the main source of energy for the

majority of the population in the district. Trees are also being cut as communities look for fencing material for their individual and consolidated gardens. Most of the gardens in the district are fenced using brushwood. The map 6 below shows the vegetation cover for Mberengwa District.

Map 5: Mberengwa Rural District Normalised Vegetation Index

MBERENGWA DISTRICT NOMALISED VEGETATION INDEX



Normalised Vegetation Index

The figure below shows some poles that were used as fencing material for a garden.



Fig.2 Some of the Causes of Deforestation in Mberengwa Adopted from EMA (2013)

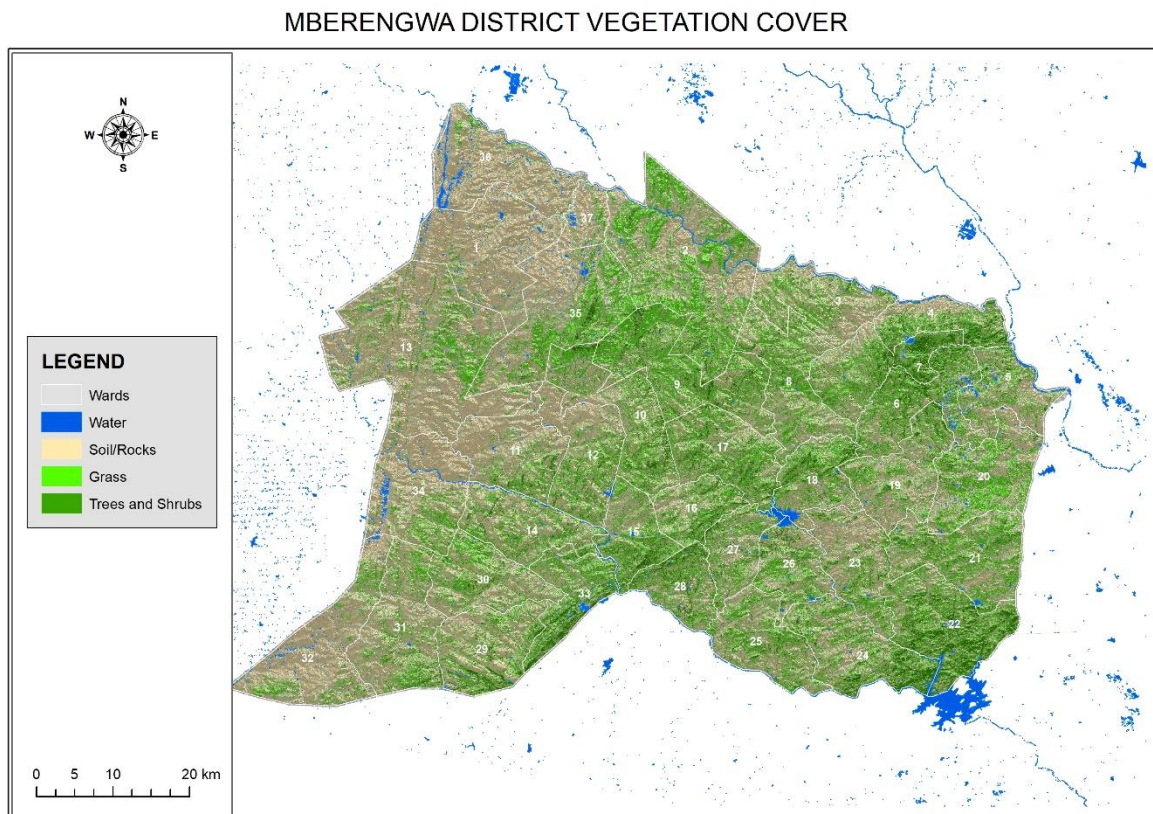
The district is also fighting evasive species that are threatening grazing areas and other vegetation cover. The common invasive alien species in the district are *lantana camara* and *opuntia*. *Lantana Camara* is the major invasive species that is becoming a threat in the district. Most people are ignorantly using it to fence their homesteads, gardens and fields thereby helping to spread the alien species. The wards that are invaded most are 3, 9, 17, 27, and 28 and the total area invaded is 707.4ha. In Tichagwa village, the alien species is found along a stream and around gardens as hedge stretching for a distance of 2km. In Tagwirei village the species is found along Sibange River and stretching for a distance of 10km with an area of approximately 100 hectares. In Dlarambi village of ward 6 a total area of 2.5ha has been affected by the evasive species and people are using it to demarcate field boundaries. The Mazumbani Mountain is also invaded by the species replacing traditional zumbani that is commonly found there.

Isolated cases of *Opuntia* species are also identified at Matibhini village of ward 12 stretching for a distance of about 100m within a grazing area. Two sites in Muchiso village of ward 31 are also fast being invaded by *lantana camara*. Projects should therefore be instituted to control the evasive species to protect livelihoods that are being threatened by these evasive species.

4.1.3 Vegetation

Mberengwa District vegetation is categorised into Woodlands: 27.55% and Bushlands (20.39%), with ward variance. Stream bank cultivation is the major causes of deforestation in the district as communities use brushwood fencing for their gardens (see photo above). Other activities contributing to deforestation is mineral panning, wood carving and opening up of new fields. A site was inspected in Cobert village of ward 36 along C Mine road and the extent of deforestation is very severe, the main reason being opening up land for agriculture. Other sites inspected for deforestation were in village 4 of ward 36, Mberengwa. Deforestation in this area is worsened by the fact that there is a land dispute between Mberengwa and Insiza. The map 7 below shows the vegetation cover of Mberengwa District.

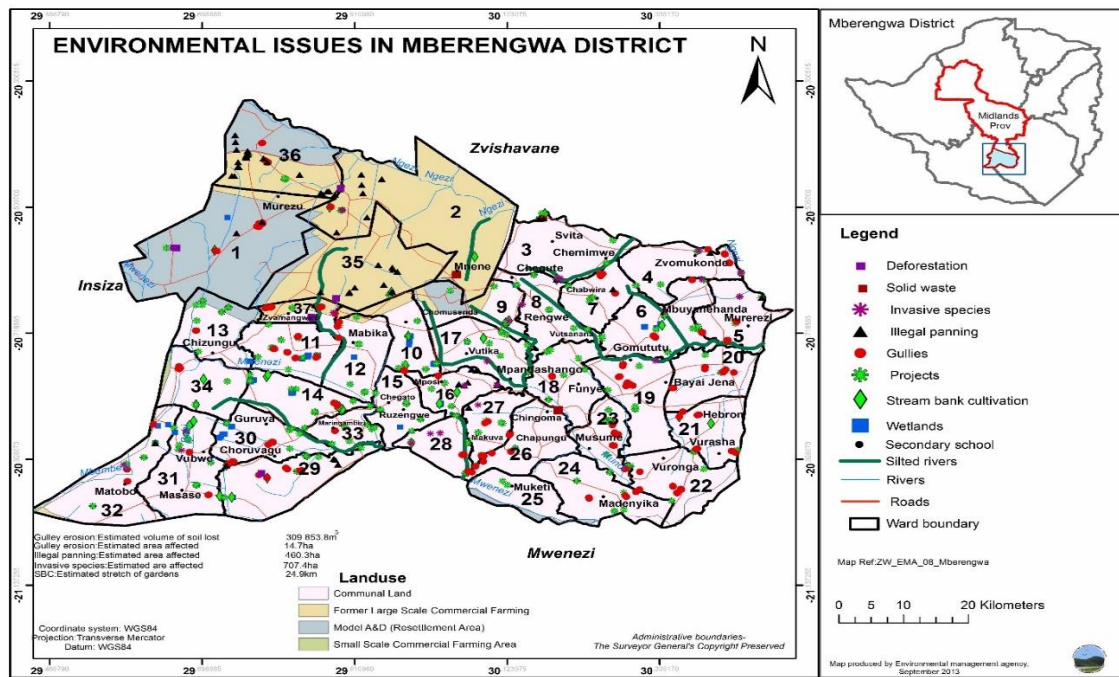
Map 6. Mberengwa District Vegetation Cover



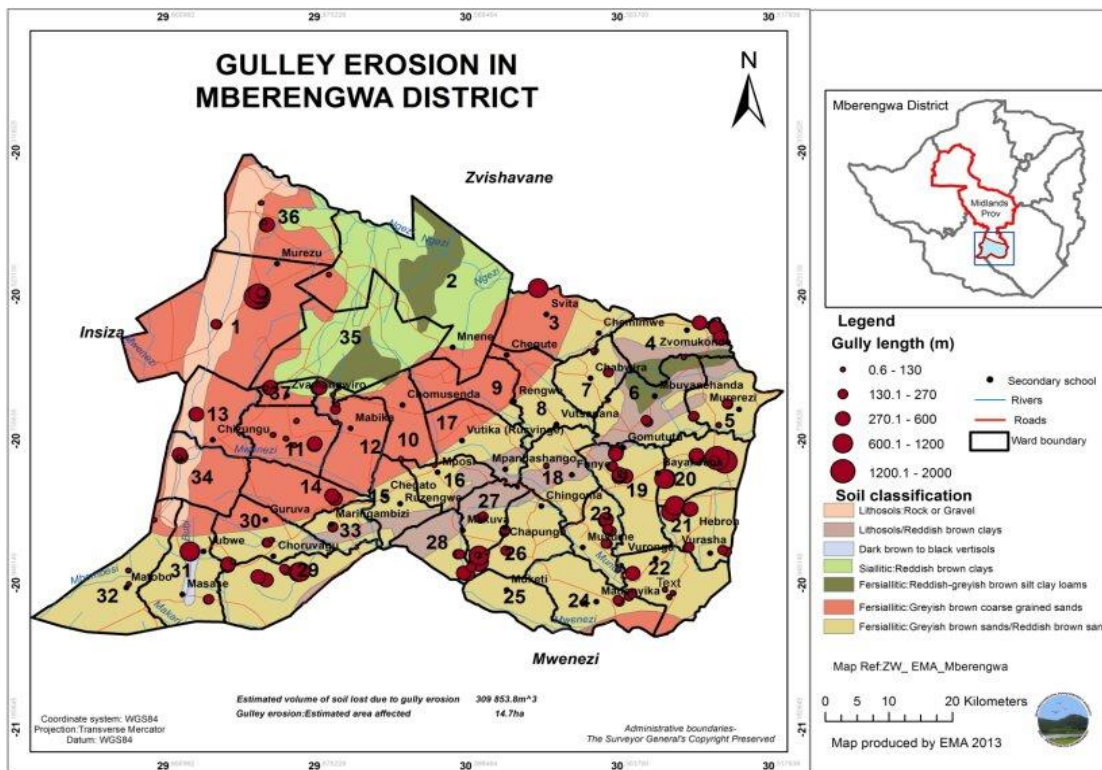
The main reason for clearing is the unplanned agricultural plots as people try to claim disputed lands. The wards that are affected most are 4, 34, 17, 14 and 36.

The figure below shows the existing environmental situation in Mberengwa district and the activities that are done to correct the environmental degradation. Most of the communal areas are suffering from deforestation and are heavily dissected into gullies. The estimated areas affected by gully erosion amounts to 14.7 ha and evasive species have affected over 707.4ha.

Map 7. Environmental Issues in Mberengwa District



Map 8. Gully Erosion in Mberengwa District



4.1.4 Hydrology and Drainage

This section is divided into aquatic ecology, rivers and drainage and wildlife

Wildlife

The district does not have the big five animals except for the stray animals from major parks and conservancy areas. However, the district has some potential for game farming because they have a lot of plain game in the district in form of Kudus, Impala and bushbucks. The district can establish small conservation area and apply for an authority status from the department of Parks and Wildlife. When they get the authority status they can be given a hunting quota, which can be used by the community.

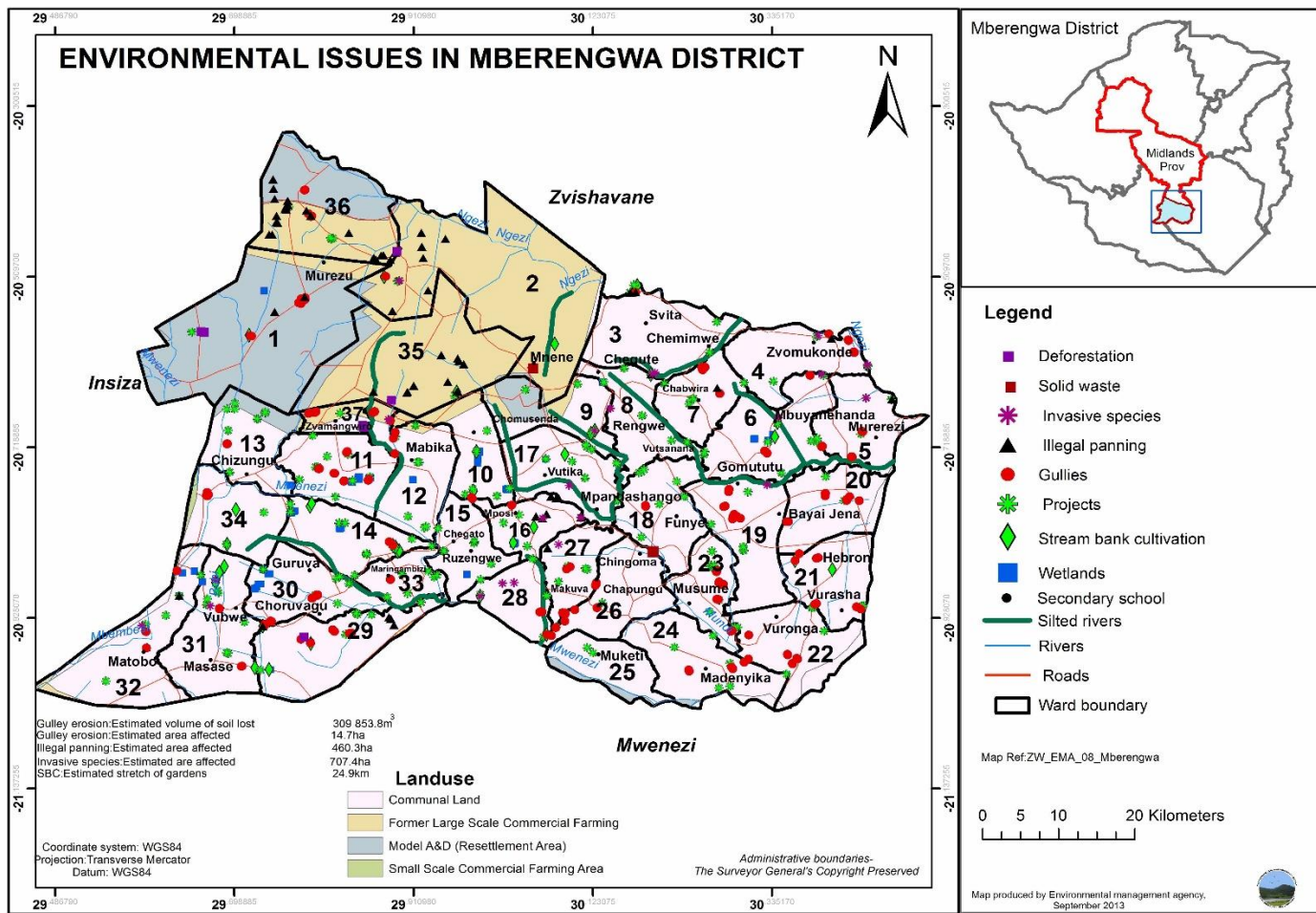
5.0 LAND USE AND LAND OWNERSHIP

5.1 Land Utilization Issues in the Planning Area

Mberengwa district land uses can largely be categorised into communal, resettles growth points and rural service centres. The major land tenure systems in the district are the communal and resettlement systems. Approximately 75% of the district is communal whilst the remainder is resettlement areas. The total land under resettlement is 114538ha and these are in A1, A2 and the villagised. In the resettlement areas, the major economic activity is artisanal mining and this is degrading arable and grazing lands. Illegal land allocation by traditional leaders is putting pressure on land especially in the resettlement areas. Proper land allocation is needed to avoid land degradation through overgrazing and illegal extension of farm lands. The major activities affecting the environment in Mberengwa district are stream bank cultivation, gullies erosion, illegal mining and evasive species. Over 704 ha in Mberengwa district are affected by evasive species.

There are three major business centres in the district and these are Mataga growth point, Mberengwa and Mberengwa Turnoff business centres. In the communal areas the major source of livelihoods is subsistence agriculture through the growing of crops and rearing of livestock. There is pressure on the natural resources in the communal areas due to the high population density compared to the resettlement areas. The district falls under Agro-ecological regions IV and V and as such it is prone to droughts and high temperatures. As a result of the droughts farmers fail to realize meaningful crop harvests. Irrigation in the district enhances the production of the staple food crop (maize) and other cash crops such as sugar beans and wheat. Irrigation is thus a relevant practice in such districts in order to boost production as well as supplementing summer rainfall. Cattle ranching is a major farming activity in the district. The figure 9 below shows the major land uses in Mberengwa District.

Map 10: Major Land uses in Mberengwa District



Source: Environmental Management Agency (Mberengwa)

Mberengwa is characterised by a mountainous landscape with undulating slopes although there are pockets of flat land especially on the western part of the district. Mount Mberengwa is one of the highest mountains in Zimbabwe. These natural resources can be used for recreational activities such as mountain hiking and scenic views. The other mountain ranges found in the district are the Dolo range which forms an extension of the Great Dyke in the west, the Buchwa and Mwezha ranges which are on the eastern and southern boundaries of the district. The district is characterised by sub-tropical deciduous woodlands and sub-tropical thorn woodlands. Siallitic soils are common to the south of the district while the northern part is dominated by the fersiallitic soil types. There also are

smaller and insignificant portions of lithosols. These soils are fairly stable but if subject to mismanagement they get exposed to agents of degradation.

5.2 Potential Developments in the District

Areas for potential development are around established water bodies, where tourism activities can be established, development programmes such as tourism, recreation and leisure activities can be established around dams like Manyuchi, Mundi-Mataga, and Bushwa Mountains. Massive developments are also earmarked at Mataga growth point, Mberengwa Centre and Mberengwa Turnoff centre. These three areas have plenty of space to develop. Mataga growth point requires some densification programmes so that it will develop as a compact centre. Mberengwa centre has plenty of space for all forms of developments i.e. residential, commercial industrial and even SMEs.

5.2.1 Potential for Rural Development-

The following are potential development areas in Mwenezi District:

Solar and wind energy generation: to generate energy for the district to support industry and domestic use. Solar energy is increasingly being used in rural areas as a source of energy and it needs to be supported. The national electricity grid has not been able to support the energy needs in the district as only 10% are connected to the national grid. So there is need for other partners to provide alternative sources of energy.

Value addition to agricultural produce and minerals

The district is heavily endowed with various minerals as indicated above and there is need to create value addition to the minerals that are found in the district such as gold, emeralds, lithium and chrome. There is great potential for setting up industries to add value to the various minerals that are found in the district. There are also natural resources such as Amarula, which needs value addition.

The establishment of Amarula plant will help to add value to the natural resources that are plenty in the district. Food processing and packaging can also be introduced to take advantage of the agricultural products such as ground nuts and sweet potatoes that are abundantly available in the district. There are also numerous water bodies in the district that can provide water for irrigation. So agricultural activities can be done with water coming from Manyuchi dam, Mundi- Mataga dam, Biri, Zvavachari and other small dams. There is also a potential to build a dam at Dovi, which can provide water for irrigation and consumption at Mberengwa centre. The commercial and resettlement areas are a good source for beef production. The ongoing interventions to support livestock through haymaking and pasture upgrading can lead to increased livestock to boost the beef industry.

Fish Farming

The number of water bodies in the district can also be used for fish farming. This industry can be done in conjunction with the department of Parks and Wild life, which can supply communities with fish lings to fishing corporative. These corporatizes can help in creating livelihoods in communities around these water bodies. This industry can be supported by the abundant feeds from agricultural waste products.

Energy Industry

Gas energy as an alternative source of energy is increasingly being used in Mberengwa district. The number of households that are using LP gas is almost the same as those using electricity in the district (2682 compared to 2141). Figure 1 shows the number of households using electricity and LP gas in Mberengwa district.

