

Commissioning of Kasambabezi Border Post to buttress trade and travel between Zimbabwe and Zambia ¹

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Zimbabwe's efforts to facilitate trade and travel continue and this has seen the commissioning of Kasambabezi Border Post in the Matebeleland North Province. The new port of entry and exit, situated on the edge of the Zambezi River, 6km north-east of Binga Centre, was commissioned on the 13th of March 2020. The border post has been named after the original name (in the Tonga tribe) of the 2,574 km long Zambezi River. Zambezi River is the fourth-longest river in Africa, the longest east flowing river in Africa and the longest flowing into the Indian Ocean from Africa.

The new Border Post adds to a country's more than a dozen border posts that are dotted around the borders of the land-locked Sub-Saharan African country. The border posts connect Zimbabwe's four neighbours namely: Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. Kasambabezi Border Posts becomes the 6th border post to link Zimbabwe and the former Northern Rhodesian counterpart, Zambia. Table 1 below shows a list of seventeen current border posts in Zimbabwe, including the newly established Kasambabezi Border Post.

Border Post	Neighbouring Countries Connected
Beitbridge Border Post	Zimbabwe and South Africa
Plumtree Border Post	Zimbabwe and Botswana
Chirundu One Stop Border Post	Zimbabwe and Zambia
Kariba Border Post	Zimbabwe and Zambia
Victoria Falls Border Post	Zimbabwe and Zambia
Forbes Border Post	Zimbabwe and Mozambique
Nyamapanda Border Post	Zimbabwe and Mozambique
Kazungula Border Post	Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana
Pandamatenga Border Post	Zimbabwe and Botswana
Mlambapeli Border Post	Zimbabwe and Botswana
Mphoengs Border Post	Zimbabwe and Botswana
Maitengwe Border Post	Zimbabwe and Botswana
Kanyemba Border Post	Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique
Sango Border Post	Zimbabwe and Mozambique
Mukumbura Border Post	Zimbabwe and Mozambique
Mount Selinda Border Post	Zimbabwe and Mozambique

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Establishment of more and more border posts makes it easier for organisations such as the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) with facilitation of travel being a constituent of its four-fold mandate. Increasing openness also contributes significantly to a nation's economic growth and development. For instance, ceteris Paribas, the Kasambabezi Border Post is expected to improve trade between Zimbabwe and Zambia and this may ameliorate Zimbabwe's economic growth provided exports out-value imports.

Despite the government's efforts in establishing more ports of entry and exit, some economic agents are of the view that border posts' operating times should be improved. Most border posts open at 0600hrs and close at 1000hrs, contributing to lingering congestion especially at the country's major border posts. The Beitbridge Border Post, although operating 24 hours a day, is infamous of congestion especially during festive seasons when vehicular and human traffic are very high. Beitbridge Border Post is the only border post that connects Zimbabwe and South-Africa albeit being the busiest border post. It is therefore high time the government should liaise with the South-African government in establishing more border posts linking Zimbabwe and South Africa.

About the Author



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Tasiyana Siavhundu is a member of Project Management Zimbabwe (PMZ) with vast qualifications and experience in Project Management, Economics, Taxation as well as Investments and Portfolio Management. He is a holder of a B.Sc. Honours Degree in Economics, Master of Commerce Degree in Economics, Post-Graduate Diploma in Project Management, Executive Certificate in Investments and Portfolio Management, Advanced Certificate in Taxation and many other qualifications.

Tasiyana has worked both in the private and public sectors in Zimbabwe. He is now employed as a Revenue Officer with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA). He is very passionate about research work and has interests in the fields of Economics (particularly Public Economics), Project Management and Taxation.

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