

1. Background

Gwanda District, administered by Gwanda RDC, is located in Matabeleland South Province and shares boundaries with Beitbridge District to the South, Matobo District to the North West, the Republic of Botswana to the South West, Umzingwane District to the North, Insiza District to the North East, as well as Mberengwa and Mwananzi Districts to the East. It also encapsulates Gwanda Town, the provincial capital. The district falls within natural regions IV and V and has five communal lands with five traditional chieftainships as follows; Matshetsheni Communal lands- Chief M. Masuku, Wenlock Communal Lands- Chief K. Mathema, Garanyemba Communal Lands- Acting Chief J. Ndlovu, Dibilashaba Communal Lands- Chief O. Marupi, Bolamba Communal Lands- Chief K. Mathe.

The district's human population stands at 124 548 (Zimstat, 2022) with the main indigenous languages spoken being Sotho, isiNdebele, chiVenda and isiJahunda. The main economic activities in the district include mining, agriculture and ecotourism with non-timber forestry products also making a major contribution to livelihoods.

2. Our Vision

Towards a serviced, uplifted and self-sufficient community by 2030.

3. Our Mission Statement:

To uplift the community's standard of living through provision of quality infrastructure and social services by sustainable utilisation of resources.

4. Our Core Values

Transparency | Accountability | Integrity | Innovativeness | Integrated approach | Professionalism.

5. Opportunities

Gwanda is essentially a mining, livestock and wildlife farming district, as such most opportunities manifest in those sectors.

a) Mining

The District hosts the Gwanda Greenstone Belt, a major feature which influences the presence of various minerals, including gold. This has seen the establishment of major mines such as Blanket, Freda, Jessie and Vubachikwe mines as well as medium and small scale producers who, together, contribute significantly to the total gold output in the country. In addition the district boasts quite a number of other minerals such as limestone, montmorillonite, lithium, and tantalite among others, of which the first two support a major cement production operation run by PPC Zimbabwe at Colleen Bawn whereas lithium is concentrated in the southern parts of the district where Gwanda Lithium Zimbabwe operates. These minerals present viable beneficiation and value addition based opportunities within the district. Investors are at liberty to acquire mineral rights through pegging their own blocks of claims or partner existing mineral rights holders as guided by provisions of the Mines and Minerals Act [Cap 21:05].



b) Agriculture

Gwanda District has well-drained soils and this allows the production of a wide range of crops (with water being the limiting factor) as well as the natural proliferation of highly palatable grass species further permitting improved livestock production. This presents viable opportunities especially in irrigated cropping and intensified livestock production. With the advent of climate change and its impacts, most farmers are shifting to small livestock (goats, sheep, and poultry) production. Intensive cattle production using improved breeds also remains a viable opportunity. The district has five irrigation schemes (with potential for more) and these present opportunities for partnerships between private business and individuals on one hand and the farmers on the other hand. With improved production in the agricultural sector more opportunities will open up in the agro processing sector with industries such as millers, abattoirs and packaging factories becoming viable.



c) Wildlife& Landforms

The expansive savannah biome that dominates the district allows for the existence and proliferation of wildlife with main trophy species such as elephant, buffalo, hippopotamus and leopard present. In addition, plain game species such as impala, zebra and kudu exist within the district. Opportunities therefore exist in the trophy hunting and eco-tourism sectors.

The district also has landforms such as mountains, hills and major river courses which present a wide range of opportunities in the non-consumptive eco-tourism sector. Investors can partake in various competitive sporting events such as the Tour De Tuli, Tuli Marathon etc. which are made possible by the intersection of the district with parts of Botswana and South Africa at the Greater Mapungubwe Trans frontier Conservation Area, jointly run by the three countries.



d) Major water courses

The district plays host to three major water courses, being the Umzingwane, Tuli and Shashe Rivers and these present opportunities which feed into both agriculture and tourism. Currently one major water reservoir, the Tuli- Manyange Dam is under construction on Tuli River, and once complete it will open up a plethora of opportunities in the settlements, agriculture and tourism sectors.

e) Forestry Produce

Non-timber forestry produce in the district includes mopani worms (amacimbi), marula nuts and wine as well as bush meal for stock feed production amongst others. Beneficiation and value addition in this sector present opportunities for PPPs, BOT and BOOT initiatives for both the private sector and the public. Suffice to note that the District recently had its Environment & Natural Resources Conservation by-laws gazetted and these by-laws set the tone for the control of harvesting of forestry produce within the district.



f) Emerging sectors

There exists an investment gap in emerging sectors such as solar based production of energy as well as production of construction material such as quarry stones and gravel. In terms of solar, the district is favourably positioned to receive solar radiation from the sun, making it highly suitable for the set-up of solar farms and other solar energy harvesting facilities. Solar projects that have been major successes in the district include the Blanket Mine solar farm which feeds into the national grid as well as the Mashaba mini –solar grid that supplies energy to irrigation schemes, schools, clinics and business centres.