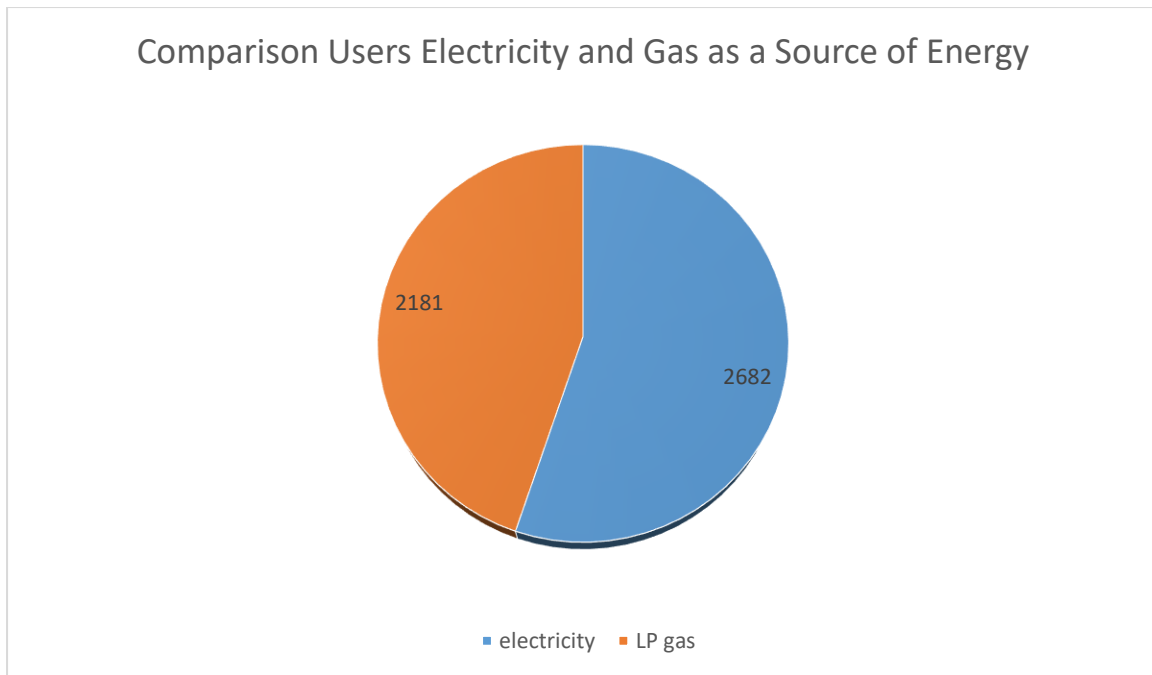


Fig. 1 Households using electricity and LP gas in Mberengwa District.

This therefore calls for investors to supply this important resource that already has a ready market in the district. This will also reduce the pressure on forest resources that are fast dwindling for source of energy as more than 89% of households in Mberengwa are relying on firewood as a source of energy (GOZ 20). Solar energy is also another smart energy, which is another area of investment that can be utilised in the district. Establishment of solar farms can generate energy that can feed the national grid of energy. The energy can power local industry and mining activities in the district.

Establishment of lodges, hotels and conference centres

The district has several areas that can be used for leisure and recreational purposes. These areas include Manyuchi Dam, Mundi-Mataga dam and Bushwa Mountains. These places do not have tourist resort facilities and the establishment of lodges, hotels, and conference centre is a great investment opportunity.

Provision of banking services

The district has no established banks and people have to travel to Zvishavane for banking services. There are many mining activities in the district and these activities require banking facilities. The proliferation of small scale industries in the district calls for micro financial activities in the district. So there is great need to establish banks in the district. The vibrant mining activities have a lot of downstream activities that follow the mining value chain and these activities need to be supported by a good financial institutions and services.

Quarrying

There are too much infrastructural developments that are happening at Mberengwa centre and these developments require building material. Provision of building materials from local vicinity will greatly reduce prices. Mberengwa district has many mountain ranges that can provide quarry for building both at the growth point and at Mberengwa Centre. The proximity to towns like Zvishavane and Gwanda, where a lot of property developments are taking place can be a good market for quarry material and this industry can boom quite easily.

ICT installation

ICT infrastructure is greatly lacking in Mberengwa district. Schools, which are expected to be the greatest consumers of *ict* are areas that need investment in Mberengwa district. There is need to cover the whole district with *ict* infrastructure so that the district and the education sector can be connected to the global world.

Provision of offsite infrastructure

There is rapid growth at Mberengwa centre and Mataga growth point, but more developments are happening at Mberengwa centre. This gives vast opportunities for development of off-site infrastructure such as water and sewer treatment plants, waste management infrastructure, water sources and even power reticulation infrastructure.

Housing delivery

The rapid developments at the centres in Mberengwa presents opportunities to establish hardware shops to supply the building materials at the two growth centres. The ever expanding residential areas is again another opportunity to invest in construction of properties in the district. Mberengwa centre is proposing to construct a shopping mall at the centre, which is a big opportunity for investment, where investors can participate in construction or taking up spaces that will be constructed at the centre for business. Construction of houses can also generate other downstream opportunities like investing in construction of roads or communication infrastructure.

Mining exploration and related industries

Mberengwa district is richly endowed with various mineral resources, which presents investment opportunities in mining and value addition in the mining industry. There are no new explorations that were done in the district to establish new minerals. Investors can invest in exploration of mineral that can be mined in the district, thereby helping in expansion of the mining industry.

Establishment of vocational training centres / Technical colleges

The district does not have any vocational training centre and people are going to Zvishavane or other neighbouring district for vocational training. There are however various infrastructures that can be used for vocational training like the disused mining infrastructure.

Rehabilitation of water bodies and irrigation

A lot of irrigation schemes were established in the district; some have collapsed while others need expansion or rehabilitation. Investors can come in to rehabilitate these irrigation schemes or expand the existing ones in order to maximise production.

Construction of modern space for SMEs

In line with President's mantra of 'leaving no one behind', the district has also an integrated approach to development, where the informal sector has been seen to be an important player in the economy of the district. It therefore presents an opportunity to create infrastructure for Small-Medium Enterprises. The contemporary issues in development are to create smart developments. Investors can therefore invest in development smart infrastructure for SMEs.

5.2.2 Potential for Tourism

Although Mberengwa district has no active tourism activities there is a great potential for the sector due to the existing sites, and infrastructure that can be used for tourism. These sites include: Manyuchi dam, Buchwa, Mberengwa Mountains, Mundi-Mataga dam and Manjiribwe cave. The development of tourism in communities is the thrust of Zimbabwean government since 1990 with the aim of increasing national tourism competitiveness at local level, support poverty alleviation initiatives, increase environmental conservation, and preserve local cultures and heritage. Community based tourism (CBT) is widely accepted as a form of socially responsible tourism in which the activities of visitors are controlled and organised by the people of local communities. CBT enables tourists to discover local habitats and wildlife, celebrate local cultures, rituals and wisdom, and interact with local people (GOZ 2020). The community is central to delivering successful CBT products. Although Mberengwa district was not included in the first projects that promoted community based tourism activities, it has a great potential because of the above mentioned features that can be utilised for community tourism. Zimbabwe has been receiving a fair share of tourist from the neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. At some time, the visitors once peaked to over 2 500 000, with visitors from South Africa dominating. The district therefore needs to tap in from the number of tourist that are arriving in the country by putting in place tourist services. This calls for massive publicity campaigns that will put Mberengwa tourist facilities on the map. So far there is very little that is being done to publicise the available tourist sites and also make available what the district can offer in the tourism industry. There are a lot traditional dancing groups, cultural sites and leisure sites that can be put in place to attract visitors to the district. Buchwa mine is one of the sites that is offering very good scenic views but nothing has been exploited to that effect (see figures 2 and 3 below)



Fig. 2&3 Scenery from Buchwa Mountain Range

Manyuchi dam has long been planned for a lot of leisure activities that include game viewing, boat cruising, hotels and chalets but nothing has been put in place and the dam is being underutilised. The following sites are very good sites for tourism activities that need to be utilised and drive the tourism industry in Mberengwa district.

Manjiribwee Caves

Manjirenji caves are located in ward 30 Vukomba Mberengwa West under Chief Mahlebadza. The caves have flowing streams inside; granary and it is believed it has some drawings which are of strong cultural and historic significance. It is also believed that a snake and leopard are usually seen at the entrance, which is strongly associated with the traditional spirituality in the area. The cave has therefore strong traditional and spiritual significance. Manjirinje caves are also a burial place for the Mudavanhu Chieftainship

Buchwa Mountains

It is located in ward 4 Zvomukonde Mberengwa East under Chief Mataruse. It is popularly known for its scenic view and heart shaped pool. The pool is believed to be a sacred place and culture procedures should be done before entering the place. The place is good for tourism facilities such as mountain hiking and scenic views.

Mundi-Mataga Dam

This dam was Commissioned in 2004 and it is located in ward 18 Mataga, Mberengwa South under Chief Mataga and Chief Chingoma. Mundi-Mataga Dam is the largest inland dam in Mberengwa which is untapped. It has great opportunities such as ecotourism sites, fishing, boat cruising and aqua culture.

Manyuchi Dam

It is shared by ward 22 Nyamhondo³ and Ward 24 in Mberengwa South under Chief Nyamhondo. Manyuchi Dam is at the boundary of Mwanezi District and Mberengwa therefore, it is shared by Mwanezi and Mberengwa. It has great opportunities such as ecotourism, boat cruising and fishing.

6.0 POPULATION

6.1 Population trends in the planning area

Mberengwa District is located in the midlands province with a current population size of 208 458 according to 2022 population census (Zimstat 2022, 2012). The population is increasing at an average of 1,2% annually. The gender composition of population shows that females are comparatively more than males, who constitutes approximately 52.3%. This figure 6 compares well with the national figures, which indicates that female population is 52% (Zimstat 2012, 2022)

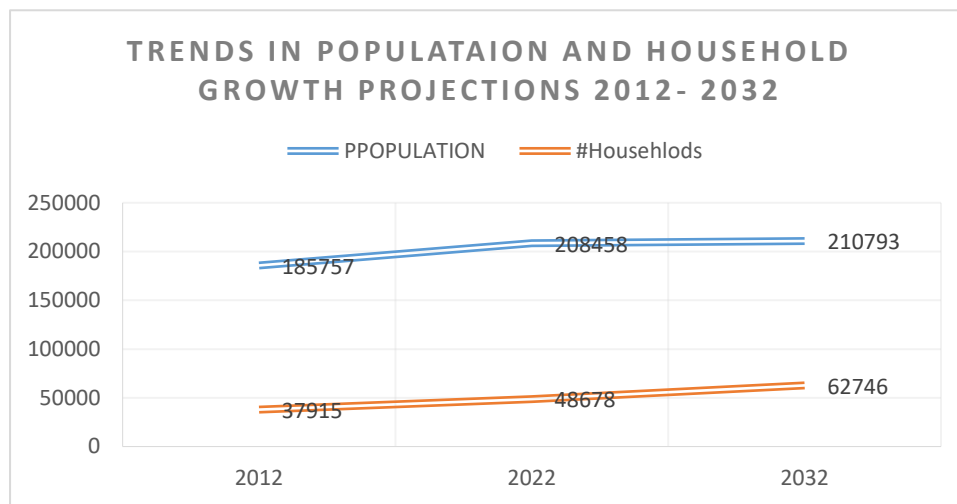
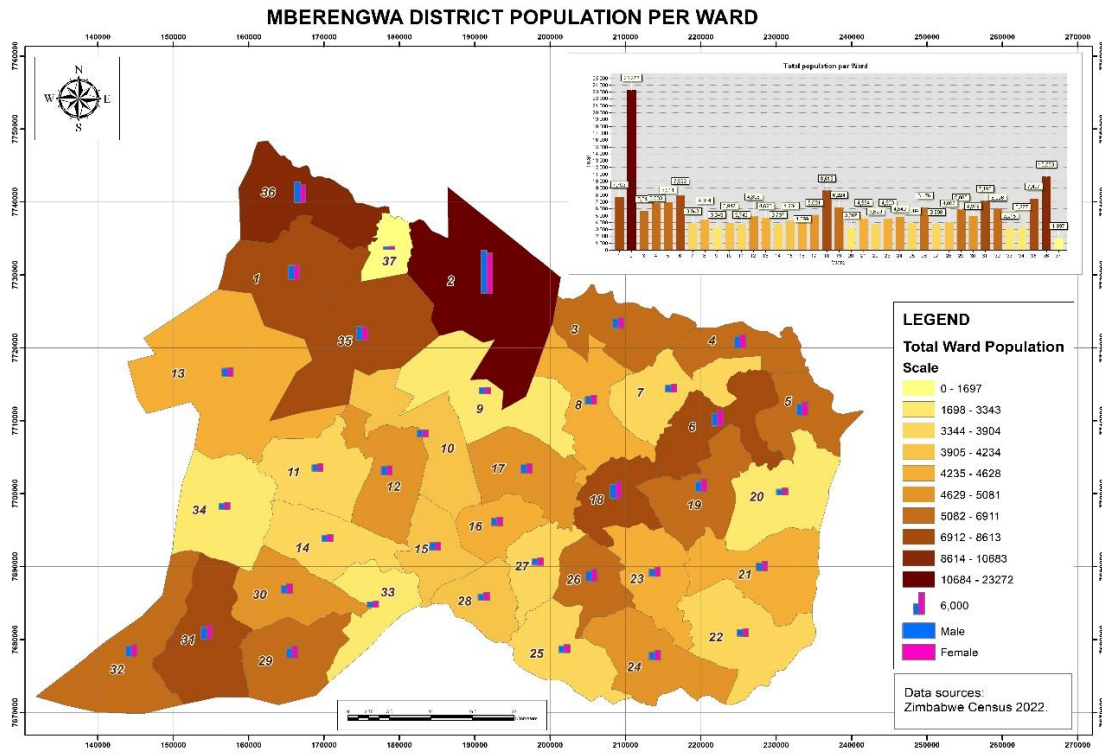


Fig 6. Population and household's growth trends (2012-2032)

Mberengwa district is composed of 37 wards and these wards have population that ranges from 1697 (ward 37) to 23272 (ward 2). There is a total of 48 678 households in the district, with an average household size of 4.3. Ward 2 has the highest number of households (6449), while ward 37 has the least number of households (397). The average size of the households in these wards ranges from 3,6 (ward3) to 4.8 (ward 29). The figure below shows the population distribution in Mberengwa District.

Map11: Population distribution in Mberengwa District



Source: Survey 2024

CHAPTER 7

7. SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

7.1 Education

Education is a very important sector in the development process. A well-educated community is a well-resourced community because the community will have high quality human capital. A high quality human capital will be resourceful because this will be used to increase productivity in the community. In terms of national vision of achieving an upper middle class economy by 2030, education is an important driver towards this goal. The need for a skilled and innovative labour force will drive economic growth in the district remains a key priority. So the district should put more effort in achieving higher education. Figure 7 below shows the number of schools in Mberengwa District.

The district has a total of 111 primary schools and 46 secondary schools. These schools are composed of mission schools, council and government schools. Mission schools include Chegato, Munene, Masase and Musume. The rest are shared between government and council.

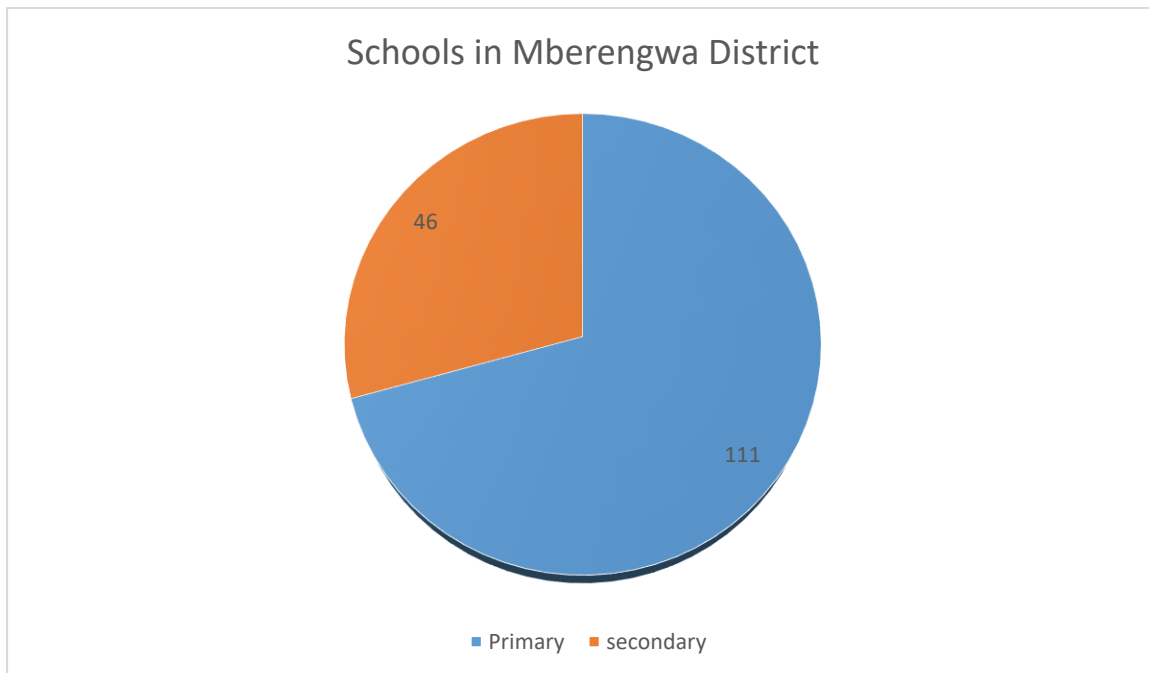


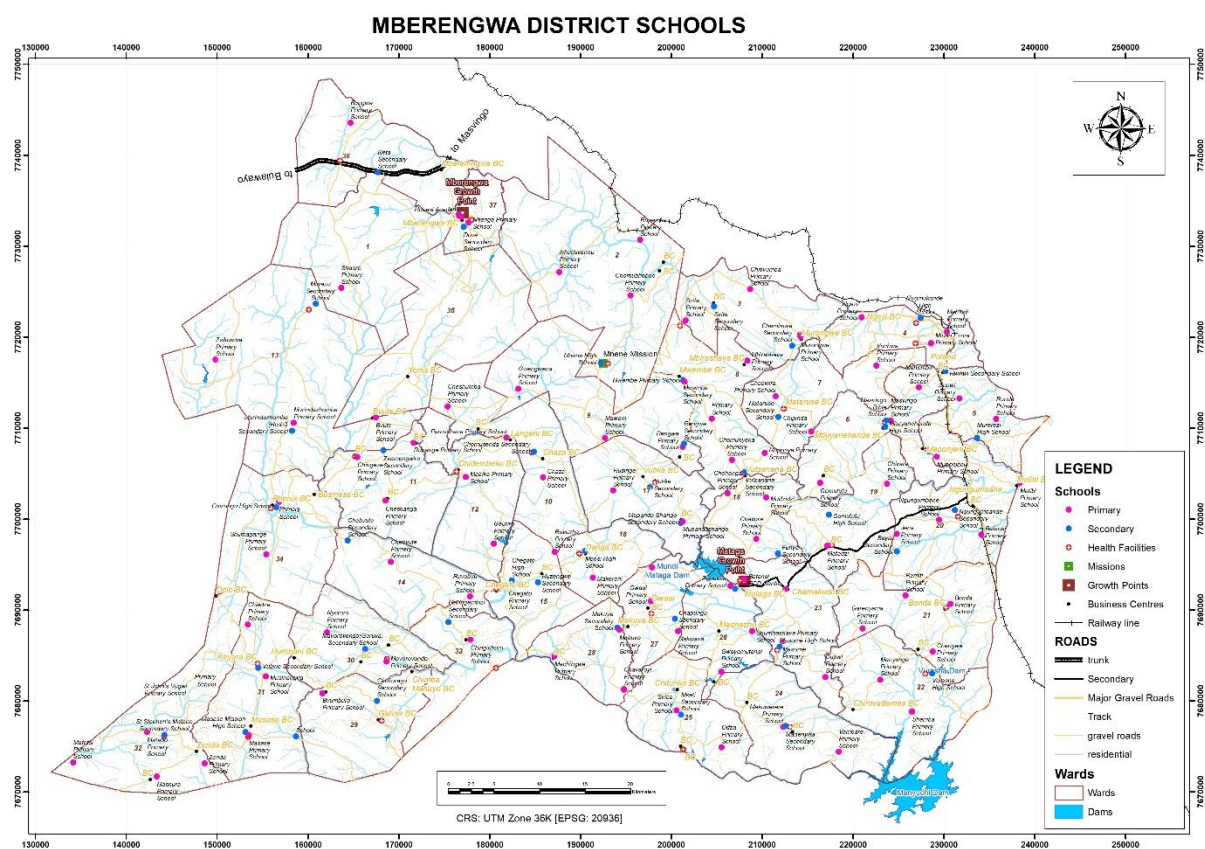
Fig.7 Primary and Secondary Schools in Mberengwa District

Of the 111 primary schools, 9 are still satellite schools with below minimum structures. Most of them only have two classroom blocks. There are also 7 satellite secondary schools which are also with bare minimum infrastructure. Some bordering wards such as ward 29, 2 and 3 need secondary schools as students are still travelling between 12 -15 kilometres to a secondary school. The whole district has only 46 secondary schools of which 7 are satellite. There total enrolment in primary schools in the district is reaching 50 333 and in secondary schools it 13740. Most primary schools such as Mberengwa Primary are heavily congested as some of them are holding over 2000 pupils in one sitting. The primary school with lowest enrolment in the district is Manyanga with an enrolment of 246 pupils, while in secondary schools Murerezi high has the highest enrolment of 685 and Zvavashe has the lowest enrolment of 102 pupils. The map 11 below shows the schools in Mberengwa district

Table 1; Enrolment in Mberengwa District Schools

Enrolment	Number
Primary	51 235
Secondary	13740

Map 12: Distribution of Schools in Mberengwa Rural District



7.2 State of Schools Infrastructure in Mberengwa District.

The existing schools in the district are showing lack of essential facilities that are very important in running schools and enhancing better quality of life. A lot of schools are lacking sanitary facilities such as ablution facilities and these facilities are very important in controlling out breaks of diseases. For those that have these facilities they need renovations such they are able to offer quality services that will control outbreaks of diseases. Primary schools like Bvumbura, Chaza,

Cheshumba, Chiwara, Gaha, Mgavakava, Mahindi, Mawani, Mponjani, Vumukwana and Secondary schools like Gomututu High, Murerezi High, Mketi High and Mposi High all need ablution facilities as the available ones are not adequate to provide quality services to the learners.

