

Kanchibiya District Profile

Kanchibiya is one of the eight (8) districts found in Muchinga Province of Zambia. The district was established in May 2016 as one of the districts formed out of Mpika Town Council alongside Lavushimanda district.

Kanchibiya District is situated in the south-west of Muchinga Province and has an estimated total area size of 8800 km². It shares its borders with Lavushimanda, Mpika, Shiwang'andu, Kasama, Lunga and Chilubi District. Its Administration Centre is located 773km from Lusaka, the Capital City of Zambia and 105km from Mpika. It lies precisely on the latitude of 11o 54' (11.9) and Longitude of 31o 16' (31.2667) of the National. The district has an altitude of 1300m above the sea level.

The district has one constituency (Kanchibiya) and 10 wards namely: Chambeshi, Chewe Shimfwamba, Chibwa, Chinama, Lubaleshi, Lulingila, Mansha, Mbatu, Mumbubu, and Munikashi.

According to the first census of planning conducted by the Ministry of National Development Planning in 2019, the population of Kanchibiya stood at 82,151 while the second census conducted in 2022 resulted into a total a total population of 118,427 with 56,845 being males while 61,582 were females. This represents an annual population growth rate of 3%. The larger proportion of the district population is made up of youths which is 70%.

Kanchibiya district is the hub of palm oil cultivation. Zam-Palm, a company registered under the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), invested in edible palm oil cultivation and production in Senior Chief Kopa and Chief Kabinga by acquiring over 20,000 hectares of land in the year 1999. Currently the plantation harvests over 1200 hectares per season and produces between 1,000 and 1,600 tons of oil per hectare, attributing the high production to a huge labor force which mainly consists of the locals. In addition, the district is characterized by abundant perennial streams and Bangweulu wetlands suitable for rice production. Currently, there are only 73 local producers, cultivating on 18 hectares land for their own consumption. Rice production has a huge potential such that 4tonnes/ha can be cultivated on 100-hectare piece of land provided there is adequate knowledge on crop production techniques such as crop spacing, weeding, the use of improved seed variety, use of fertilizer and polishing of rice. Furthermore, the soil in the district is suitable for cultivation of leguminous crops. The types of legumes cultivated include soya beans, groundnuts, and beans. Currently legume cultivation is practiced in Kanchibiya Resettlement Schemes, Mansha farm block and in the wards including, Munikashi, Chambeshi, Luchembe, and Mbatu. The district's production rate for legumes is 2.5 tones/ha and in the wetlands, legumes such as beans are produced twice per season.

Traditionally, the district has four Chiefs of which two belong to the Bisa speaking people and the other two belong to the Bemba Speaking people. The Chiefs are Senior Chief Kopa and Chief Kabinga for the Bisa people and Chiefs Luchembe and Mpepo for the Bemba speaking people respectively. These traditional leaders are responsible for enforcing customary law through various committees comprising of advisers, land development trustees and village headmen. The two prominent languages spoken in the district are Bemba and Bisa.