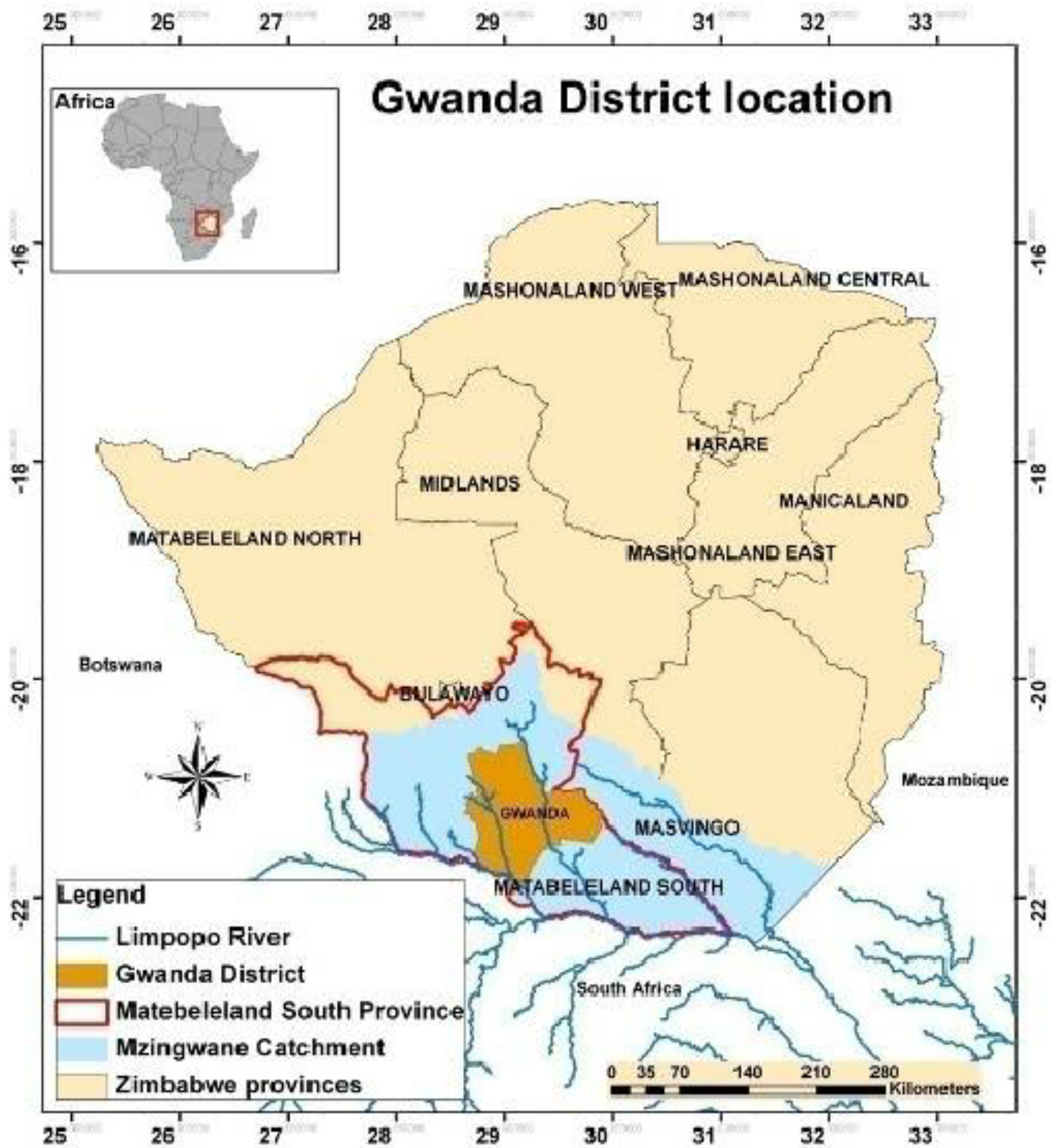
The growth of Gwanda Town and the planned highway upgrade and maintenance projects will come with an attendant demand for building materials such as quarry stone and sand deposits. There exists an opportunity for the private sector and individual to invest into this sector which is currently under-invested.

6. Investment support by Gwanda RDC

On the part of Gwanda RDC the following intrinsic characteristics exist to promote investment, innovation, industrialisation and trade within the district;

- a) A far-reaching and fairly trafficable road network
- b) Fair coverage of social services such as schools, clinics and recreational centres
- c) Extension of Manama Rural Service Centre to create over 800 Business & Residential stands - *pending layout approval*
- d) A healthy relationship with both local and international development partners
- e) Strategically positions rural service centres, business centres and urban set ups (Colleen Bawn) with a range of potential consumers for products
- f) Provision of improved markets through the conduction of cattle sales within the communities

OUR DISTRICT



- GWANDA DISTRICT



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Gwanda Rural District Council

PROFILE