Various other schools such as Matambo Secondary, Bayayi Secondary, Vuhwa Primary, Supwi Primary, Odza Primary Rusvinge Primary, Mpandashoko Primary, Mwembe Primary, Manyanga Primary, Damabashoko and Danamombe Primary need renovated ablution facilities as the available ones have out-lived their life useful life span.

Issues that affect education in the district

The education sector has a great potential to drive the development in the district. The sector has been performing comparatively well because some of its results are comparing very well with national standards. The graph below compares the Ordinary and Advanced level pass rates at district and national level. The rate compares very well with what is obtaining at the national level. In some cases, especially at advanced level the district has been performing exceptionally better than the nation. (see graphs below)

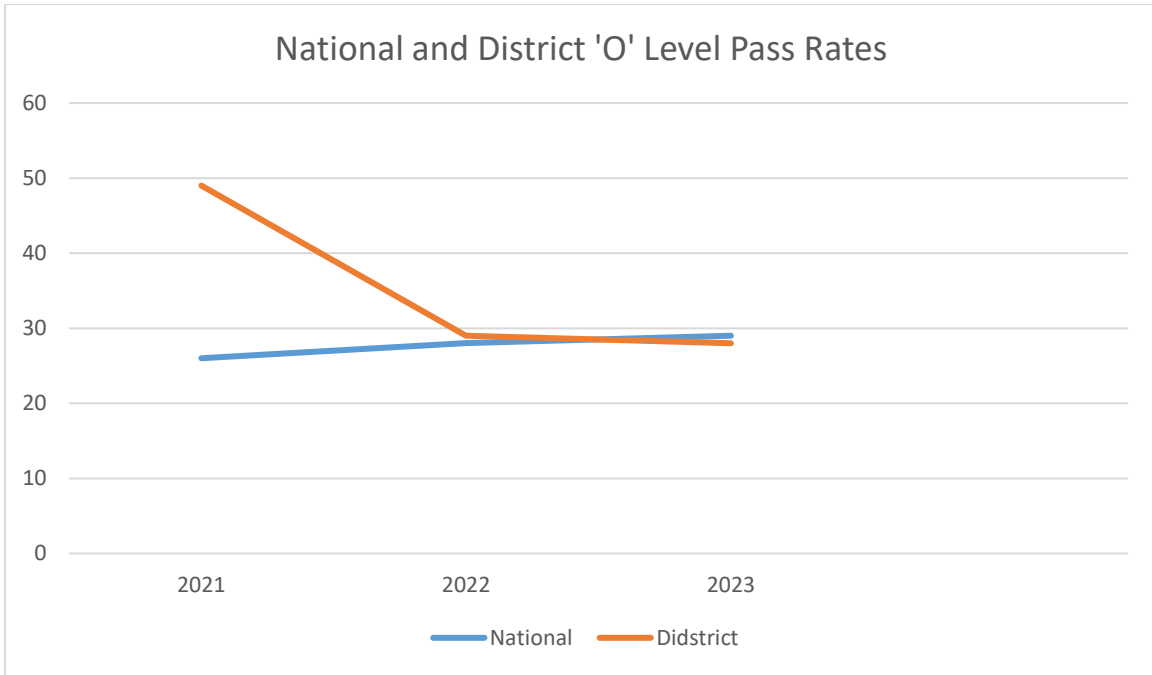


Fig. 8. Ordinary level Pass rates at National and District level (2021-2023)

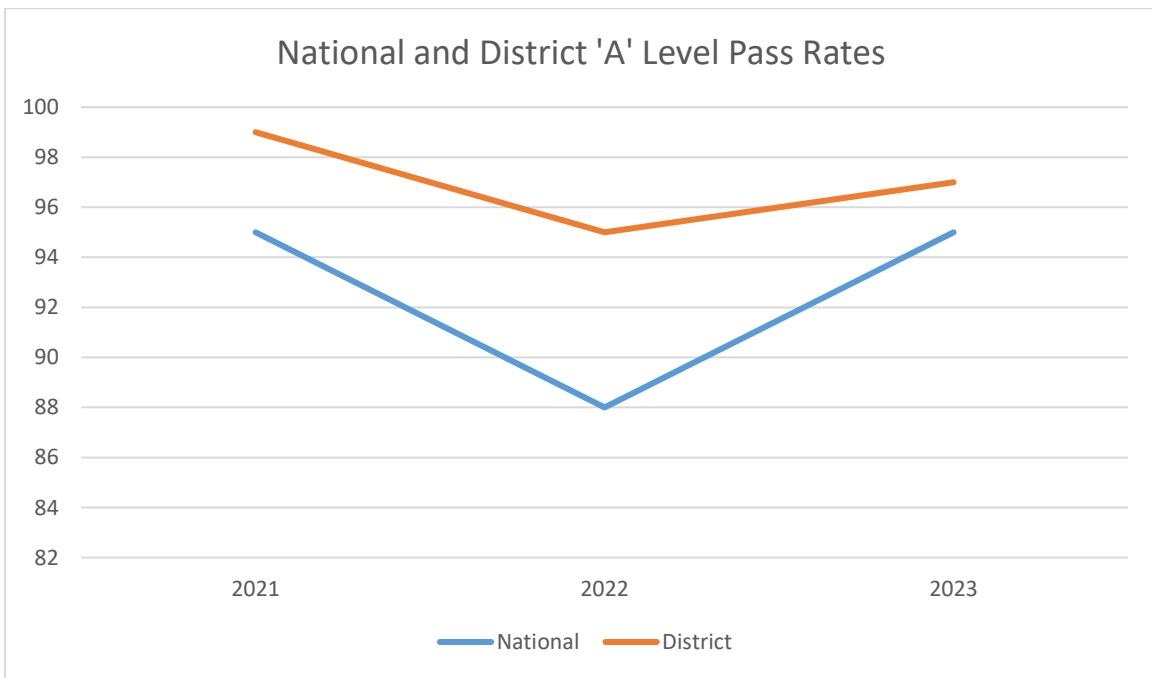


Fig.9 National and District Advanced Level pass rates (2021-2023)

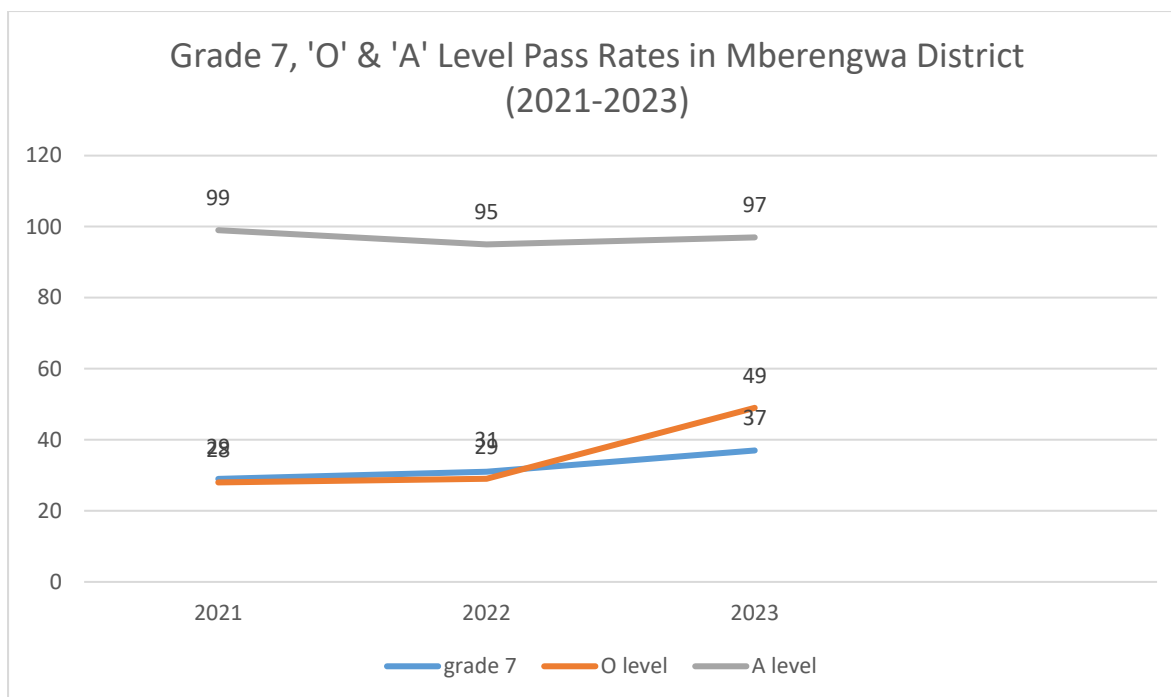


Fig:10 Grade 7, O & A level pass rates (2021-2023)

However, despite these good performances, the sector has been bedevilled by various problems which are hindering its full potential performance. These problems include:

i). *Funding.*

Schools are facing dire financial constrains because they are mainly depending of users fees that are paid in terms of tuition fees. These fees are very low because the majority of the district is predominantly rural and this is hindering development. Most students are depending on safety nets for their fees and this source has sometimes been unreliable as they pay at their own time and this has constrained schools to do their business in right time. The district is therefore advocating for schools to come up with school development plans that will help them to raise funds for priority development projects. The local authority which is the major owner of schools in the district is also persuaded to prioritise development of its schools in their budgets. As a result of poor financial resources most

schools are not able to provide enough infrastructure for effective learning. Some schools are not able to maintain the existing infrastructure, which is exposing learners to harsh environmental conditions. Schools like Bayayi, Gomututu, Muchingwe, Matobo, Mposi and Hwikwi need classroom blocks as the available ones are not adequate. Hwikwi Svita, Murerezi, Mposi and Gomututu need staff accommodation, while several other schools need new ablution facilities for proper sanitation of learners. The situation is even worse in primary schools, where schools such as Makuva, Mashura, Ruvabvu and Rwehanga learners are using substandard structures as class rooms and these structures expose learners to all vagaries of weather. Other primary schools need staff accommodation, ablution facilities and several others are aged and need renovations. There is therefore a great need to capacitate rural people economically such that communities can support schools in their communities. Rural industrialisation can go a long way in uplifting the economic status of rural people. There is need to introduce economic activities such as agricultural activities so that people can improve their economic wellbeing.

ii). *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Subjects*

Schools in the district are failing to teach STEM subjects mainly because they have no infrastructure that could allow them to do so. Schools do not have fully functional laboratories and Information Communication Technology infrastructure. Only 8 schools in the whole district have fully functional laboratories, which makes it difficult to teach STEM subjects. It is also difficult to include the majority of schools in the district in ict as only 21 schools (out of a total of 157 schools) have functioning ict infrastructure. Technology is the new driver of development in the contemporary world, hence educating learners without information communication technology will result in disenfranchisement of these

learners as they will not be competent to function in the digital era. The district also has not been able to attract teachers in science and mathematics. This is mainly because the district is predominantly rural and there are no incentives to attract teachers into these areas. Poor road network is also another hindering factor for teachers to come to the district as teachers prefer accessible schools. The poor road network is also making other schools inaccessible for supervision, hence it has been very difficult manage them. The road network is predominantly gravel, which is heavily damaged and poorly serviced.

iii) Accessibility

The poor state of road network is making supervision of schools in the district very poor. Some of the schools such as Chimbapire, Shamba and Manyanga are very difficult to access. Such road conditions are making these schools unattractive to teachers who always shun them and they are always in high staff turnover.

7.2 Health

The health sector is an important determinant of quality of life. Zimbabwe as a nation is striving to achieve an upper middle class economy by 2030. This means that people should be experiencing good quality of life as shown by a healthy nation. A healthy nation is also a productive nation as people will be living in disease free environments. The health status of a community is an essential component for the attainment of any meaningful sustainable development. Considering that Mberengwa district economy is driven by mining and agriculture, it is important that the people who drive the economy are in good health for increased productivity. In order to achieve this, the district health sector should be adequately serviced with all specialists that matter in the health profession. Currently the district is offering the following services at different levels of the community:

- i. OI/ART services
- ii. Ambulance services
- iii. Antenatal Care Services
- iv. Postnatal Care Services
- v. Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
- vi. HIV testing services
- vii. Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV
- viii. Nutrition Services
- ix. Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)
- x. Cervical Cancer Screening
- xi. Management of Injuries

At present about 25% of the population in the district are still travelling more than 5km to reach the nearest health facility which results in poor health seeking behaviour by some of the community members. (see figure below). In Mberengwa East Constituency, ward 21, some people are travelling between 14km-20km to access a health facility. This is not sustainable and against the President’s mantra of ‘leaving nobody behind’ in the development process. The district heavily relies on partners' support for major programs such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, WASH and Nutrition among others. This reliance on partner support threatens the sustainability of programs as partners may threaten continuation of quality services. It is also prudent for the ministry of health to offer health services at village level by establishing village health facilities so the villagers can access treatment for chronic diseases such as Blood pressure, ARV, diabetes and carry out some oral treatments before they visit a local clinic. This will provide health facilities to everyone and thereby leave no one behind in line with the national development thrust, which strives to leave no one behind in the development process.

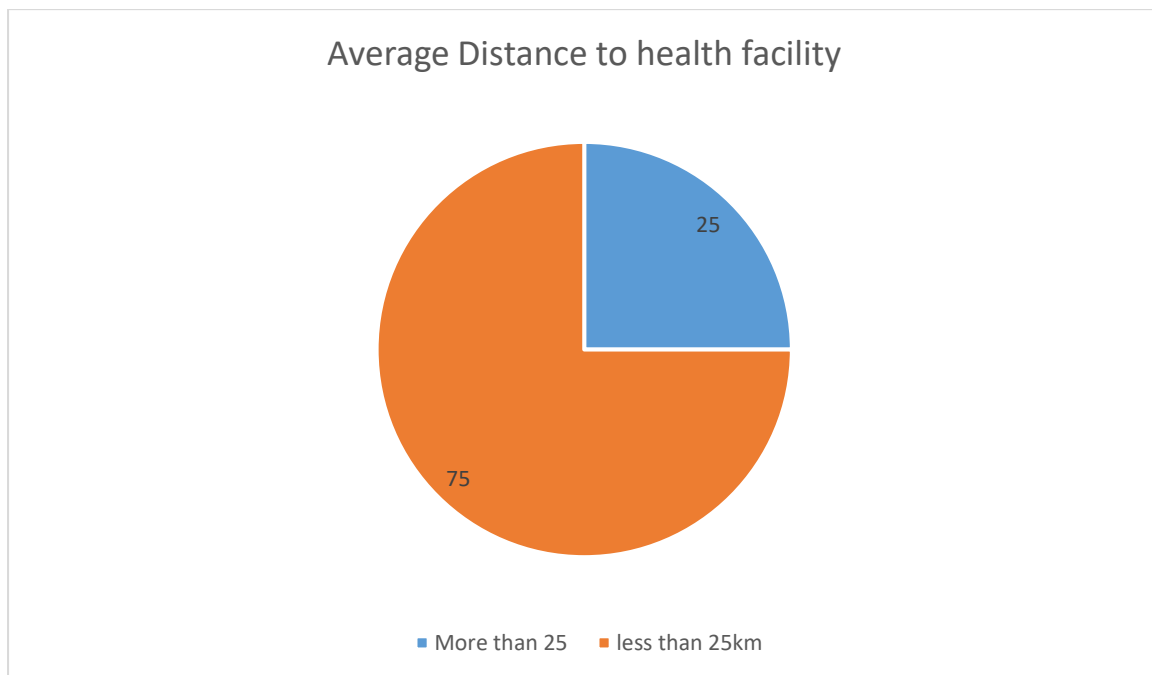
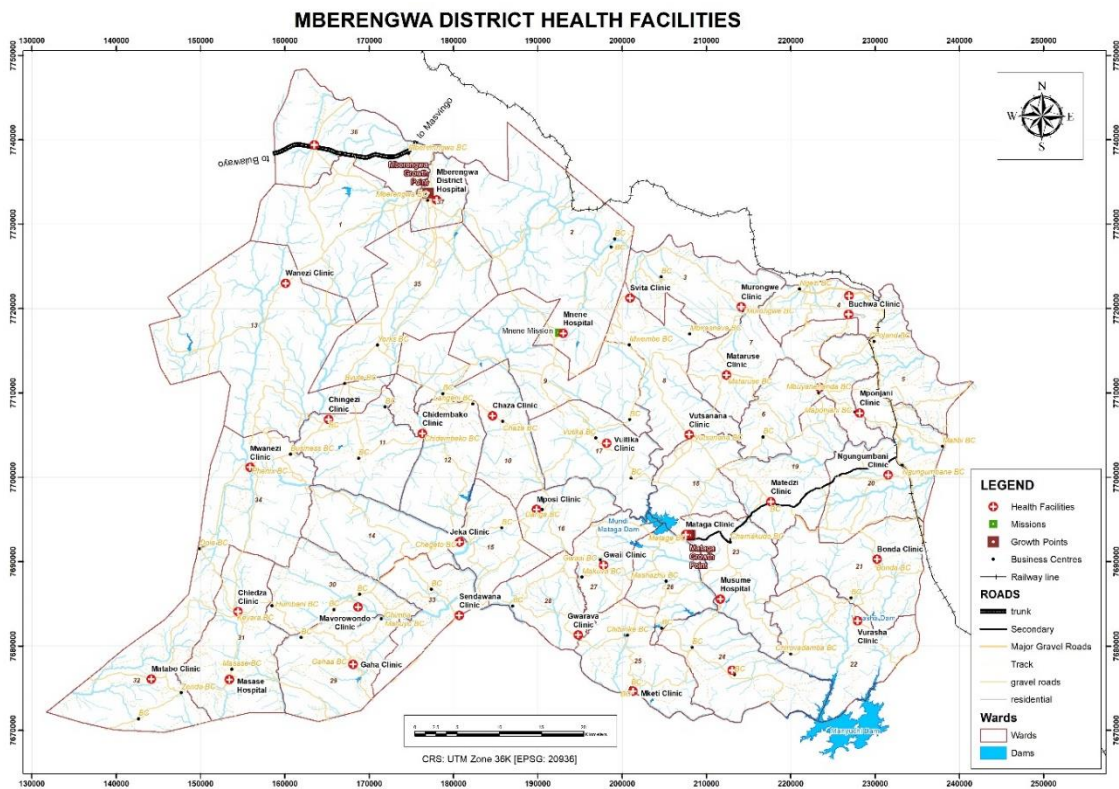


Fig. 11 Percentage of people walking less than 25km to the nearest Health facility in Mberengwa District

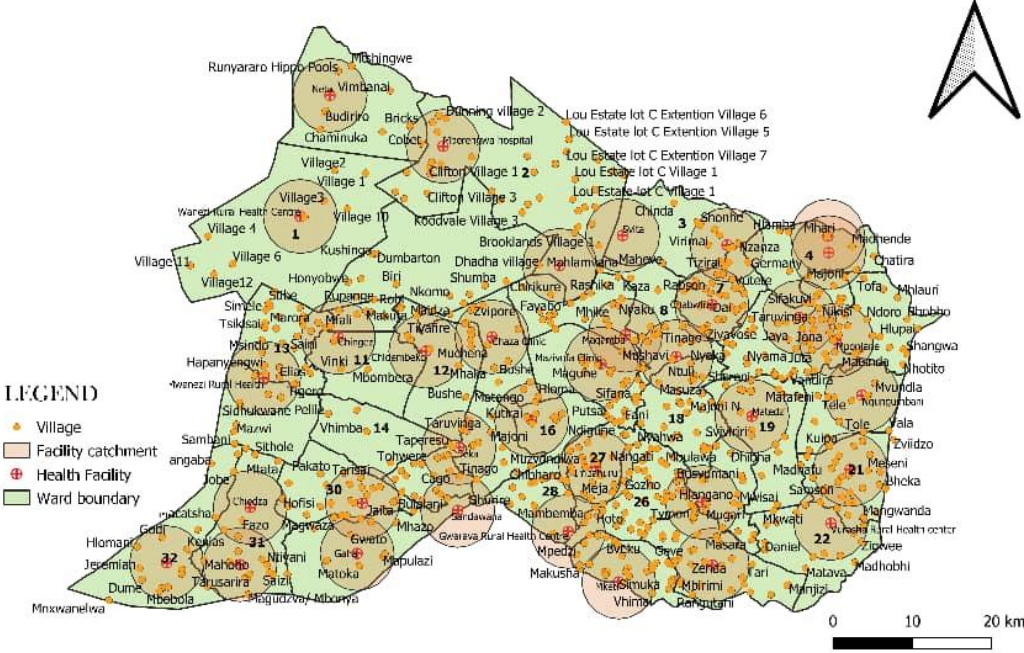
The Map12 below shows the distribution of health facility in Mberengwa District.

