

Chibombo District Profile

Chibombo is a given name of the Lenje tribe, meaning: a bad omen associated with drowning. It evolved from Mukuni Native Authority to Lenje Native Authority before being declared a district in 1976.

Chibombo district is located 95KMs north of the capital city, Lusaka and 45 KMs south-west of Kabwe on the Great North Road. Chibombo is a home of the Lukanga swamp, a wetland in Central Zambia which for hundreds of years has supported indigenous people. It lies between latitudes 14°25' and 15° South of the Equator with a surface area of 13,423 square kilometers. The district borders with Serenje district to the Northeast, Masaiti district and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the North, Luano to the South and Kapiri Mposhi to the Southeast.

Chibombo district has two constituencies namely Keembe and Katuba and twenty-one wards namely: Chikobo, Chitanda, Katuba, Chibombo, Chunga, Ipongo, Mundu, Kakoma, Keembe, Chaloshi, Kabile, Muchenje, Mashikili, Mungule Chilochabalenje, Kalola, Malambanyama, Lunjofwa, Cholokelo, Itumbwe and Kamaila.

According to the 2010 Census, Chibombo district had a total population of 199,626 of which 100,409 were females while 99,217 were males. Mungule ward had the highest population of 25,613 with a surface area of 65.26 square and Chikobo had the lowest population of 5,778 with 53.21 square kilometers surface area. The population growth rate being at 2.6%, the 2020 population was estimated to be 655,158.

The main economic activity in Chibombo district is agriculture. The farmers mainly grow maize, cotton and wheat and a few other vegetables, watermelons, butter nuts to mention a few. Fishing is also done at the Lukanga swamps and livestock rearing being the mainstay of the people's livelihoods which can be attributed to the presence of the biggest beef processor in the country, Zambeef. An Oil processing plant has been set up by Mt Meru which has come with economic benefits in terms of jobs for the residents and has sprouted out several infrastructures in the district. Livelihood activities in this area rely mostly on charcoal production and fishing, apart from small-scale vegetable gardens. Charcoal making in forest reserves such as Lukulaisho and Lunjofwa forest reserve; and illegal quarrying and sand mining in Katuba and Kamaila areas which have resulted in burrow pits.

There are three main Chiefs in the district namely Chieftainess Mungule, Chief Liteta and Chief Chitanda and the district is a predominately Lenje land. The chiefs are assisted by Headmen/women throughout in running the affairs of the chiefdoms. Though English is the official language, the main local languages spoken in Chibombo are Lenje, Bemba and Nyanja.