

SIKONGO DISTRICT INVESTMENT PROFILE



*Unlocking the Economic
Potential*

MAY ,2022



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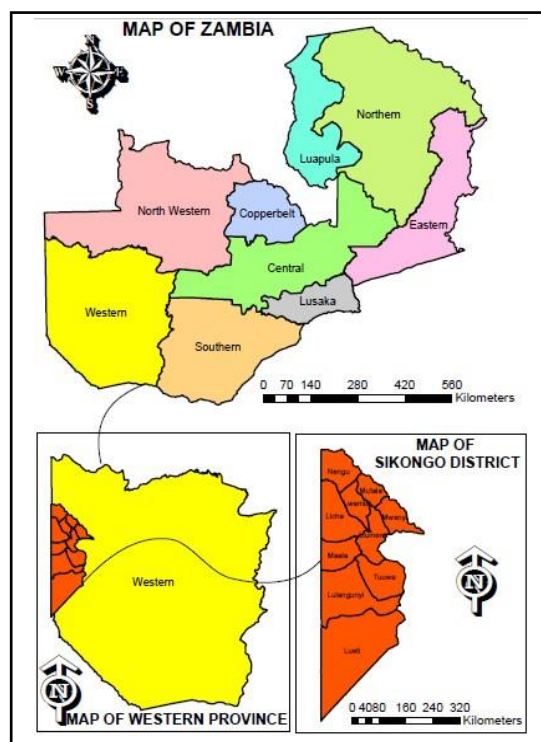
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The District

Sikongo District is among the 116 Districts in Zambia. It is a district that was delimited from Kalabo District in 2013. The district hosts one constituency known as Sikongo Constituency which is made up of 14 wards with the administrative center being located in a ward named Maala.

The District has a locational advantage as it shares the international boundary with the Country Angola on the western part of the district hence the districts town is considered as a border town with a gigantic economic potential awaiting awakening. The town is only 20 Kilometers from the Zambia –Angola border making it a very good hub for economic activities coordination.

1.2. Location



Sikongo District is in the Western Province of Zambia. It is about 135 kilometers from Mongu, the provincial capital and approximately 60 km from Kalabo.

The district is bordered by Kalabo District on the east, Shangombo District in the south. Western part of the district is uniquely bordered by the Angolan boundary. The location is easily identifiable as it enables a linkage between the country Angola Sand Zambia.

Figure 1: *Location of Sikongo District*

1.3. Topography

Generally, the district is flat with parts of it being undulating coupled with an elevation of about 1000 meters above sea level. The majority of the district is covered with sandy soils with some areas being rich in loam soils covered with spaced vegetation.

1.4. Climate

Sikongo district experiences a tropical savannah climate characterized by three seasons that is hot wet season from (November to April) making the district suitable for rice growing, cool dry season (May to June) and hot season (August to October). The average rainfall is about 800 mm per year which leads to occasional flooding in certain areas of the district making the district rich in water resources. The district has cool suitable temperatures of approximately 5.5 degrees centigrade with winds blowing from east to west.

1.5. Natural Resources

Sikongo is endowed with plenty of natural resources ranging from fresh water suitable for drinking as well as fish breeding. In addition, the district has natural resources such as fertile soils suitable for arable farming and a wide range of wild animals.

1.6. Wildlife

The district is inhabited with a wide range of wild animals such as impalas, Hippos, wilder beasts, hyenas that roam the upper side of the district which is considered as the game management area (GMA).

1.7. Population

According to the central statistical office, (CSO, 2010) Sikongo District has a total population of about 59,670 comprising of 27,581 males (53.8%). And 32,089 (46.2%) females. The number of households in the district is estimated at 9538 households with an accompanying district surface area of 2980 km.

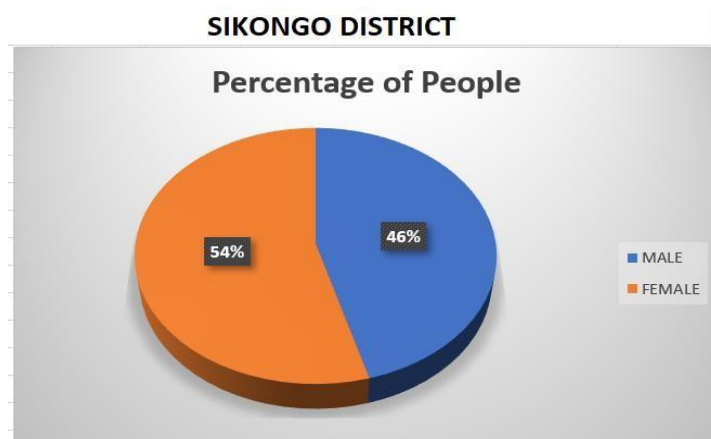


Figure 2 : Population of Sikongo District

1.8. Administration

In terms of administration, the district has one constituency which has been divided into 14 wards that is;