Map 13: Mberengwa Rural District Health Facilities



Map 13: Mberengwa Rural District Council health facilities and their areas of influence

MBERENGWA HEALTH FACILITIES AND COVERAGE



The district is striving to reduce disease prevalence in order to match the sustainable development targets. In most cases the district is doing comparatively well in terms of reducing disease prevalence. The district has been doing well in HIV prevention and control and it has surpassed the sustainable development target by a significant margin. However, in some diseases, such as Maternity mortality and under 5 years mortality, the figures are still very high and fall far below the expected sustainable development goal target. For example, in maternity mortality the sustainable development goal target is 70 of the 100 000, but the district prevalence rate is still as high as 460 and even their 2025 target of 420 is still higher than the sustainable development goal target. Other diseases such as TB, Malaria and cervical cancer show that by 2030 the district will still be fighting to eliminate them but the sustainable development goal is targeting total elimination of such diseases. The district prevalence rate and the 2025 targets shows that these diseases will still be with us in 2030. The table 1 below shows some of the major disease prevalence in the district and the target they are striving to get by 2025 in order to fall with the sustainable goal target.

Table 2: Disease Prevalence, Targeted reduced rate and SGD Comparison in Mberengwa District

Disease	Current Prevalence rate	Sustainable Development Goal (2030)	Target reduced Rate (2025)
HIV (per 1000)	2.81	3.3	0.57
Malaria mortality (per 100 000)	42	Eliminate	20
Tuberculosis Mortality (per 100 000)	1.9	Eradicate TB Infection	0.5
Cervical Cancer (per 100 000)	15	Eliminate	5
Maternity mortality (per 100 000)	460	70	420
Under 5 years mortality (100 000)	65	12	41

The aim to achieve an upper middle class economy cannot be achieved if the district is still fighting mediaeval diseases such as TB and malaria. The district is doing well in HIV prevention as it has managed to reduce infection to below Sustainable Development Goal target of 3.3 per 1000. The district has achieved 2.8, which shows good stride towards HIV prevention. However other health indicators such maternity mortality and under 5 years mortality are way above SDG targets showing lagging capacity to fight such health condition. The SDG target for maternity mortality is 70 per 100 000 but the district is still experiencing more than 420 deaths per 1000 000. The SDG is also targeting elimination of mortality in diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria but the district is still experiencing mortality rates of 1.9/100 000 and 42/100 000 in respective diseases. There is need to upscale interventions that will eradicate diseases in the district. This can be achieved by having enough health facilities, which are fully funded

to operate all the activities that will eradicate diseases. At present the district has the health facilities as shown in the table 2 below.

Table 3: Health facilities in Mberengwa District.

Health Facility	Number
Government hospitals	1
Mission hospitals	3
Government rural health centres	9
Local Authority clinics	21
Private clinics	2
Total	36

There are several health facilities that are still under construction and these needs to be completed so that people can access health facilities with their areas. Clinics that are still under construction include, Zvikombe, Madosvo, Runde, Whikwi, Mbirashava, Madhekwana, Bengwe, Bvute, Chevute, Rengwe, Vumukwana, Maziofa, Chaora, Garaenyama. Bayayi, Chirovandovo, Rwavamutangi, Nyororo and Gwengwena.

Several sites are also planned for establishment of clinics and these sites include; Batanai, Chomubhobho, Chibvumba, Cheshanga, Magavakava, Bvumbura, Mangonde, Garare, Dambashoko, Star Mine, Muchipisi and Nyengerere. Villagers are also calling for establishment of clinic posts within their villages, where elderly people can access services such as BP and sugar check-ups, and also receive treatments for chronic diseases such as diabetes, Blood pressure and such facilities should be establishing in clustered villages, where each clinic post will serve 2-3 villages. These clinic post will serve these health needs and other immediate health needs before people are referred to the nearest clinic. So the required hierarchy of health facilities look like the following structure and it should start at village level. Figure 11 below shows the schematic hierarchy of health facilities preferred by people in Mberengwa district.

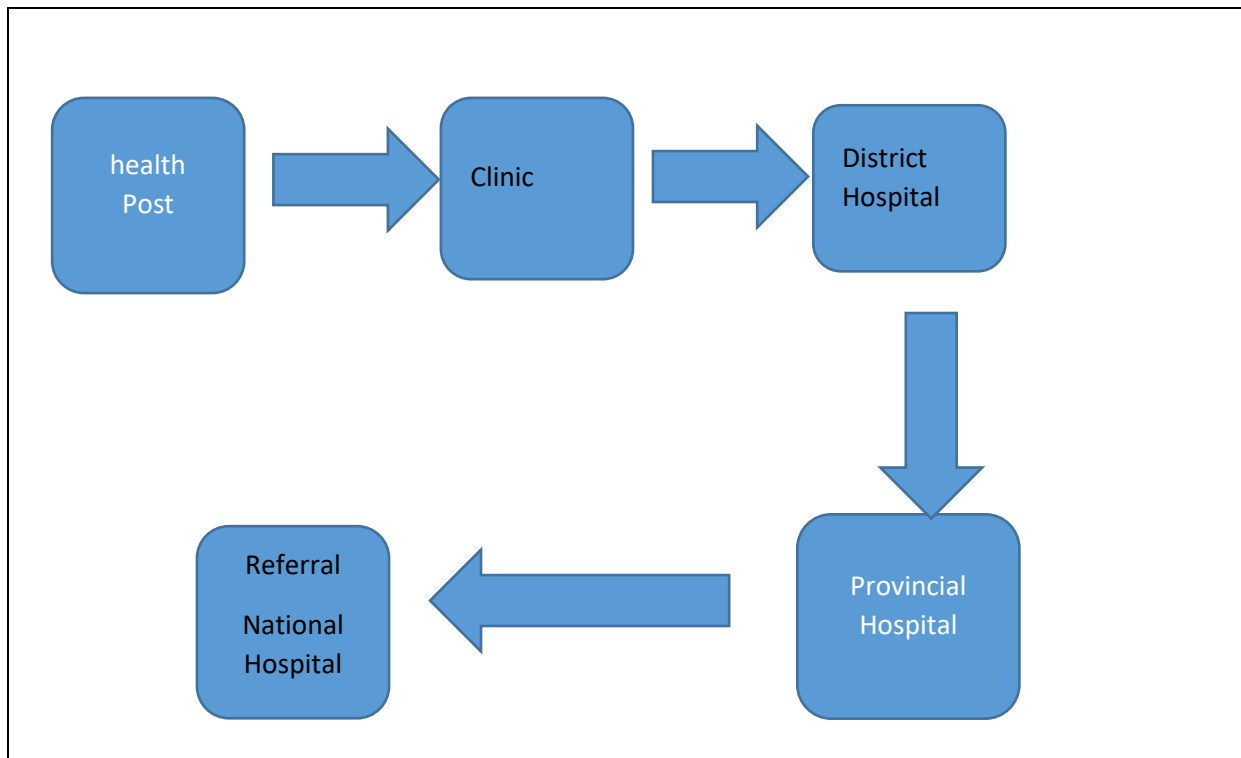


Fig. 12 Preferred Structure of Health Delivery system in Mberengwa District.

Although the general outlook of health sector looks good, an in depth examination shows a lot of gaps that are noticeable in the district health sector, which is hampering effective delivery of health services in the district. Some of these gaps include;

- i) Most of the hospitals in the district do not have functional theatres. Of the 4 hospitals in the district only one (Masase hospital) has a functional theatre, while all others refer their critical operations to either Bulawayo, Gweru or Gwanda, where such services are found. Those hospitals with theatres are lacking essential equipment that will allow them to be fully functional. Equipment such as theatre tables, anaesthetic machines and personnel are lacking.
- ii) All the hospitals in the district do not have specialist doctors hence all such services are referred to Bulawayo, which is the nearest referral hospital.

- iii) The district is also suffering from high staff turnover, where there are more than 35 open vacancies that have been difficult to fill. These include posts like doctors, midwifery, anaesthetist and even general registered nurses.
- iv) The Mberengwa district hospital is working both as a primary and secondary health facility because Mberengwa Centre does not have an operating clinic. The site is there but not yet constructed. This is over burdening the hospital as even minor cases are treated at this hospital hence there is need to decentralise these services to other centres.
- v) Some disease hot spots like the Van guard and York mining areas need health facilities so that people can access health services in the areas.

7.3 Cultural and Heritage

Mberengwa district has a lot of sites that are of cultural and heritage importance. These sites include mountains, pools, caves and sites for rain making. There are two main mountains that are known for their traditional importance and these are Buchwa and Mberengwa mountains. The Mberengwa mountain is regarded as the mountain for the Valemba community and they used to make annual pilgrimage there, where this community was counted each year and they used to carry out their traditional and initiation ceremonies at this mountain. Other Sites used for Valemba initiation ceremonies include Dumbwi and Benzi, which are in wards 9 and 10. There are other sites that are used for rain making ceremonies and these are Dunda and Shauro. Buchwa mountain is said to belong to the Mataruse people. The table 3 below shows some of the mountains with cultural and traditional values.

Table 4: Mountains with Cultural and traditional Values in Mberengwa District

Mountain	Location (ward)
Manjenge	29
Chomutangara	31
Kumwe	34
Buchwa	4
Maphiri	14
Mberengwa	35
Gaha	29
Chimbapire	29
Chivuwa	14
Romporehoto	14

There are also pools that have significant cultural values and these pools and caves that are said to be residence of mermaids and spiritual fathers of communities. Some of the important pools include; Tembo in ward 11, Chifuganya in ward 30, Radzuke in ward 30 and Rutandadziva in wards 30. There are also some ruins that are dotted within the district and some of the notable ruins include; Manjiribwe, Shinganeburi and Ruvabvu. There is one big cave, Manjiribwe in ward 30 that can accommodate the whole village and there are artefacts and paintings in that cave. This cave is said to be visited by even prophets of christian background, who often visit it for strengthening of spiritual powers. The table 4 below shows name and location of some of the caves that are believed to have strong cultural value in the district.

Table 5: Some Caves of cultural values in Mberengwa district.

Cave	Location (Ward)
Vutende	11
Manjiribwe	30
Matabo	32
Chomukoto	10
Mhokonye	27
Magwaza	26
Chenharira	17
Rushavane	26
Makepesi	9
Chevuwa	33
Rivarezhou	14
Manjenge	2

There are also arts and cultural centres activities at Gomonenga in ward 5 and Takabikira in ward 4. These art centres provide entertainment groups that can perform at state occasions and other invited occasions. These arts and cultural centres also coordinate cultural activities in the district and also help to promote arts and cultural activities in schools. These arts and cultural activities are also complemented by traditional groups in provision of entertainment at various occasions. Some of the established traditional dance groups include; Maparanyanga in ward 17, Mutevaidze in ward 31, Danangombe in ward 31, Bangwe in ward 32 and Mudumwezve in ward 11. These traditional dances are culturally based as each specific community has its unique dance associated with it. For example, Isitshikitsha, Muchongoyo, Amabiza and Ingquzu is associated with communities of Ndebele background, while Shangara is associated with Shangane group and Mbakumba is associated with Shona or Karanga communities.

While there are so many cultural sites and cultural activities, they lack support from both the local authority and central government. There are no structures to support cultural activities, neither is there financial support to promote these activities. The local authority does not have space for cultural activities, as these space users are not prioritised during land use planning. These arts and cultural activities perform in open as they have no designated spaces for their activities. Up and coming groups have no financial support for their activities hence their performances will never see the light of the day. These activities can be a source of livelihood for many but if they are not supported they will never benefit the owner of such talent. Zimbabwe is endowed with cultural diversity and therefore it is imperative to develop these cultural activities in communities as these skills will help in national and self-identity, entertainment critical thinking, self-discipline and problem solving. In a country that is reeling from lack of

employment, arts and culture skills can provide such employment and people can have a source of livelihood to support their families.

7.4 Livelihood Activities

There are a lot of livelihoods that are being promoted in Mberengwa district and these are helping people to survive. These livelihood options help people to create sustainable livelihoods as agriculture alone is very unreliable. The diversification of livelihoods helps to create sustainable rural livelihoods. The table 5 below shows livelihood options in the district.

Table 6: Livelihoods in Mberengwa District

Livelihood	Number
Agro-based	42
Carpentry	3
Sewing	42
Welding	16
Freezit Making	6
Bakery	5
Bushmeal	2

7.4.1 Agricultural

Mberengwa district is in agro-ecological region 4 and 5, which naturally received an annual rainfall of 450mm or below. In some years the district received an annual average of 231mm. Figure 12 below shows the annual rainfall received in the past 10 years in the district.

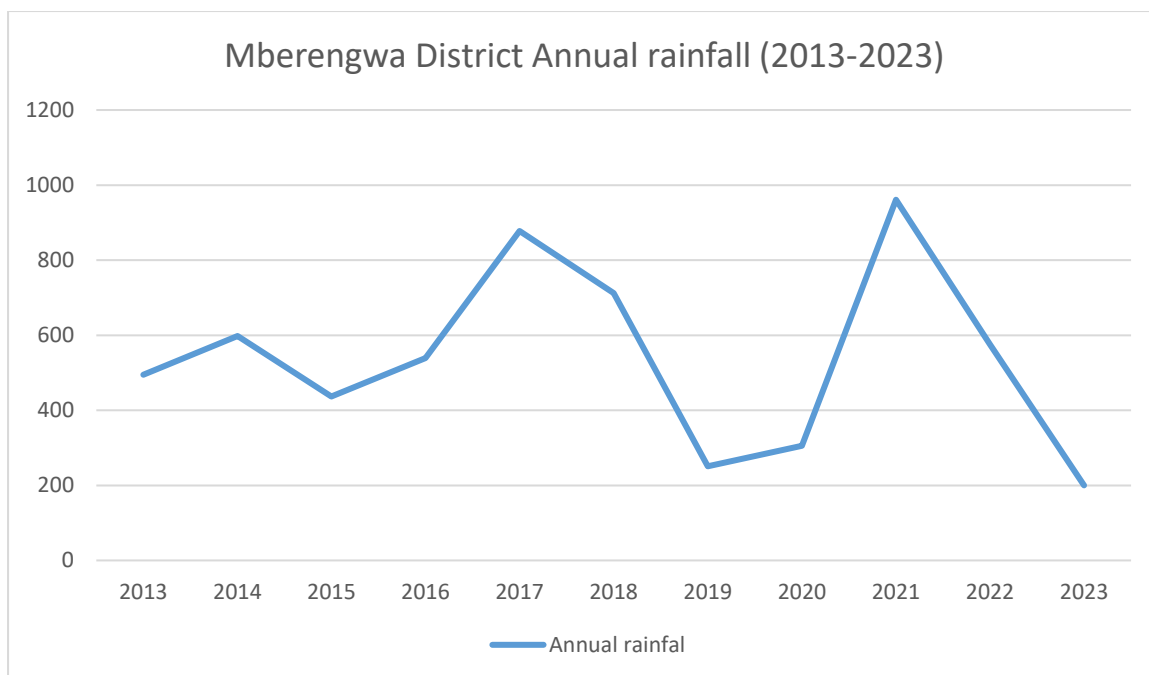


Fig. 12 Mberengwa District Annual Rainfall (2013-2023)

This therefore makes rain-fed agriculture extremely difficult. The low rainfall regime makes the district a drought prone region, which makes water scarcity a district problem. It therefore calls for water harvesting techniques and drilling of boreholes so as to provide water to the district. Irrigation schemes are therefore the major lifeline of agricultural activities in the district. The poor rainfall pattern has resulted in perennial droughts in the district making the majority of population food insecure. The production of rain-fed agricultural crops has been very poor, ranging from as low as 0.16 tonnes/ha to only as high as 0.8tonnes/ha. Other crops grown in the district which include finger millet and pearl millet, are also experiencing low yields averaging a yield of 0.5 and 0,23 tonnes/ha respectively, although these crops are regarded as drought tolerant. The Figure 14 below shows the productivity of maize and sorghum from 2019- 2023.

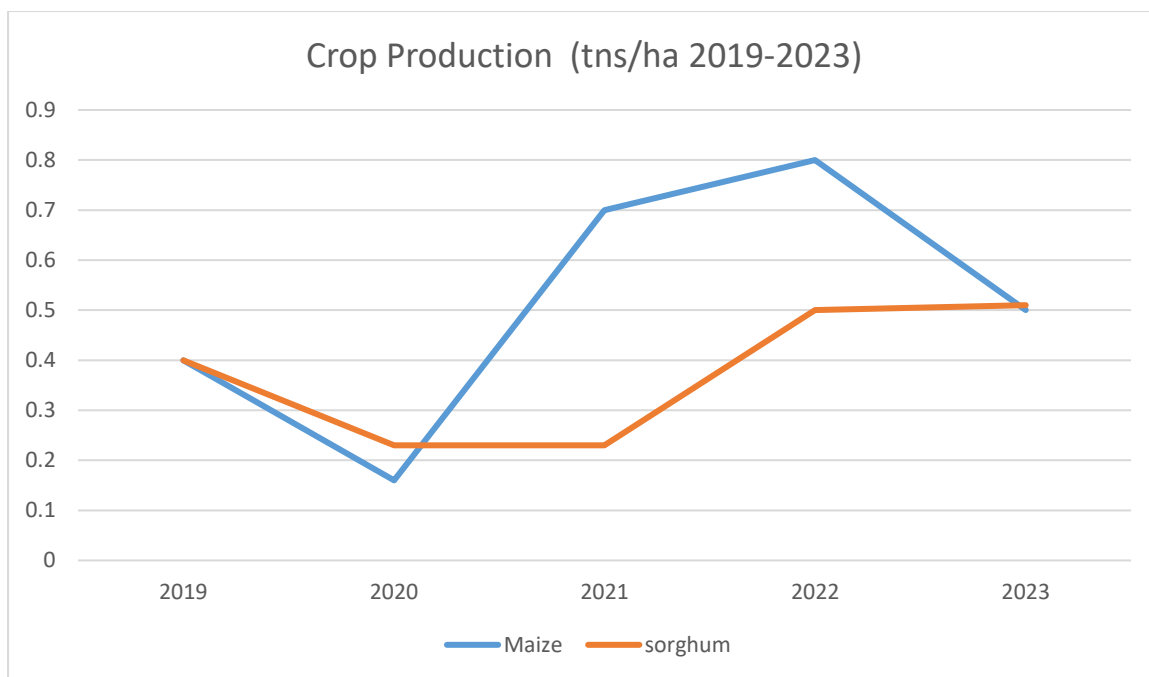


Fig. 14 Maize and Sorghum Production in Mberengwa District.

To mitigate the perennial food shortages, the district with other partners have initiated irrigation schemes and conservation farming techniques throughout the district. There are more than 54 000 farmers who were trained in conservation farming and of this 41000 are already practicing conservation farming (Pfulhudza/ intwasa farming) and there are 11 irrigation schemes serving 1961 households under 987 hectares. Table 7 below shows the irrigation schemes in Mberengwa district, their status and the households they are serving.

