

2016

Parliament

Research Department



[Mberengwa East Constituency Profile]

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1.0 Introduction

Mberengwa East Constituency is found in Midlands Province and precisely in Mberengwa District. The constituency consists of 7 wards. Mberengwa East is a hot and dry area most suitable for cattle rearing. Residents' livelihoods is farming and mining activities. Gold panning, though illegal has continued to be a source of livelihood for many and also a major environmental degrading factor. According to Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas (2015), the poverty prevalence in Mberengwa is high with all wards having poverty prevalence rates above 50%.

2.0 Population Distribution

The constituency has a population of 38 344 housed in 8 027 households (Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas 2015). Almost 54% of the population is female. The constituency's population has an average House hold size of 5 people. According to the 2008 ZEC Delimitation Report, the constituency has 21,669 registered voters. Figure 1 below draws a comparison between a ward's population and its registered voters.

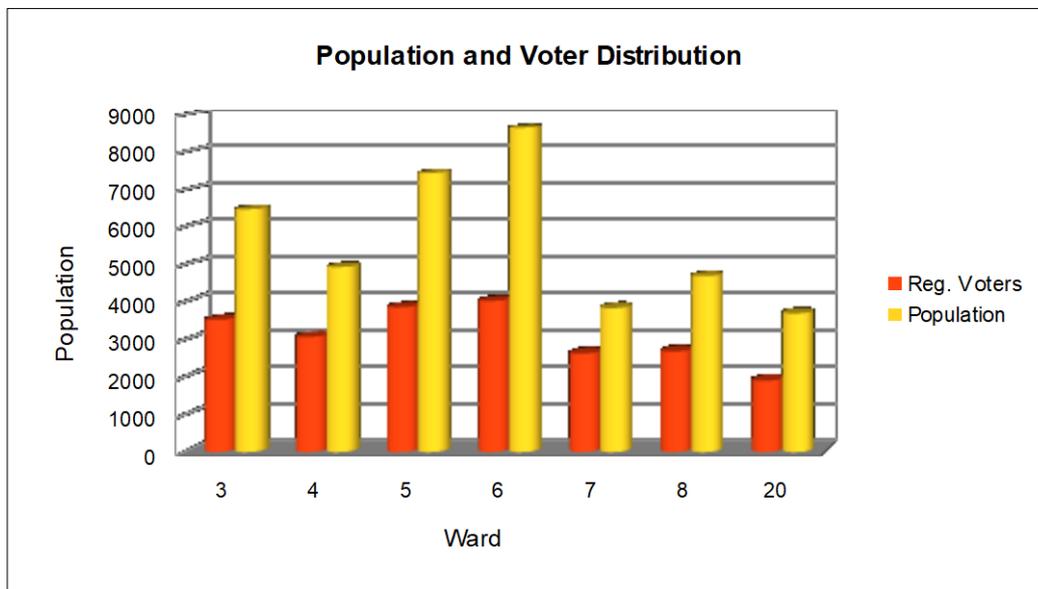


Figure 1: Population and Voter Distribution by Ward

The constituency shows that in each ward at least half the population is registered to vote except for the most populace ward 6 with 46.5%.

3.0 Education

3.1 Primary Education

The constituency has 27 primary schools well distributed across the constituency with every ward having at least 4 schools save for ward 7 and 20 with 3. Ward 3 has the most number of schools with 5. All the 26 schools offer day schooling and are owned by central government except for Ngungumbane Mission. Primary. All the schools have a total enrollment of 11 727 pupils and gender equality is at par. The number of teachers in the constituency is 366 with females slightly more than males at 53.3%. The average teacher to pupil ratio of 1:32 which is above the MDGs recommended ratio of 1:28. There are 11 schools practicing hot seating, showing that they either lack adequate classrooms or teachers.

3.2 Secondary Education

There are 8 day secondary schools in the constituency owned by the Rural District Council. Chemimwe in ward 3 and Chegute in ward 8 are the only schools with A Level classes. Interestingly, all the schools were established after Zimbabwe's independence. The total enrollment at the schools is as low as 3, 103 of which 45.5% are girls. This gender imbalance reflects a 30.7% of the 127 total teachers in favour of female. About 16% of teachers are non-certified in the constituency. The teacher to pupil ratio is a healthy 1:24.

4.0 Health

There are 7 clinics and one Rural District Mission Hospital. All the clinics are under the administration of the government except for the rural hospital which is owned by the church. It is disturbing to note that there are at least 3 centers without a single nurse and yet most of our graduating nurses have no jobs. There is one doctor attending at Masase Mission Hospital in the whole constituency. The total number of maternity beds is 70 whilst that of general beds is 20.

5.0 Animal Health

There are 13 dip tanks and only 9 are confirmed to be functional. The dip tanks are more voluminous than those common in other constituencies since they have a capacity of either 20 000 or 25 000. The dip tanks in Mberengwa East constituency serve a cattle census of about 20,000. Each ward has at least 1 cattle health facility and ward 5 has an outstandingly high number of 5 dip tanks. Nine facilities are supplied with river water, and 2 more by dam water. This is a disturbing statistic since the region has a low annual rainfall with seasonal river flow.

6.0 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

There are at least 7 local and international NGOs operating in Mberengwa East Constituency. Of the 7, only 4 actually operate district wide. Mberengwa East is one constituency that has a few humanitarian and developmental fields covered by an NGO. It is apparent that there could be a huge gap in the field of environmental management, agriculture, gender mainstreaming, capacity development and entrepreneurship with completely no NGO involved. These are key areas that equip residents to take care of themselves rather than hand to mouth interventions.

7.0 Business Centres

Of the 31 business centres in Mberengwa East Constituency, 3 are Rural Service Centres found at Murongwe, Mwembe and Ngungumbane. Ward 4 has no single business centre, but the rest of the wards have at least 3 centres serving them. Thirteen centres are confirmed to be electrified.

8.0 Water Points

There are 145 boreholes in the whole constituency and 115 deep wells that are 70% functional. Below is a table that shows water points statistics in the constituency.

Table 1: Water Points

Ward	Boreholes	Deep Well	Functional Deep Well
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3	14	18	13
4	20	13	9
5	19	10	7
6	34	20	14
7	16	19	13
8	20	18	13
20	22	17	12

9.0 Local Government Infrastructure

Mberengwa East constituency is under the administration of Mberengwa Rural District Council and consists of ward 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 20. There is only 1 female councilor. This shows that there is still a lot to be done if women are to get 50% of governance positions.

10.0 Conclusion

The constituency still has a very high poverty incidence level and is not making much progress towards recovery as is seen by the percentages of those that seek education at secondary level. It is clear that there is under-utilisation of the abundant mineral resources.

11.0 Recommendations

1. Health institutions need to be adequately staffed and equipped.
2. There is serious need to drill boreholes to serve dip tanks in order to reduce the risk of depending on river flow.
3. Gender mainstreaming is needed to encourage and empower female members of the constituency.
4. Rural electrification programmes need to do more in this constituency.

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