S/N	WARDS	S/N	WARDS
1	Maala	8	Malamo
2	Liumena	9	Tuuwa
3	Nengu	10	Lueti
4	Mutala	11	Lubuta
5	Mwenyi	12	Lumbamba
6	Lwambi	13	Ngumbele
7	Licha	14	Natalui

Table 1: Wards in Sikongo District

2. LAND TENURE

The district practices dual land tenure system that is customary land and lease hold tenure system. Most of the land in Sikongo District is under the customary land ownership tenure system. The tenure system promotes ease and quick access to land.

2.1. Customary Land

Customary land in Sikongo District is governed by Indunas that have been allocated portions of land to rule over. Their authority falls under the Barotse Royal Establishment which is a governing body under the Litunga's authority.

2.2. State land

This is the land that is within Sikongo District but is owned by the state. Customary land is occasionally converted into state land for developmental purposes.

2.3. Township

Some portions of land within Sikongo District is owned by the state and the land is administered through the local authority. The local authority is responsible for the allocation of land in state land for developmental purposes. The allocation of land is supported by the formal land registration system where it is a requirement that the president gives consent to the lease of the land.

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Education

Education and Skills Development plays a critical role in the socio-economic development of Sikongo District. Sikongo District has thirty-nine (39) Schools out of which five (5) are community schools. There are 34 primary Government schools and two High Schools operational in the District. Population of pupils in the district stands at 14,345 pupils (6896 boys and 7449 girls) spread in 39 Schools.

3.2. Health

Health Care in the district is provided through 15 health facilities dotted across the district. The sector also extends its services to neighboring the neighboring country Angola whose citizens cross the border to seek health care. Notably, the Ministry of Health sector in the district is supported by various partners such as CDC, UNDP, UNICEF, DFID, World Bank and Global Fund.

3.3. Agriculture

The main economic activity in the District is subsistence agriculture that is focused on crop production, Livestock rearing and fishing. The dominant crops grown include rice, maize and cassava. However, most of the people in the District depend on rice and cassava growing.

3.4. Livestock and Fisheries

Cattle plays an important role in the livelihood of people in the district. Apart from providing meat, milk, hides and dung as manure, cattle is a major economic asset which provides the family's wealth and prestige. Livestock rearing include goats, pigs and chickens.

South Lueti, North Lueti and the Luanginga rivers are the major sources of fish resources in the district. The rivers are endowed with various species of fish especially the most treasured fish locally known as Ndombe in Lozi or *cat fish in English*. The presence of fish generally promotes trade with other areas of the country.



Figure 3 : Livestock and fisheries production in Sikongo

4. INVESTMENT OPPOTUNITIES

4.1. Availability of Land

Sikongo district has abundant arable land and a lot of natural water resources that makes the district extremely suitable for irrigation farming. The district is characterized by Kalahari sandy soils on the lower end of the district. The upper land has predominantly rich sandy loam soils and the lower land which is dambo in nature is predominantly fertile with alluvia soils which can support a wide range of crops such as

‘rice, sugarcane, wheat and maize. In addition, the land is also suitable for livestock rearing that is goats, cattle, and sheep’.



Figure 4 : Crop growing -rice

4. 1.1 Investment in capital skills and capability investment

With the increasing funding towards the enhancement of technical skills in the country, Sikongo District has witnessed an increased number of young people showing interest to undergo skills training and capability enhancement. The District currently has no technical institute to cater for the high demand for capability enhancement and to give them an opportunity to engage in business ventures leading to job creation. Investment in Technical institutes in the district will respond to the

demand for quality vocational skills for the youths and a joint venture between the government of Zambia would prove lucrative to any investor.

4. 1.2 Investment in rice farming and Processing.

Sikongo District is one of the major suppliers of unpolished rice in the country. A large portion of the land in the District is flood prone making the area very suitable for rice farming at a large scale. The land for growing rice is readily available in all the 14 wards of Sikongo District.