Table 7. Irrigation schemes in Mberengwa district and the households

Irrigation Scheme	Number of households	Status
Biri	273	Operational using earth furrows
Muchipisi	220	Operational using earth furrows
Old Biri	78	Operational using surface irrigation
Chimwe	125	Operational using overheads
Vurasha	55	Operational using surface
Neta	42	Vandalised not working
Zvavachari	49	Operational using surface
Makuva	54	Operational using surface
Chamakudo	400	Operational using surface irrigation
Inyala	360	Under construction
Chaora	360	Under construction
Total	2016	

So far out of the 11 irrigation schemes 3 are not operational as 2 of them are still under construction and the other one had its infrastructure vandalised. The number of households involved in irrigation projects is very small as they only constitute 2.02%. The rest of households are relying on rain fed agriculture. This therefore calls for an active mobilisation of funds to build infrastructure to start

more irrigation projects and develop more water infrastructure to support this initiative. There are several rivers that have reliable water throughout the year but they do not have dams that can harvest water for irrigation. Rivers such as Mwanezi, Mwere, Ngezi, Muchindwe are good sources of water but they do not have dams that can store water for irrigation. In Mberengwa east there is a reliable pool of water that has been collecting at the disused Buchwa mine and this water is just lying idle as people are experiencing crop failure nearly every year. The water can be drawn using gravitational force from the top of the mountain to the low lying areas, which cut on the costs to pump the water to irrigation areas. Manyuchi dam is another infrastructure that is lying idle in the district. The infrastructure is shared with Masvingo district, and has already an approved plan for development but nothing has been put in place. There is therefore need to activate the plans that are on Manyuchi dam and environs and activate economic activities around the dam. The figure below shows some of the scenery from Buchwa Mountains.

A lot of other dams have been accumulating sand, thereby reducing their irrigation capacities. These dams need scooping so as to rehabilitate them and reactivate their economic roles in the rural areas of Mberengwa that are facing drought every year because of their ecological environments that are characterised by low rainfall. The poor management of catchment areas for most of the dams is causing a lot of siltation in these dams. There is need for proper farming methods and control of illegal gold mining that is happening along most of the rivers feeding into these dams. Stream bank cultivation is happening along most of the rivers, which is also exacerbating the siltation of dams. The figure 14 below shows some of the farming activities being carried out right into the river bank. Farmers are no longer respecting the environmental law that calls for any farming activities to be done 30metres from the river bank.

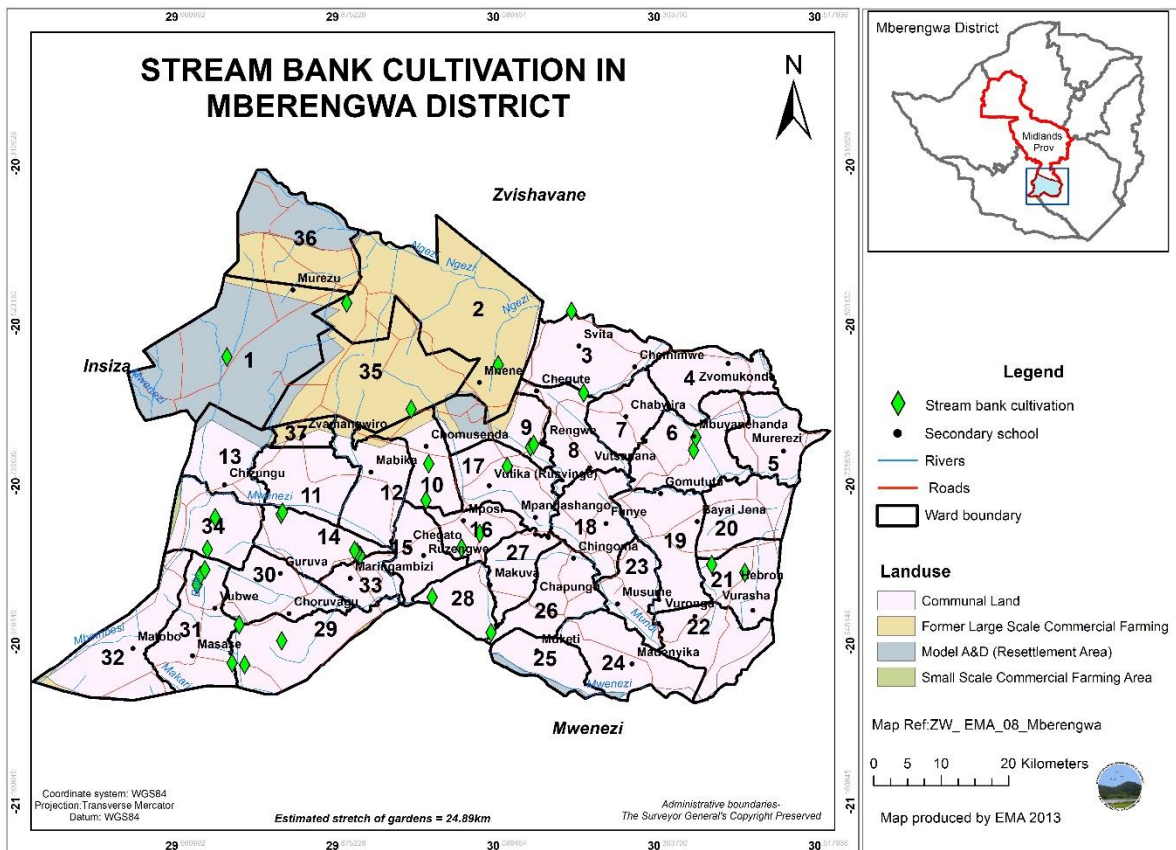


Fig.14 Stream bank Cultivation in Mberengwa (Adopted from EMA, 2020)

7.4.2 Livestock rearing

The district is heavily affected by droughts and this has also affected livestock rearing because continued droughts have degraded grazing areas. The most common livestock found in the district include cattle, chickens, goats, sheep, rabbits etc. Generally, there is decreasing livestock population in the district. Cattle has decreases from 165 000 just below 150 000. There major cause of decrease in cattle population is the devastating January disease, which has killed a lot of cattle. Some farmers are destocking in due to fear of the disease. Goats and sheep have also been showing decreasing trends. There are also some sections that are affected by troublesome animals such as hyenas and leopards which are also killing their livestock. In many villages throughout the district there is a severe shortage of grazing areas, which makes it difficult for farmers to increase their herds of cattle. Some farmers are grazing their cattle in contour ridges or in some spaces that are not cultivated. Some farmers especially in ward 15 have reduced their cultivated areas to reserve some space for cattle grazing. This practice shows the severity of shortage of grazing area in the district. Another critical cause of dwindling grazing area is the mining and illegal settlements. The owners of mining claims are fencing off their claims, thereby reducing the grazing areas. Some miners especially artisanal miners in ward 37 are degrading grazing areas through their mining activities. In many villages throughout the district, there is illegal settling of people in the grazing areas and people are converting grazing areas into fields and homesteads and this is eating on the available grazing areas. However, donkey population has been increasing steadily. There were very few donkeys in 2019, but according to 2023 census they are now over 25 000. This can be attributed to the fact that donkeys are a drought resistant livestock, so it can withstand harsh climatic condition. The other reason can be that farmers are opting for it due to their resistant to droughts, so people are

stocking them for drought power. The figure 15 below shows the number of livestock in Mberengwa district in the past 5 years.

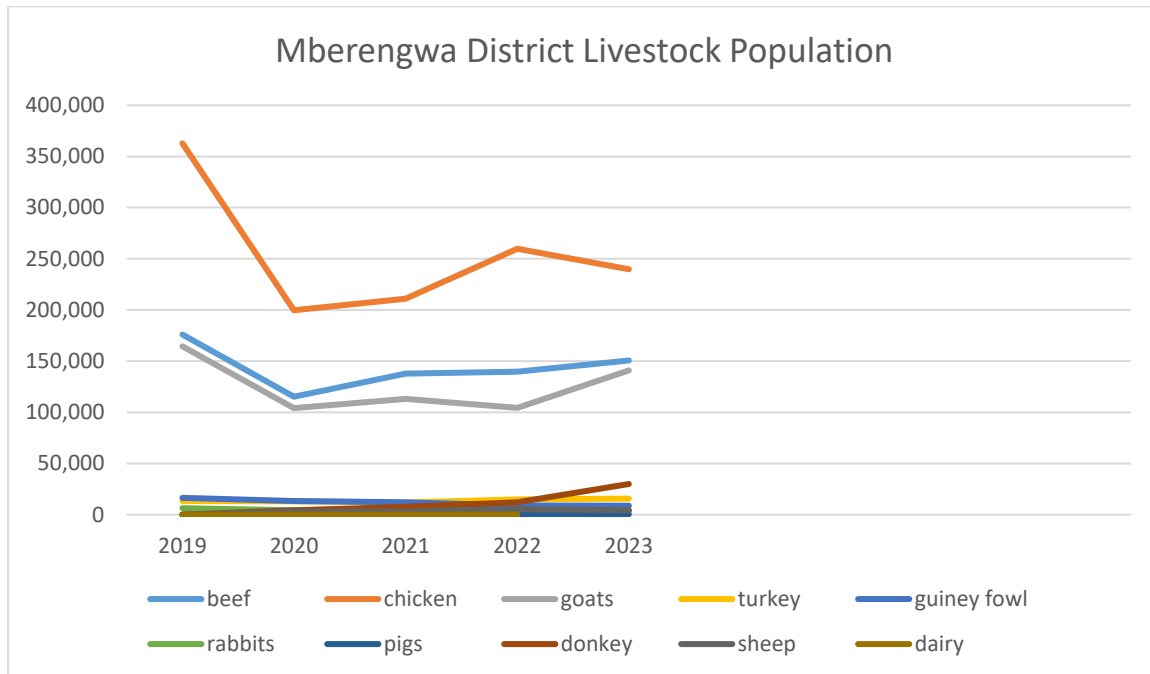


Fig. 15 Livestock population in Mberengwa District (2019- 2023)

Farmers are therefore advised to adopt all forms of supplementary feeding to supplement the poor grazing areas. So far there are 5 hay-making projects in the district, whose aim is to create supplementary feeding for livestock in the district. The grazing areas are further degraded by illegal mining activities and the invasion of evasive species. *Lantana camara* is invading most villages thereby reducing the grazing area. There is therefore need to control evasive species and introduce proper management of grazing areas. The presidential schemes can also include chemicals for dipping so that cattle have regular dipping schedule. If funds could permit, there is need to resuscitate paddocks in the resettlement areas as this will reintroduce managed grazing schemes in the resettlement areas. Through the presidential input programs, farmers are encouraged to grow fodder grasses that are high in nutritive value to supplement cattle feeding. Dipping infrastructure is adequate in several parts of the district but dipping chemicals are

facing shortage of dipping material hence farmers are encouraged to purchase own dipping so as to augment government supply. This will make sure that tick borne diseases are effectively controlled in the district.

The other problem in cattle rearing is the quality of cattle breed. The majority of cattle are the indigenous type, which is short and does not produce much beef. This therefore means that this breed of cattle does not give farmers much in terms of return. They fetch very little because of their reduced weight. There is therefore need to improve the breed by either cross breeding with other better breeds so that they have better cattle breed, which can give them better returns on the market. This need to be supported by good grazing schemes that will allow these breeds to survive. It also calls for improved grazing areas by improving the pastures through growing of more nutritious type of grass. Other kinds of interventions that will help to improve cattle quality and production include; artificial insemination to improve the cattle breed, preventing and controlling the disease by increasing vaccination and animal production management to reduce cattle mortality due to diseases, improvement of quality of animal production through construction of mini slaughters construction and establishment of viable and upgraded animal markets.

Other ago-based activities include horticulture, nutritional gardens, Maputi making, apiculture, groundnuts and peanut butter making, and poultry.

7.4.3 Mining

The unreliable rainfall has made agricultural activities unsustainable as a source of livelihoods and people are turning into mining as a source of livelihood. The district is richly endowed by various mineral resources and people are taking advantage of that to engage into small scale mining. Inhabitants of the district rely much on artisanal mining for a living as they try to take advantage of the rich

endowments of the district such as gold, emeralds, chrome, iron ore, tantalite, limestone just to mention a few. A lot of small scale miners are involved in gold extraction in the Northern part of the district and some of the mining activities are not regulated and there is need to formalize these activities in order to benefit local community and the country at large. There are several mining companies that are operating in Mberengwa district, which are mining minerals that include gold, limestone, chrome, lithium emeralds and iron ore. In addition to this, there are small-scale miners dotted around the district. According to Mberengwa Miners Association, there are 728 registered small scale miners and unnumbered and unregistered ones that are operating in the district. The district has no ancillary and supporting mining operations as miners go out of the district to process their minerals. This situation is tantamount to exporting of employment opportunities to other cities and towns in the country. If supporting industries were established in Mberengwa, this will see the mining activities contributing more to generation employment for the district. The table 8 below shows the list of established mining activities and their location in Mberengwa district.

MBERENGWA DISTRICT MINING AREAS

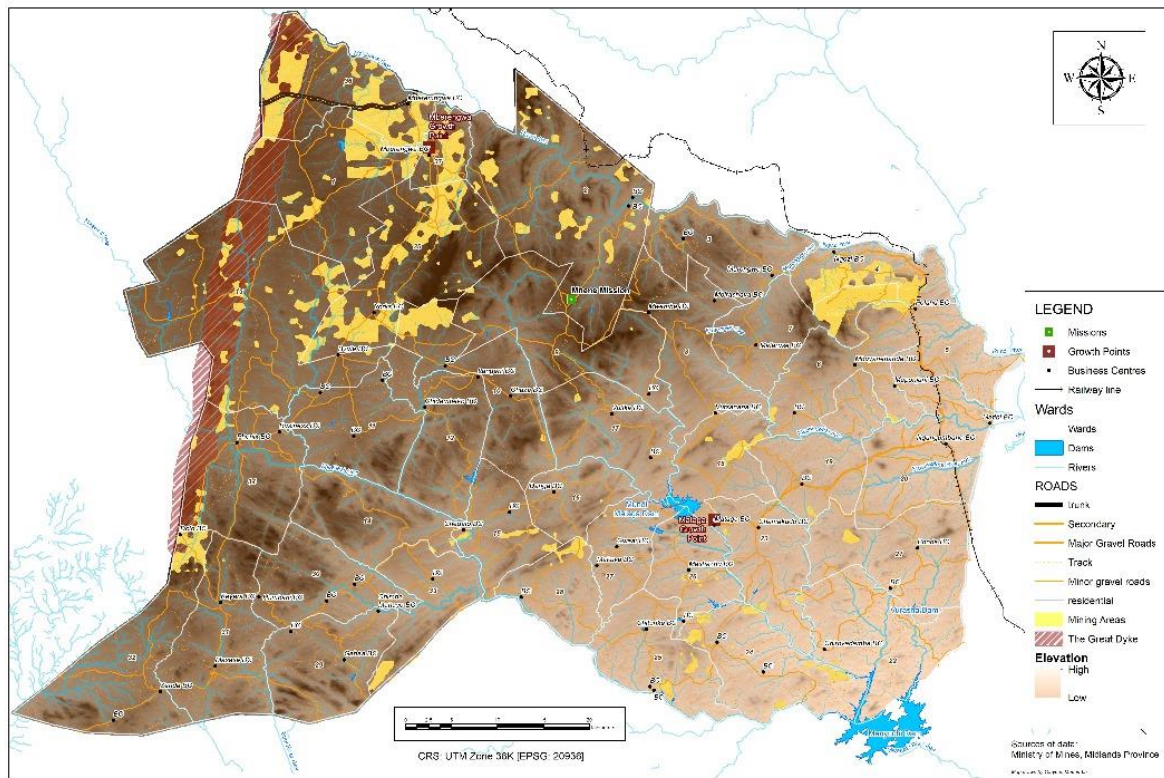


Table 8. Established Mining Activities in Mberengwa District

Mine name	location	Mineral	Status
Naldline	Ward 2	Limestone	Operating
Livetouch	Ward 2	Limestone	Operating
Inyala	Ward 26	Chrome	Resumption stage
C-mine	Ward 36	Gold	Unknown
Sandawana	Ward 33	Emeralds	Disused
Buchwa	Ward 4	Iron ore	Disused
Sandawana Area	Ward 29	Lithium	Not operational

There is also wide spread conflict between mining activities and agricultural activities as miners are invading and destroying farm land. Some miners are going to the extent of mining in important infrastructure such as dams, road shoulders, grazing areas and even in established human settlements. A proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be done before commencement of any mining

operation in order to see what are the environmental issues that will be a result of the mining operation in an area. However, most mining operation in the district are accused of operating without an EIA or an environmental management plan and this has resulted in wanton degradation of land. The EIA should show the complete picture of the risks that are associated with the mining activities. These disused mining shafts, which are not rehabilitated are traps to cattle and other livestock and this has been a major cause of concern for farmers who are losing their livestock after falling into these open pits. A lot of miners are also fencing off their claims thereby reducing grazing areas and this has resulted in conflicts between farmers and miner. There is therefore need for a proper cost benefit analysis to see which activity should be given priority after making an assessment of which activity gives more benefits than costs.

7. 5. Police Stations

Generally, the district is showing an upward trend in reported crimes. The crime hotspots in the district include; Marongwe Business; Ngungumbane business Centre, Sandawana mine, Mataga growth Point, Vutika Business Centre, Bonda business Centre; Matehwa Business Centre and Yorks Business Centre. Sandawana mine and the surrounding areas are proving to be a major crime spot in the district, as it is contributing more than 35% of the crimes committed in the district. Most of the police officers are housed outside the police camps mainly because of lack of housing at police stations. Buchwa mine is in serious housing shortage as there are no housing schemes introduced at the centre. Police is still using the old mine infrastructure Sandawan is reporting increasing cases of crime mainly because of the discovery of minerals such as lithium, which is causing a lot of conflict in the community. The Figure 16 below shows trends in crime rates in the district.

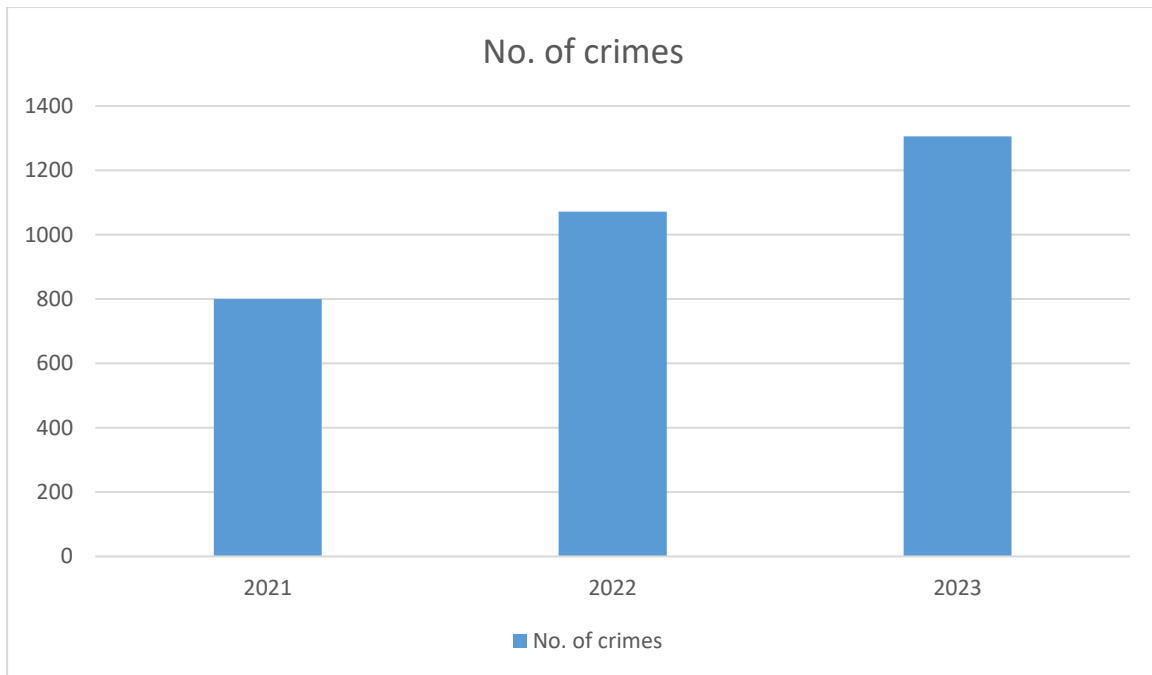


Fig. 16: Crime Rates in Mberengwa District

The district is not fully staffed in terms of police deployments, but they are complimented by police constabulary units and neighbourhood committees that are provided by the communities. Problems of fuel, transport, computers also compound the policing problems in Mberengwa district. For example a police station at Buchwa has no reliable vehicle and this is stifling their operations. There are also other bordering communities like Svita and Ngungumbane that are at pains in accessing police services, which calls for establishment of police post in these areas so that such services are accessible in these areas.

7.5 Housing

The right to decent housing has its roots in the Universal Declaration of Human rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). Availability and affordability of housing facilities remain a key fundamental right for every citizen. In addition, decent accommodation gives dignity to citizen. The Government of Zimbabwe is prioritising both housing and access to potable, safe running water in the provision of housing as provision of houses without these essential services will expose families and society to water borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid and other similar diseases. The Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities to lead in the provision of human settlements in a coordinated and sustainable manner to all Zimbabwe. Mberengwa District having 37 wards in total, and every citizen should be at least provided with adequate housing in line with the NDS1.

7.5.1 Housing Situation in Mberengwa District

The delivery of affordable and quality settlements in peri-urban and rural areas remains a huge challenge as the District continues to battle huge housing backlogs, particularly in semi-urban areas of Mberengwa centre and Mataga Growth point. These 2 major growth centres are in need of extensive expansion to match the ever increasing need of houses. Mberengwa Centre is fast growing and it has now out-paced Mataga growth point in terms of development. The table 9 below shows the current housing demand at Mataga and Mberengwa centre.

Table 9: Housing Demand at Rurban Centres of Mberengwa District

Area	Houses provided (by 2024)	Housing waiting list
Mberengwa Centre	2809	274
Mataga Growth Point	2100	19
Mberengwa Turn off	15	36
Total	4924	329

Mberengwa Centre is now housing more than 2809 houses and a waiting list of more than 274. Mberengwa Centres seems to be the centre of development at the present moment and it is growing very fast judging from the rate of development, it is estimated that by 2030 Mberengwa Centre will be holding more than 3512 houses. The development of Mberengwa Centre has been spared by active mining activities that is happening around the centre and greater accessibility as it is close to Bulawayo-Mutare road. The figure17 below shows the projected number of houses at Mberengwa centre up to the year 2039.

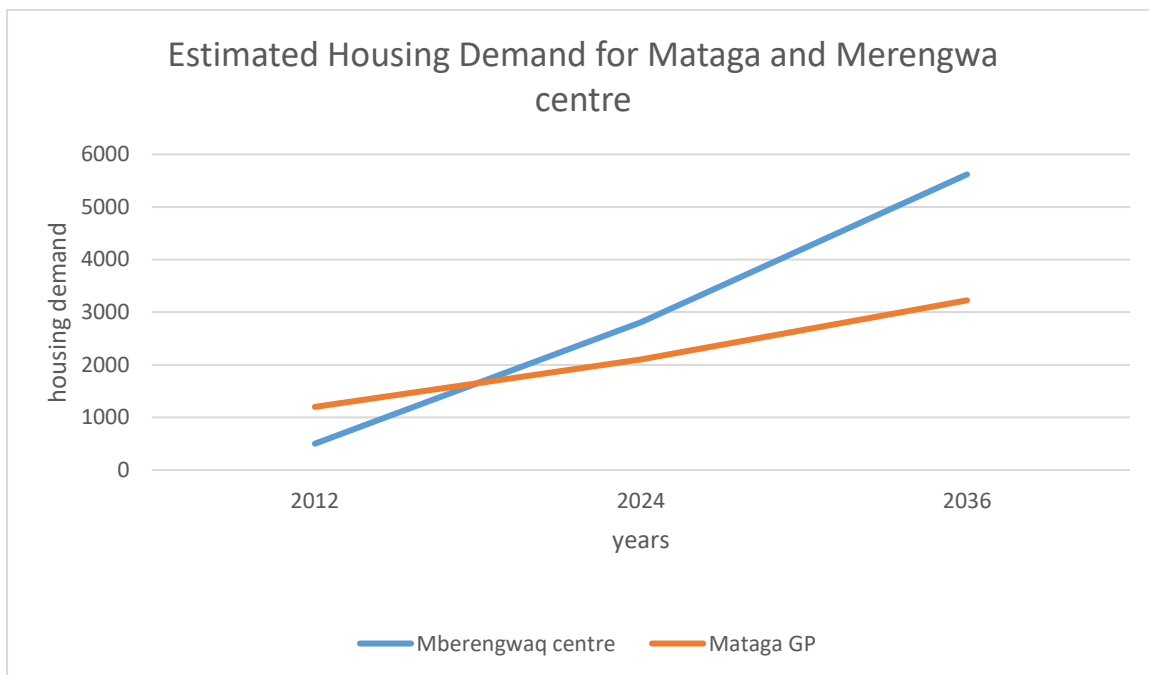


Fig: 17 Housing demand at Mberengwa Centre and Mataga Growth Point

The Mataga growth point has experienced stunted growth mainly because of poor road network and low economic activities in the area. Investors have therefore been favouring Mberengwa centre as an investment destination. However, the growth point has several housing problems. Chief among the housing problem at the centre is water and sewer reticulation. The water treatment plant at the centre is very small and can no longer cope with the huge water demand at the centre. The water source, which is Gwavamutangi dam is heavily silted so that it can no longer meet the growing demand, which now include irrigating smallholder gardens near the dam. There is therefore need to make use of Mundi-Mataga dam, which is the largest inland dam in the district and is the closest to Mataga growth point.

Most land around Mberengwa Centre is apparently under the leadership of Chiefs thus communal lands are difficult to acquire for residential purposes because of the number of people who are to be displaced to pave way for the expansion of the centre. The weak development control systems by the Local Authority, some community leaders have resorted to provide unplanned stands to home seekers in and around these rural centres in the district. Most of these settlements still lack basic services like roads and water.

A collaborative effort from the Government, Local Authorities, private sector players, NGOs as well as local communities, will be involved in the delivery of affordable and quality settlements in both urban and rural areas. The aim is to:

- Increase decent shelter for households;
- Improve land delivery for urban and rural housing;
- Increase access to basic services infrastructure; and
- Increase regularisation of informal settlements.

7.6.3 Strategies to Increase Shelter for Households

The District is planning to embark on sustainable housing delivery programmes that embrace cultural, economic, environmental and social aspects. Cultural sustainability will facilitate maintenance and protection of the heritage of different groups while enhancing equity, peace and stability prevailing. Provision of decent affordable housing and social amenities will make places more attractive, inclusive and competitive. The housing projects in rural areas aims to provide smart rural facilities at village level through modernisation of rural areas in line with the NDS1.

The district is looking forward for architects to design building plans with African flair. More social amenities will be introduced to meet residents' needs. This therefore calls for proper water and sewer reticulation services in all settlements in line with the Human Settlement policy of Zimbabwe. The local authority should work with government to provide off-site infrastructure such as waste management, sewer and water treatment and also their reticulation infrastructure. While it is government responsibility to provide off-site infrastructure, the local authority has the responsibility to provide on-site infrastructure so that the houses have reticulated water and sewer systems. However, at Mberengwa Centre, such infrastructure and services are barely provided as residents use communal taps for water and Blair toilets for sewer reticulation. Water at Mberengwa Centre is provided by ZNWA, which has installed three boreholes with a pumping capacity $15\text{m}^3/\text{hr}$, $9\text{m}^3/\text{hr}$ and $4.5\text{m}^3/\text{hr}$. These boreholes are failing to meet water demand at the centre, hence people are experiencing water rationing. Private Companies like Mimosa Mining Company, Delta Cooperation and NGOs are some of the players willing to come into the district and these can be contacted to form partnerships for provision housing and other social amenities. Already some NGOs are providing water and sanitation facilities in rural areas and at schools, which is helping to avert outbreaks of diseases.

The housing projects will give much consideration to issues of climate change in order to reduce effects of disasters. Moreover, housing structures should use locally available materials to reduce cost and make housing more affordable to rural people. In areas that are susceptible to natural disasters, technology should be applied in order to provide sustainable and resilient settlements. People should not be settled in areas that are prone to natural disasters such as flood and sloppy areas. In urban and peri-urban areas issues of densification will be of high priority in order to avoid urban sprawl. At Mataga a lot of land is not developed and this calls for densification so that land can be effectively used. Houses will be built in clusters in order to fully maximise the available land, which will also reduce cost of providing infrastructure. Collaboration with law enforcement agencies will ensure that there will be zero tolerance to corruption in the allocation of land in both Government and Local Authorities to enable access to land for all and enhanced social justice.

7.6.4 Land Delivery for Urban and Rural Housing

The growing population at Mberengwa Centre requires a proactive land management programme that will see land being availed for housing purposes. To cope with the demand of housing at Mberengwa Centre there is need for an estimated 168 hectares of land for housing delivery. The land at Mberengwa Centre is state land, which therefore calls for local authority to regularise the change of ownership, from state land into council land. This will pave way for issuance of secure land holding rights. The process of acquiring land for human settlement should be done through the relevant ministries as guided by the Human Settlement Policy. This process should also involve title surveying of the land, which will pave way for secure tenure to plot holders.

In rural areas there is need to plan villagised system in order to plan the villages for service provision. Rural local authorities are allowed by the settlement policy to design homesteads in a sustainable, resilient and efficient way. The planning and designs should be done in liaison with communities so as to design and plan for them and with them. So far a total of 7 Villages in rural settlements are set aside to be planned in this way. Land for housing will be acquired largely through land acquisition.

7.6.5 Access to Basic Services Infrastructure

Access to basic services infrastructure is of paramount importance for any sustainable development to take place. The proportion of households with access to basic services infrastructure is expected to increase from 4% in 2022 to 7% in 2025. The set target is underpinned by a collaborative effort in infrastructure and service delivery from the Government, private sector, civic organisations, NGOs and other development partners. There is need for more primary schools at Mberengwa centre because the only primary school is overwhelmed. The school is catering for more than 2000 pupils, but with bare minimal infrastructure. There is also one secondary school at the centre, which is catering for the centre and its surrounding farming areas. There is need for two more primary schools, a secondary school and a clinic in the residential areas. A clinic will reduce pressure on the district hospital.

7.6.6 Regularisation of Informal Settlements

Approximately 76 settlements across the Midlands Province are categorised as either irregular or dysfunctional because infrastructures are below the stipulated standards. In Mberengwa district, Vanguard settlement is one such case, which is a settlement mainly for informal mining activities around the area. The settlement was formerly a mining settlement, but now the mining activities have been abandoned and the area has been invaded by informal miners. There is no water

and sewer system in the settlement and people are using shallow water and rudimentary toilet system, which makes the area a health time bomb. Most of the people in this area are living in shacks, which are built with no planning order. There is need to provide for houses for them in line with the dictates of the National Human Settlement policy of Zimbabwe, which calls for local authorities and government to provide housing for these less privileged sectors of our society. The uncontrolled mining activities around this area has led to mushrooming of informal settlements. These settlements lack basic services such as water, sewer, roads, electricity and security of tenure amongst others, exposing the inhabitants to disease outbreaks. Government calls for regularisation of such informal settlements and sanitization of stressed housing development projects countrywide. This will entail provision of both off-site and on-site infrastructure and services to improve the housing condition of these inhabitants. Security of tenure should also be ensured to individual inhabitants during the regularisation process. The Vanguard area therefore needs to be upgraded and regularised so that residents could get clean water, power and sewer reticulation. The area is a hot spot for disease outbreaks hence the need for upgrading and regularisation. It is good to improve these settlements in-situ so that they don't disturb the livelihood activities that are around this place. The settlements should be regularised and supported in accordance to the district priority. This will go along the Nation Housing Policy, that advocate for upgrading of informal settlement so as to improve the lives of people staying in such settlements (GOZ 2020). It is now a district policy that housing schemes should prioritise infrastructure provision before any development are commenced. This will pave way for service provision before these schemes are occupied. All parallel developments are put on hold until the Housing Schemes fully comply with requirements for infrastructure provision for service provision. Off-site Infrastructure Master Plan such as waste management, water and sewer treatment will be crafted to enhance sustainable investment.

7.6.7 Rural Housing in Mberengwa District

In the communal and resettlement areas, the housing challenge is not really of homelessness, but the quality of housing and social amenities facilities. Some of the building materials are prone to the inclement natural disasters. The district is proposing housing models which cater for the cultural and religious beliefs of communities and also make consideration of the effects of climate change and allow for adoption of smart energy. Many communities (32%) in the district are using smart energy for lighting as they have installed solar powered lighting systems. This can also be complemented by designing rain water harvesting houses that will harvest water for use at household level and this will go a long way in mitigating effects of climate change CIAT . Provision of water is also a critical issue in rural housing. There is need to increase access to water facilities in the rural areas, and according to the research there is need for a water point in every village so that people can easily access water in the rural areas. Each and every homestead should also have a toilet to improve the sanitation issues in the rural areas. Currently such sanitary facilities are conspicuous by their absence at most homesteads.

There is also need for planned settlements, where housing, arable and grazing areas are properly planned in order to create sanity in the rural areas which is haphazardly developed and therefore creating land use conflicts. For example, the ever dwindling of grazing areas is causing villagers to graze their livestock in the arable lands and livestock are damaging crops. Stray animals, destroying crops is one of the major causes of crop failures in the district and communities were calling for creation of paddocks in order to protect crops from marauding livestock.

7.6.8 Institutional Housing in Mberengwa District

Institutional houses are meant to accommodate employees of a particular institution during the currency of their employment. These are not for sale to the sitting tenant. This will allow national government to retain an adequate stock of well-maintained housing to accommodate public sector officials. The district has been burdened by provision of institutional houses. Ministry of education and Health are the major custodians of institutional houses in Mberengwa district, because schools, hospitals and clinics are making efforts to provide houses for staff. Housing shortages in Mberengwa district is very dire in primary schools where several schools are experiencing serious shortages of staff housing. These primary schools include Dambashoko, Jeka, Mponjane, Mupandashango, Rwehanga, Sihanda. In secondary schools Murerezi, and Hwikwi are also experiencing shortages of staff housing. There is also need to provide institutional houses at various clinics in the district. In the health sector houses are still needed at the following clinics; Bayayi, Chebvute, Madekwana and Gwavamutangi where staff houses are at various level of construction.

CHAPTER 8

8. ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1 Infrastructure

8.1.1 Roads

Mberengwa RDC is a very rich district which is endowed with a lot of minerals and other economic activities that require a good road network for effective utilisation of these resources. The district road network can be categorised into high, medium and low density roads. The roads are predominantly gravel roads. The table 10 below shows how roads in Mberengwa district are constituted.

Table 10: The Major Roads in Mberengwa

NAME OF ROAD	KM	STATUS
West-Nicholson	51.5	25km is surfaced and the remainder is gravel road
Zvishavane – Rutenga	37km	45 km surfaced the rest is gravel
Zvishavane - Mbalabala	18km	surfaced
Mberengwa - Mataga	71km	5km is under construction through ERRP and the remainder is at evaluation stage
Ngungumbane-Mangava	111.4km	35km is tarred (but its badly damaged and needs repair) the rest is a gravel road. Recently part of the tarred road was surfaced through ERRP

Table11: Classification of Roads in Mberengwa Rural District

Type of Road	Number	Length (km)
Primary Roads	12	390
Secondary Roads	19	1020
Total	31	1410

Source Survey 2024

High density roads constitute the majority (390km), which represent 53.7% of the total length of the road network. The medium and low density roads constitute 10.8% and 35.4% respectively. These roads connect to very important and vibrant economic centres of the district, which include Sandawana mine, Inyala mine, C mine, the growth point, irrigation schemes at various centres in the district, and rural service centres. The conditions of these roads are in a very deplorable state with some of them being damaged to the extent that they are now causing an unbearable cost of doing business. Poor road infrastructure can cause a lot of overheads in terms of wear and tear on the vehicles, which discourages investors. The state of damage can also cause road users to use long alternative roads, which also increase the cost of doing business. The majority of the roads are not trafficable due to their state of disrepair. A total of 447 km of all roads are not passable and the most affected are the density roads. To compound this bad state of roads, is the state of bridges on these roads. Most of them are low-lying and very narrow, which make them impassable during rainy season. There is need to upgrade these bridges so that there is improved connectivity in the district. Figure 18 below shows the composition of roads that are impassable in Mberengwa district.

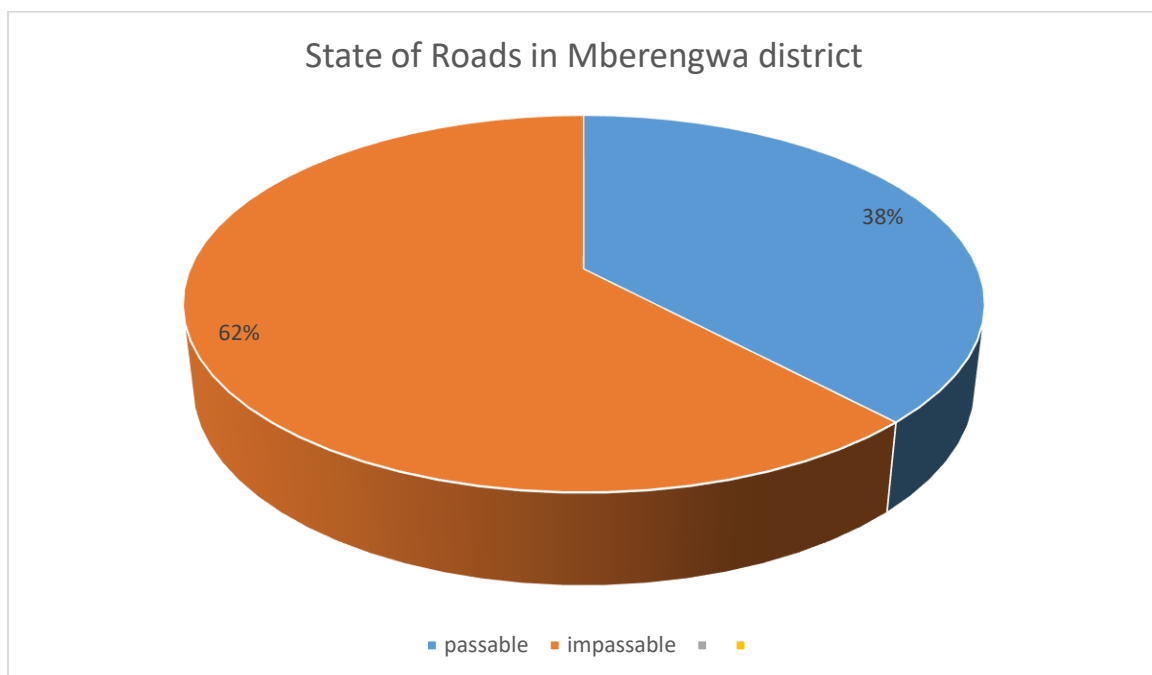


Fig. 18. State of Roads in Mberengwa District.

Most of the roads need gravelling but some have swept away bridges which needs to be repaired. Others have damaged structures that needs to be repaired. Some need to be re-done completely eg. Vutsanana-Ingezi road and Membwe-Chimimwe road because they are heavily damaged. The tarred road from Mataga growth point to Ngumbani is in very bad state, which needs resurfacing. This road is the shortest route to Beitbridge border post but its state makes people to use alternative roads, which are longer and hence expensive.