A call for investors in the district is in two folds, firstly the available land provides ample land for rice plantations to be created for the purpose of enhancing the rice produced in the district as ready market is available in both within the country and also the neighboring country Angola.

Secondly, a rice processing industry in Sikongo can be a very good investment opportunity as all the rice harvested in the district will not be taken to the nearby districts for polishing as polishing will be done within the district hence capturing all the rice harvested in the district. The District currently has no processing plant hence a rice processing plant will have a monopolistic advantage as it will be the only processing plant available for all the farmers in the district to process their unpolished rice.

4. 1.3 Investment in Cassava farming and processing.



Figure 5 : Cassava farming and Processing

The opportunities in cassava farming and processing cannot be over emphasized. It is one of the most important Cash crop in Sikongo District simply because it does well in sandy soils which is the predominant soil type in the District. Cassava is known to be a drought resistant crop which means that it can reasonably perform well in sandy soils.

Entrepreneurs can utilize Cassava as a cash crop as it has a lot of economic benefits. The District has large tracts of land available and suitable for large scale cassava farming.

A Cassava processing plant can be a very good investment in the District as the District currently has a lot of Cassava farmers but no processing Plant. Cassava in Sikongo District is a readily available raw material for the establishment of a Cassava Processing Plant. Cassava has by products that have many uses such as animal feed production, alcohol extraction and the textile and food industry (Starch).

4. 1.4 Investment in Cotton Farming



Figure 6: Cotton Plant (Wonder)

Cotton means money. In Sikongo District a plant has been discovered that produces cotton lint and due to its tree form, it has the potential of producing cotton year in year out. An investment in the cotton tree named Bwander can be a very lucrative investment especially that land pieces of land is available for the planting of the indigenous trees.

This investment in the Bwander tree is supported by the community as it is a tree that has been existing in their communities for a very long time hence they know very well how to nature it in order to reach its full potential.

The cotton lint obtained from the wonder tree has a lot of uses especially in the textile industry as it is used to make fabrics, it is also used in the agriculture sector as animal feed and the production of oil. Cotton has also proved to be a very important raw material in the paper industry as it utilised to produce paper.

Currently the plant grows naturally in the region but with proper maintenance and care, the wonder plant brings huge potential for cotton investment in the region

4.2. Real Estate

In addition to availability of arable land, Sikongo District has over **900 numbered plots** available for investment in real estate development especially with the increase in demand for real estate as Sikongo was recently declared a district. The available properties are in various categories such

‘as *light industrial, residential and commercial plots*’.

4.2.1 *Investment in Housing and Commercial properties*



Sikongo District as a new district is currently experiencing a shortage of housing infrastructure and commercial properties to cater for the ever increasing population in the district as after the creation of the administrative center the population has tremendously increased as people from all over the country are coming to settle and conduct businesses in fish and rice. Therefore, their presence in the district demands that housing and commercial services are provided in the district.

4.3. Availability of Water

The district has three (3) major rivers that perennially flow into the Zambezi River and these provide potential for water transport, irrigation farming and winter maize. Availability of water provides the district with high potential for fish farming.



Figure 7: Transportation of produce to the market using market transport.

4.4. International Trade

Sikongo District borders with Angola on the west making it a conduit for international trade between Zambia and Angola. Being a border district, there is already a presence of cross border trading in the following commodities; mealie meal, groceries, livestock, fuel, and beverages, though this is done at a smaller scale especially at border crossing points like Situlu and Kandondwana.

4.5. Public Transport

The construction of the Sikongo – Kalabo- Angola road will enhance international trade between Zambia and Angola and also provide the short route to the sea port making the district a suitable conduit for trade at levels that will accelerate the development of the district.



Figure 8 : Construction of the Zambia- Angola International Trade route

4.6. Power Supply and Communication

The district is currently connected to the national grid opening up various types of business opportunities in the region. The district also has communication facilities that enable ease communication with other areas.

5. CONCLUSION

Sikongo District is an economic giant awaiting awakening. Its locational advantage gives the district access to both the local market and the international market through the Country Angola. It is strategically placed in such a way that the road linking Zambia to the nearest port passes through Sikongo District. The District has a lot to offer in many other sectors not limited to the described sectors. In conclusion, Sikongo District is calling for investors to come and make the district their investment hub.

6. CONTACTS

S/N	FULL NAMES	POSITION	CONTACT
1	Kalunga Kalyanga	District Administrative Officer	+260956711234
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