Map 15 below shows the road network in Mberengwa Rural District Council (including informal ones)

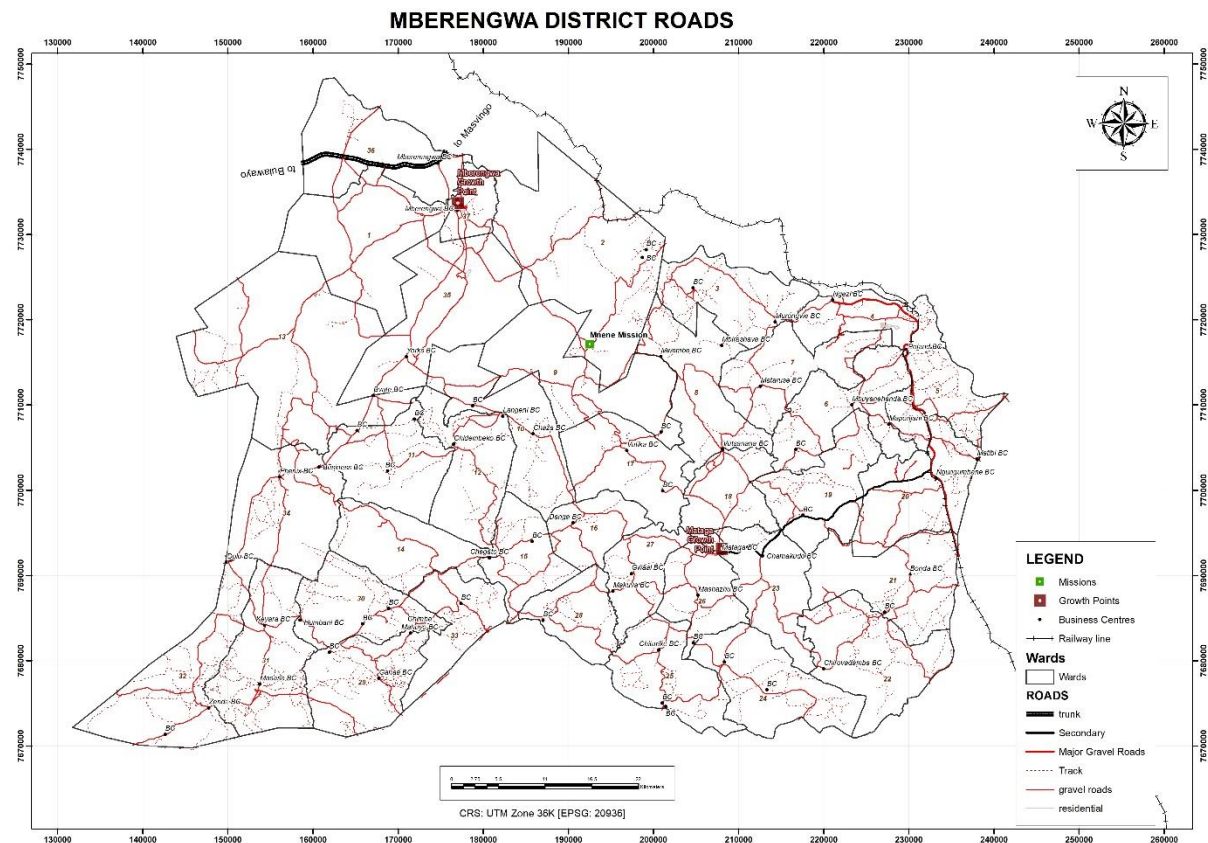


Fig 18: Roads that need to be tarred in Mberengwa District

Mberengwa – West Nicholson	- 26.5 km
Zvishavane- Rutenga road	- 37km
Mberengwa –Matage	- 66km
Ngumbane Mangava Road	-79km

There are also damaged bridges that needs rehabilitation and the table 12 below shows the bridge name, the road and what needs to be done.

Table 12 : Bridges that Need to done in Mberengwa District

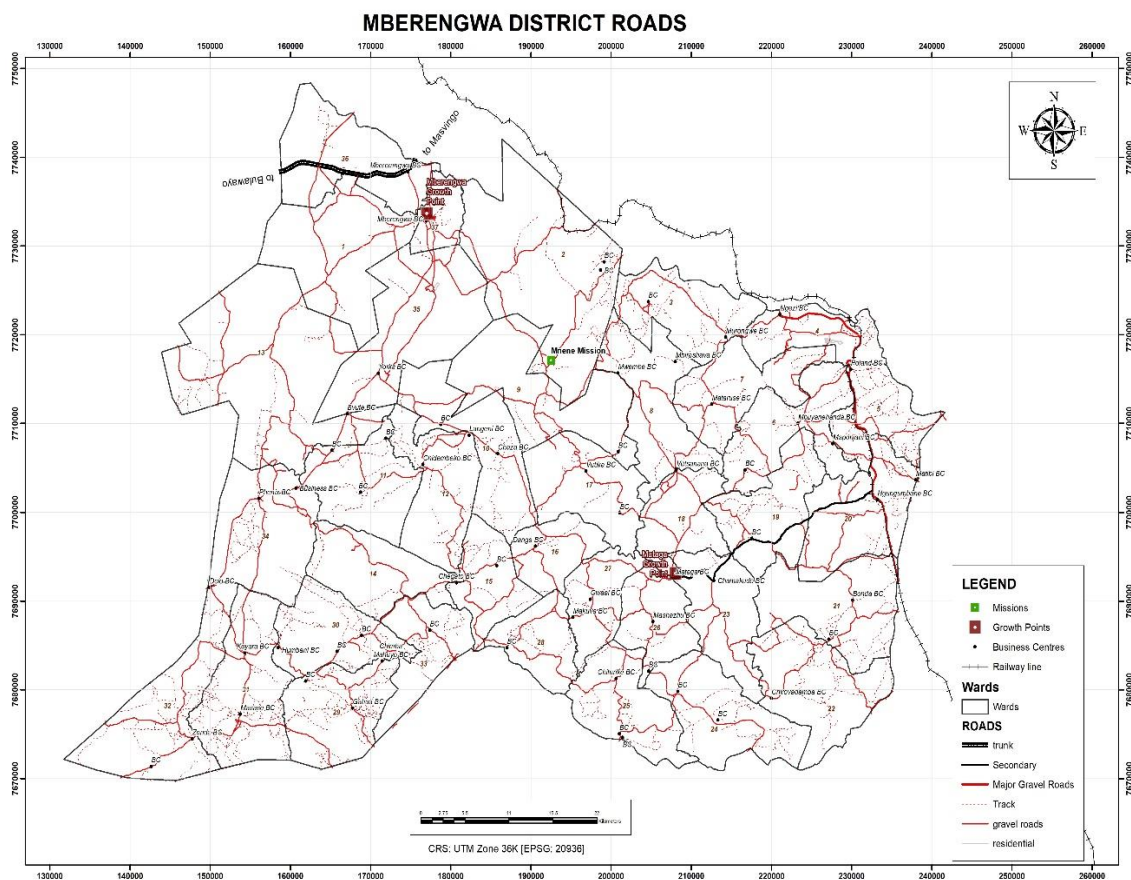
Bridge	ROAD NAME	RIVER	STATUS/ COMMENT
Jeka Tandavari	Ngungumbane -Mangava	Mwanezi	The bridge is a make-shift
Phoenix dam Natbridge	Mwanezi Keyara road	Mwanezi	The bridge needs completion
Mambori	Ingezi - Vutsanana	Mambori	The bridge needs construction

8.2 Business Centres and Rural Service Centres

There are several business centres and rural service centres in the district. Mataga is the district growth point, according to development process, growth points are supposed to be poles of growth that should transmit development to other areas around the district. These poles of growth were established by a presidential proclamation that was done soon after independence. These poles of growth were incentivised by the government so that they promote development in rural areas. The government introduced a suite of incentives to create growth points in each district, which will act as poles of growth.

Mataga Centre is supposed to be a pole of growth that should drive development in Mberengwa district. There are other rural service centres that are dotted around the district and these centres include; Jeka, Masase, Musume, Poland/Hwikwi, Danga, York/Kushinga, Mberengwa Centre, Mberengwa Turn-off and Neta, which are offering services to the people. Most of these rural service centres are offering health, commercial, administrative, agricultural and mining services. Mberengwa Centre is fast growing and has already out passed Mataga growth point and is a good centre to develop into an urban centre for the district. The developments at the centre are driven by good road network and a rich mineral deposits around the area. There are several mining activities around Mberengwa Centre, which is driving development. These service centres are also supported by business centres that offer lower order services to the people. The map 16 below shows rural service centres and business centres in Mberengwa district.

Map 16: Business Centres in Mberengwa District



8.3 Water

The water situation in Mberengwa district is very dire mainly because it is in agro-ecological regions 4 and 5, which receives an annual rainfall ranging between 450mm- 650mm. This rainfall regime does not help much in a predominantly agro-based based economy of the district. There is therefore need to adopt water harvesting techniques that will store water for use in the district. Currently there are four major dams in the district and Mundi-Mataga is the largest inland dam in the district with a capacity of 38 827 mega litres. Other dams include Manyuchi, Chimwe, Gwavamutangi, Biri, Vurasha, Zvavachari and Makuva. Table13 shows major dams, their location, size and agricultural activities around the dam.

Table 13: Major Dams in Mberengwa Rural District Council

Dam	Capacity(mega litres)	Location	Activities	Capacity to Irrigate(ha)
Mundi-Mataga	38827	Ward 16	Irrigating Biri, Inyala, Chemakudo and Chaora irrigation schemes	737
Biri	23 00	26	Old Biri irrigation scheme	117
Vurasha	22 00	22	Vurasha irrigation scheme	27
Gwavamutangi (weir)	unkown	26	Supply water at Mataga growth point	Weir
Zvavachari	3500	26		12
Mukuva	unknown	28	Makuva irrigation scheme	6
Chimwe	6416	11	Chimwe and Chegato schemes	64
Manyuchi	No irrigation	22	No irrigation scheme	No irrigation
Total				951

There are other small dams, which are largely in form of weirs whose capacity is not known and these include: Mponjani dam, Zikali. Bonda; Imbahuru; Gwehanga; Murongwe; Mbizvo; Chipinda; Danga; Vurayai; Mapunya; Mubaiwa; Mudzidzi and Chiwara. These small dams are only used to irrigate small gardens and for animal drinking. There are also water bodies that were created as a result of mining activities in the district. At Neta, the disused mines have been collecting water that is used to irrigate Neta Irrigation Scheme. Similar facility is lying idle at Buchwa mine, were a disused mine has collected water with a capacity to irrigate over a 1000 hectares of land.

8.3.1 Boreholes

Most of the rural communities are being serviced by boreholes that are drilled in partnerships with local authority, the government and non-governmental organisation. There are over a 1000 water points in the district, which includes schools, clinics and villages. However, the distribution of boreholes in the district does not allow all people easy access to clean water. In most cases three villages share a borehole and in some extreme cases for example in ward 37, a population of 1683 is sharing only 7 boreholes. There are also high yielding boreholes such as those at Mahole, Zherekezhe and Gomututu, which are estimated to have a capacity to irrigate a total of 1000ha but they are underutilised at the moment because there is no irrigation infrastructure near them. These boreholes have been surviving the most severe drought ever since. These boreholes can be used to start small irrigation schemes that can improve food security in the district. The map 18 below shows the boreholes that are in Mberengwa district.

Map 18: Distribution of Boreholes in Mberengwa Rural District Council

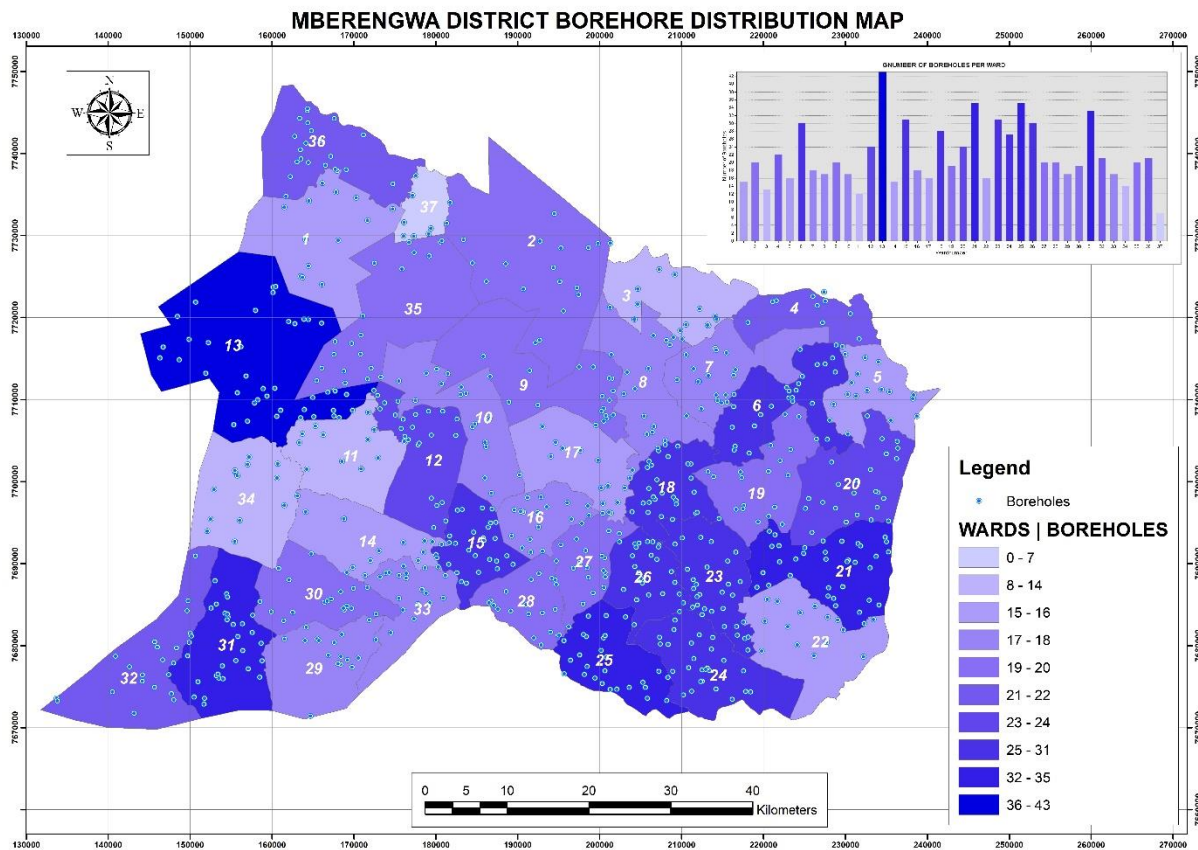


Table 14: Borehole distribution in the district

Borehole Owners	Number of Boreholes
Business Centre	70
Church	7
Communal	1529
Primary Schools	75
Secondary Schools	53
Health centres	31
Early Childhood Development	3

8.3.2 Dams.

Huge efforts have been done in Mberengwa district to build water bodies that can harvest water during the rainy season for use in drier periods. However, these

water bodies' life span is threatened due to poor catchment area management, which is causing heavy siltation in these dams. The siltation is in turn threatening the viability of agricultural activities around these dams. For example, in Mberengwa East, the following dams need scooping to remove silted sand; Zvematobwe; Chipinda, Chiwara, Bayayi, Mponjani, and Murerezi. While all these dams need rehabilitation, there is shortage of equipment to carry out the scooping exercise. The rural district council does not have such equipment. The available earth movement equipment is on high demand to rehabilitate the road network that is heavily damaged and impassable. The fleet has also been affected by lack of fuel to do the road rehabilitation, which makes it difficult to engage in other activities such as dam scooping. There has been some illegal mining along most rivers in Mberengwa and this has been a chief cause of dam siltation. The illegal mining activities need to be controlled in order to control the siltation in these water bodies.

8.3.3 Water situation at Mberengwa Centre and Mataga Growth Points

Mberengwa centre is a fast growing rural service centre which is now comprising of over 2000 houses, a district hospital, a prison, a primary school a secondary School and several government offices. The centre has now outgrown the Mataga, which is a designated growth point. However, the water situation at the centre is very dire. Residents are experiencing long hours of water rationing due to water shortages. The centre is serviced by only 3 boreholes with a total capacity of delivering 28.7 cubic metres per hour. The centre does not have a water treatment plant or a sewer treatment system. It also requires a more reliable water source in form of a dam with the right capacity. Residents at Mberengwa Centre are experiencing a severe water rationing as the system cannot manage to satisfy the demand. Most of the houses at the centre are using Blair toilets because of lack of water and this is exposing them to disease outbreaks. Figure 20 below shows the residents at Mberengwa centre queuing for water at the council offices.



Fig: 20 Water queues at Mberengwa Centre

The situation is not any different at Mataga growth point, where water is being rationed for a long time. The water treatment plant at Gwanamutangi dam is failing to supply clean water as it is small and is overwhelmed by demand. People are relying on boreholes and open wells. The dam has a capacity of only 1000 mega litres and this is not enough to meet the demand at Mataga growth point. The water shortages at Mataga growth point is perennial despite the existence of a very large dam inland just close by. The Mundi-Mataga dam is the largest inland water body in the district with a capacity of 38 827 mega litres. The dam is only used for irrigation of the Biri Extension irrigation scheme as there is no water treatment plant at the dam to clean water for domestic purposes at the growth point. The Gwavamutangi dam is only a weir hence too small to supply the Mataga growth point with safe drinking water.

Access to water is a very important issue as we drive towards upper-middle class economy. The government thrust in the NDS1 is to improved water supply by increasing the proportion of the country's population using a secure, potable drinking water. The target is to increase access to potable water from 77.3% to at least 90% by 2025 and water storage capacity from the current 15.423×10^6 mega litres to 16.979×10^6 mega litres by 2025. (GOZ 2020)

8.4 Energy

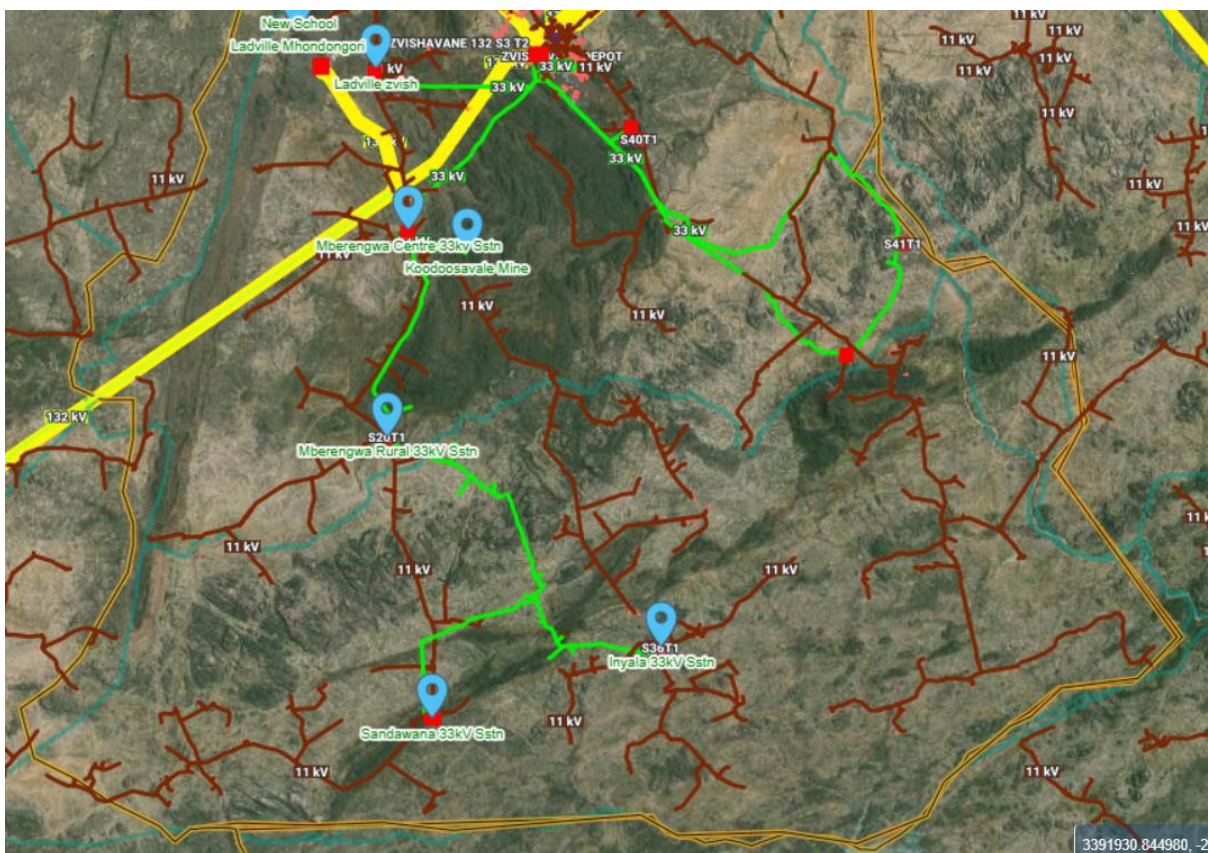
Energy is a very good driver of the economy. All industries and households are driven by energy. Zimbabwe currently has a national electrification rate of 42%, of which urban areas have 83% while rural is only 13% as per the National Energy Policy of 2012. The country has an installed capacity of about 2,300 MW, where Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), is generating around 95% and the bulk of it (more than 50%) is generated from hydropower power and the remainder is from thermal power plants, Bagasse, mini hydropower and small sized grid connected solar systems which is contributing about 130MW. The actual power generation according to 2019 estimates is just below 1000 megawatts and this is against a peak demand of 1700 megawatts. The country is therefore importing a total of 350 megawatts from Mozambique and South Africa to cater for the energy deficit but still we have a deficit of 350 megawatts. Zimbabwe has the potential to generate 15-20 MJ/m²/day but this capacity is not utilised.

Mberengwa district is fed by two 33kV feeders emanating from Zvishavane 132/33kV substation. The feeders are Mberengwa 33kV feeder with a 2023 peak demand of 5.29MVA and Zvishavane South 33kV feeder which had a 2023 peak demand of 5.44MVA. However, for Zvishavane South feeder, the load that is in Mberengwa district is 1.32MVA (Buchwa substation). Mberengwa feeder supplies load to 5 primary substations that is Mberengwa Centre substation, Mberengwa Rural substation, Livetouch substation, Inyala substation and Sandawana substation while Zvishavane South feeder only supplies load to Buchwa substation in Mberengwa district. The map below shows the distribution of power in Mberengwa District. The yellow line represents the bulk 334kv line, while the green line shows the 33kv line and the red line shows the 11kv line, which is the line distributing electricity to consumers. The network of distribution shows that electricity is fairly distributed in the districts, but there are still a lot of areas that still do not have infrastructure for electricity distribution. Most of the

border lining areas have no power distribution infrastructure and hence do not have access to electricity.

Another clearly observed feature in the distribution of electricity in Mberengwa district is that the generality of rural people have no access to electricity. It is only the chief’s homesteads, some schools and business centres that have access to electricity. However almost all chief’s homesteads have been electrified. The distribution to other members of the community has not commenced.

Electricity Network in Mberengwa District



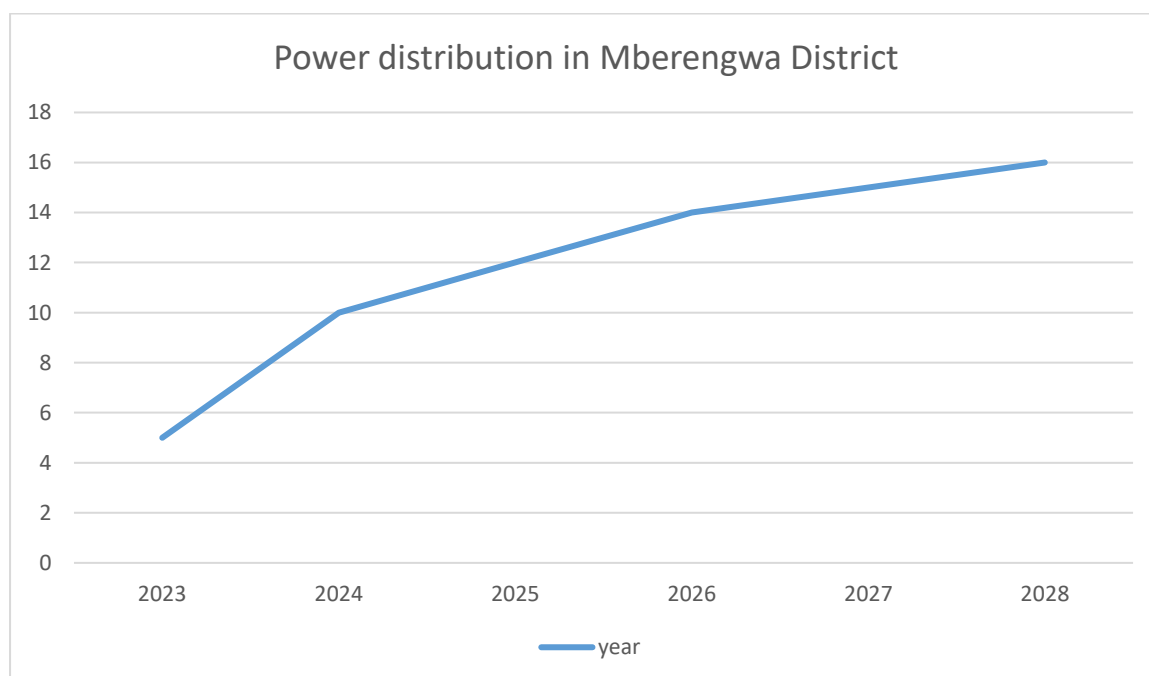
**Map19 . Network Overview of Mberengwa District
Mberengwa 33kV Feeder**

The feeder is rated 14.33MVA and had a peak demand of 5.29MVA in 2023. The feeder is expected to reach 9.42MVA in 2024 and 15.71MVA by 2028. The feeder load forecast is tabled below;

Table 15. Electricity demand in Mberengwa District 2034-2028

Substation	Capacity(MVA)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Mberengwa S5	1X2	2.26	2.27	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
New Mberengwa S5	2X5	00.00	00.00	4.57	5.57	6.13	6.74
Koodoovale Mine	1X2.5	00.00	1,25	1.38	1.51	1.66	1.83
Mberengwa South	1X2	1.34	1.95	1.15	1.17	1.2	1.22
Inyala	1X3	0,06	1,41	1.42	1.43	1.44	1.45
Sandawana	1X2						
Avoseh mine	2X2	00.00	1.4	2.8	2.94	3.09	3.24
Mberengwa local board	00	0.00	0.26	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.32
Feeder Total		5.29	9.42	12.24	13.64	14.63	15.71

The Projected Electricity Demand (MVA) Mberengwa District (2023-2028)



1. Mberengwa S5 33/11kV Substation – Substation to be decommissioned in December 2024 at the commissioning of new Mberengwa substation. The

substation has a historical load of 2.39MVA and a 2023 actual load was 2.26MVA. One of the 2MVA transformers failed in 2018 and transferred some load to Mberengwa S20 substation. New substation under construction and expected to be completed by end of 2024. The load to be transferred to the new substation.

2. Mberengwa S5 33/11kV Substation – (New) - Expected to be commissioned by December 2024 and to pick 2.26 Mberengwa S5 load and 1.5 MVA Zimasco load in addition to 0.8 MVA load transferred to Mberengwa S20 substation. The period 2027 – 2028 is expected to have a load growth of 10% from housing developments around Mberengwa centre.

3. Livetouch Koodoosvale 33/11kV Substation - New substation commissioned in March 2024 with an installed capacity of 2.5MVA and an initial load of 1.25MVA. Load expected to grow at 10 % per annum for the 2025-2028 period as the mine develops further.

4. Mberengwa S20 33/11kV Substation - Historical load of 0.44MVA had a 2023 actual load of 1.34 MVA. Yanlin has a capacity of 1MVA at 0.6 Load Factor to be commissioned in Q3 2024. Another load of 0.8 MVA to be transferred back to Mberengwa S5 in December 2024. The period 2025-2028 is expected a load growth of 2% per annum.

5. Inyala substation 33/11kV Substation – Has a historical load of 0.6MVA and in 2023it recorded an actual load of 1. 06MVA. The substation is supposed to add another load from Africa Jin Baily of 500kVA at 0.6 Load Factoris supposed to be commissioned Q4 2024. Projected growth of 1% from 2025 to 2028.

6. Avoseh Mine 33/0.4kV Substation - Avoseh Investments has applied for 5MVA. First phase to be commissioned by December 2024 with 3MVA. Second phase to be commissioned by June 2025 with 2MVA. The expected growth for 2026- 2028 is 3%.

7. Sandawana 33/11kV Substation – Historical load of 0.57MVA and 2023 actual load is 0.63MVA. Projected for 2024 is 0.84MVA. The expected growth for 2025-2028 is 10%, there has been a lot of activity in the area due to lithium discoveries

8. Mberengwa 33kV Local Load (33/0.4kV) – Historical load is 0.23MVA and 2023 actual load is 0. 26MVA. Projected load for 2024 is 0.3MVA.

The electricity demand in Mberengwa district is showing an upward spiral, a development which is coming against a 700 megawatt power deficit. This therefore calls for other sources of energy that can supplement the current supply.

The major sources of energy in Mberengwa district are: solar, wind, electricity, LP gas, paraffin and biogas. Electricity is a very important source of energy and a critical driver of industrial activities. The majority of households (56.7%) in Mberengwa district have access to any form of power, while (32.4%) of the households in Mberengwa District are using green energy in form of solar energy. Only a few (4.9%) are connected to national electricity grid and a minority (0.5%) are connected to local mining electricity grid. Very few generate their power from generators and wind mainly because generators are expensive and wind has no infrastructure to generate power (Zimstat 2022). Figure 21 below shows house source of power in Mberengwa District.

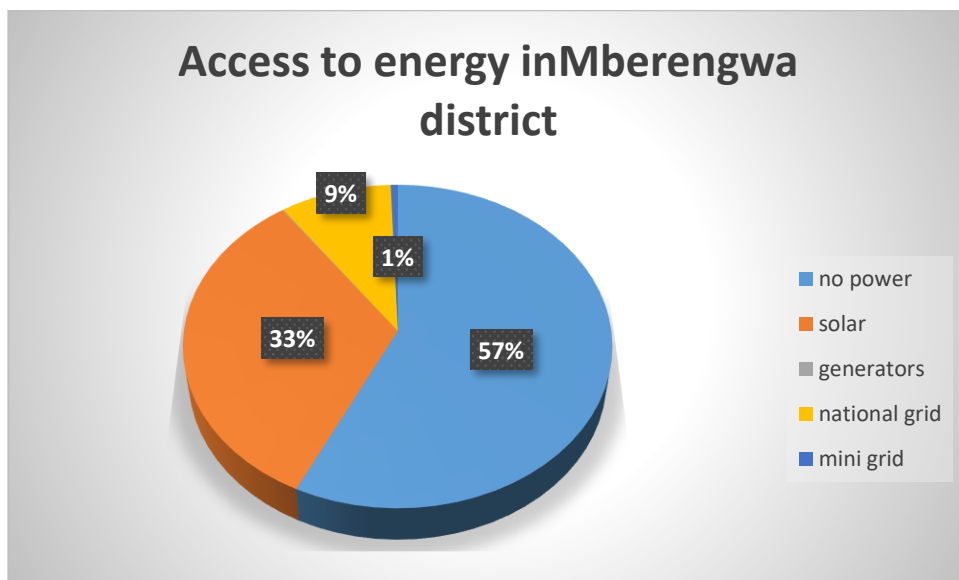


Fig. 21 Sources of Energy in Mberengwa District

Solar energy is the most preferred source of energy especially in the rural areas and they are using it mostly for lights. It is also used to power water systems to provide piped water in some villages and other institutions such as schools and hospitals. The use of clean energy is a positive step towards achieving an upper middle class economy. The Zimbabwe Renewable Energy policy is pushing towards use of clean and sustainable energy as a way of driving towards vision 2030. Clean sources of energy will improve people's quality of life through; social upliftment, gender equality and employment creation. According to

Zimbabwe National Renewable Energy Policy, the country is targeting a generation capacity of 2100 megawatts of clean and sustainable energy by 2030. This should improve the contribution of clean energy from a mere 5% in 2017 to over 27% by 2030 and this will be a major step towards uplifting of quality of life especially in rural areas where there is great need for power. This will also be complemented by installation of more than 250 000 solar geysers in old and new buildings. Other clean and sustainable sources of energy that are being championed by the renewable energy policy include; biogas digesters, and solar water pumping systems. These off the grid sources of energy are likely to increase energy access especially in rural areas.

Rural Electrification Fund is mainly mandated to provide electricity in the greater rural part of Zimbabwe. The agency is using three technologies to supply energy in rural areas. The first technology, which is more popular is the grid system, which aims to connect rural areas to the main electricity grid system. The second technology is the solar, where they are installing solar systems to power rural institutions. The third technology is the biogas system where they are building biogas plants at rural institution so that they provide power for heating. The major problem with biogas plants is that the project is fiscally funded and funds are not trickling at the required pace, hence poor progress. So far they have only installed one at Chegato secondary school.

The Rural Electrification agency is approaching this service using a four pronged approach. Their aim is to provide power at household level. The first tier in their energy provision system is to provide a lantern that will provide lights at each household. This will enable households and school children to do their school work at home. The second tier is the one that provides lighting lantern and power charging system. This will allow villagers to have lights in their houses and also charge their gadgets such as phones. The third tier is the one that have lights, charging system and cooking facilities. The last tier will provide power for all household use including some economic activities such as irrigation. All these

facilities will be provided by an off the grid power supply system, which is mainly from solar. This system is augmented by a grid power supply system, where Rural Electrification Agency will be connecting rural areas to the main power supply grid of the country. Their first point of call are rural institutions such as schools, clinics, and chief’s homesteads. So far they have electrified all chieftainships in the district and they are working on connecting the new chiefs that have been installed. The table 16 below shows the chiefs that have been connected to the main power grid of the country. They have also electrified some schools and clinics ant tier target is to first electrify all schools and clinics

Table 16. Chiefs and their connection Status

Chief	Electrification status	
	chieftanship	current
Ngungumbane	grid	grid
Mtepaidze	grid	grid
Nyamondo	grid	Yet to install
Mahlebadza	grid	grid
Mketi	solar	solar
Mudavanhu	grid	grid
Negove	grid	grid
Maziofa	grid	Yet to install
Mataga	grid	grid
Mataruse	grid	grid
Mataruse	grid	grid
Chingoma	grid	Yet to install
Chizungu	grid	grid
Bvute	grid	grid
Mposi	grid	grid
Mapiravana	grid	grid

The other sources of energy in country include wood fuel, coal, electricity and petroleum products (see figure above). However most of the rural areas and some urban areas still do not have access to electricity because there is persistent lack of adequate and reliable electricity supply in Zimbabwe and this has significantly affected the economy. The over reliance on fossil fuel as primary energy source is leading to wide spread deforestation and pollutes the environment.

The Zimbabwe National Renewable Energy Policy seeks to achieve the following:

- Overall development of the energy sector in the country resulting in the economic and social empowerment of the citizens.
- Develop sustainable energy resource for the country which will not only benefit the current generation but also create a sustainable future.
- Create a balance between project viability and affordable energy cost to
- provide citizens of Zimbabwe with cleaner, greener and cheaper energy options.
- Reduce the carbon intensity of energy as well as increasing energy access to make it available to everyone.
- To achieve a Gender Just Society where men and women, boys and girls, enjoy equality and equity, and participate as equal partners in the development process of the country.
- Promotes development of Renewable Energy resource to create opportunities for better health, employment and income generation equally for men and women, boys and girls.

The renewable energy policy comes in to support the broader energy policy that seeks to achieve:

- Applicable energy- provide energy that is energy that is responsive to the needs of stakeholders
- Acceptable Energy – energy that is supplied in acceptable standards in terms of technical quality, social and environmental sustainability.
- Affordability- there should be cost effectiveness in pricing energy so that it promotes the needs of investors and also balance it with the affordability of customers.
- Accountability- every power project should have someone who is accountable for development implementation and monitoring.
- Availability- the State should make sure that the infrastructure for energy
- is adequate for the production, transportation, delivery and utilisation of energy services

8.5 Communication

The district has electricity network coverage which stands at 10.8% according to census 2012. Almost 98% of secondary schools in the district are electrified but most of them have no ICT infrastructure as only 21 schools (both secondary and primary) have functional ICT infrastructure. Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has been complementing Zimbabwe Electricity Distribution Company in extending electricity network in the district, but their coverage has been very slow as most of the rural areas are without electricity. In fact, the whole district has only 4.9% of households with access to electricity and most of these are at rural growth points and rural service centres.

Netone, Econet and Telecel have installed boosters in some parts of the district to enable communities to communicate easily. However, the district seems to heavily rely on Netone network coverage as the other two network provider have very poor connectivity in the district. There is no network coverage in wards 21, 22, 23, 19 and the upper Manyuchi region need to be covered by network providers. The over subscription of network is causing poor trafficking of network in the district, which calls for expansion of boosters so as to cover the

whole district efficiently. The provision and availability of internet is very important in the education system for easy access of information from the internet and teaching of ict. This can also link the district with the global village and make information available to both learners and teachers. However, there are still other places that are not covered by any network. The Netone network is the most widely used network because of coverage, while other networks have restricted coverage. There is need for more service providers in the district so as to create competition, which will benefit the community.

8.6 Transport`

The district has a wide range mode of transport that includes from buses, haulage transport, commuter omni buses and private pirating taxis. The private pirating taxis are the major transport providers in the district and they are dominating in the following routes; Zvishavane- Mberengwa office, Zvishavane Mataga, Mataga–Danga and many other routes in and around the district. The pirating taxis are providing connectivity to most rural areas as they have established routes that pass through many villages that are far away from main roads and this has provided convenience to the travelling public. Some of these informal transporters have shown that there is order among themselves, especially those plying routes into rural Mberengwa, as they are giving each other chances to load and there are no wars associated with other informal transport systems. Some even have their own rank marshals who gives order to the transporters and make sure that there is order among them. There are few buses plying Mberengwa routes. The few that are available are plying Mberengwa - Zvishavane route and very few are going to Harare. Travellers are therefore forced to take their journeys in pieces, for example if you want to go to Bulawayo, you will first take a bus to Mberengwa turn-off and catch a connecting bus to Bulawayo, which is always expensive for travellers. The same applies to other travellers that want to go to Harare, they will catch a bust to Zvishavane, then connect to Harare. Most bus operators are shunning Mberengwa routes because of the state of roads, which

they say is too expensive because of wear and tear that is suffered by their transport vehicles. There is need to provide more public transport in the district and this will mean provision of cheaper means of transport in the district. A cheaper means of transport means that a lot of people in the villages that are into different economic activities can transport their goods to better markets elsewhere in and out the district.

The haulage trucks are dominating routes to major mining areas such as Sandawana, Inyala, C-Mine and the West-Nicholson roads. The district has no resting place for haulage truck drivers as there are no truck-in services in the district. The drivers will get such services along Harare- Beitbridge road or along Bulawayo Victoria Falls road, for those that will be going to Beitbridge and Victoria Falls border posts respectively. Providing such services in the district will allow some economic activities to happen in the district. So far the district is pushing such activities to other districts, which have such facilities and they are losing out economically.

Railway Transport

Railway system in the district is such that it does not service the major economic activities in the district. The district has several mining areas that include Inyala, Sandawana, C-Mine and several small scale mining claims but these areas are not connected to the rail system. This makes the business in the district to rely on expensive road transport system. The over reliance on road transport system in the district has caused extensive damage to the road network in the district because huge trucks are used to transport goods to and from mining areas. The use of railway system will reduce the amount of damage that is caused by use of haulage trucks. There is need to connect the growth point to railway network because Mataga growth point is housing the Grain Marketing Board of the district, hence connection to the railway system will enable affordable transportation food in and out the district. The district is always in food deficit, which calls for transportation of food from other centres. This mode of transport

will allow food to be sold at cheaper prices. Centres in the southern areas can be connected using the Ngungumbane line, which can connect Mataga growth point, Inyala Mine, and Sandawan Mine. Mataga is also an areas dominated by agri-business activities, hence the provision of railway system will allow people in the irrigation areas to sell their products to other centres outside the district. The northern centres can be connected Zvishavane side, at Oreti. This is shorter as it will only need 91km of rail to connect to the chrome mining fields at Neta and the surrounding mining areas.

8.7 Sanitation and Hygiene

Water and Sanitation coverage remains low in the district leading to a number of diarrhoea outbreaks especially during the dry periods of the year. The district is currently battling to control cholera due to sporadic outbreaks throughout the district. The risk of cholera remains high due to poor Water Sanitation and Hygiene coverages. The district has a total of 18 084 households without toilets and therefore using bush or field system Goz . There are also a significant other who are using some unorthodox systems of waste disposal such as use of open pits, bucket system and composting. Such waste disposal systems expose households to disease such as cholera and typhoid, which have been increasing in the periods 2022-20223. These cases have been exacerbated by dwindling WASH programmes in the district, which were stopped in 2016 due to financial constraints. Sanitation interventions were also affected by perennial droughts, which saw funds being prioritised to avert food insecurity. The district has tried to increase the establishment of Environmental Health Technicians by establishing one in each Ward to help diseases surveillance and supervision of construction of sanitation infrastructure, however with poor funding such intervention yields very little. In many villages in the outlying villages, toilets are a rare infrastructure at a homestead and this exposes the whole village to diseases

outbreaks. Some strategies put in place to improve Sanitation in the district include:

- Engagement of community leadership and influential personnel on improving sanitation issues
- Community triggering training of builders to help establishment of building brigades in the construction of toilets
- Supervision of latrine construction
- Sanitary inspections
- Trainings of Community Health Workers at village level.
- Participatory health and hygiene sessions by community member to create sanitation awareness
- Formation and activation of community health clubs
- Formation and activation of school health clubs to teach children on the necessity of community health

There are also some interventions to improve the water quality in the district in order to provide access to clean water, which will help in fighting diseases in the district. These strategies include:

- Water point sanitary inspections
- Water Quality monitoring
- Distribution of aqua tablets, which will help to clean water
- Health Education

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