

**THE GROWTH AND FUNCTIONS OF SMALL
URBAN CENTRES IN ZAMBIA: A CASE STUDY
OF MAZABUKA AND KALOMO**

by

WILMA SITHABISO SICHOMBO NCHITO

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DECLARATION

I, **Wilma Sithabiso Sichombo Nchito**, declare that this thesis is a representation of my work. It has not previously been submitted for a degree, diploma or other qualification at this or any other University. All published work or material from other sources incorporated in this thesis have been specifically acknowledged and adequate reference thereby given.

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ABSTRACT

This study is an analysis of Mazabuka and Kalomo, two small towns in Zambia. The study presents a historical baseline study in order to outline the growth of the towns. These small urban centres have experienced growth from the time they were created and it is the nature and quality of this growth that needs to be understood. The functional aspects of the towns are examined by considering the expansion of the most prominent economic sector which is the retail sector from the time they were established to the time of the study. The role of Mazabuka and Kalomo in terms of rural-urban linkages is also presented in the study with the transport sector and movement of shoppers. The study examines the growth or lack of it in terms of existing policies in the country. A survey was carried out in the two towns and data was collected using interview schedules to obtain information from shoppers, central business district entities, seasonal workers and transporters found in the two towns. Structured interviews were held with council officials and other key informants in both towns. The findings from the study show that the urban growth has been in phases and has inadvertently been affected by government policies. The study findings also show that the rural population still depends on the nearest small town and distance is not a deterrent as there are few alternatives in the rural areas. This indicates that small urban areas are important for rural development. Government policies such as decentralization should focus on small town development in order to develop rural areas. The presence of large private sector activities will increase the rate of growth and the initial investment is needed to drive small town growth. This study found that liberalization of the economy led to an initial downturn in retail activities but this was overturned after a period. As a result Mazabuka and Kalomo have both experienced gradual but increased investments in the retail sector. This investment can be in the agricultural or retail sectors as the study findings revealed in the case of Mazabuka. In Kalomo, where the level of capital investment has historically been low, the growth has been slower. This is an indication that there are differences in functional complexities and capacities which will need to be taken into consideration during the process of decentralization. The increasing importance of small individually owned retail outlets in small towns was also studied and noted as was the importance of the private sector in transportation. On the whole, the study presents unprecedented geographical and historical baseline aspects of urbanization in Zambia. In analysing the evolution of Mazabuka and Kalomo, the study outlines the process of colonial urban development and explains the impact on this historical context on current developments. In conclusion, the study found that these small towns have grown at different rates due to differences in existing infrastructure and different responses to economic policies. It also found that, small towns such as Mazabuka and Kalomo act as central places offering higher order goods to their hinterland. In this case the consumers came from a radius beyond what would be expected in the Central Place Theory but this is due to the lack of secondary settlements. Despite small towns not being able to provide adequate services, the study findings show that they still present a level of urban concentration which is able to generate economic growth and employment.

DEDICATION

***TO Mutembo**, the love of my life, for the constant encouragement.*

***Twapelwa, Mutende, Langila and Buseko**, my precious children, for sacrificing the time I should have spent with you but spent working on this thesis.*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Area Development Committee
AMDC	African Management Development Centre
AMT	Action for Market Towns
ASIP	Agricultural Sector Investment Programme
ASL	Above Sea Level
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
CBD	Central Business District
CC	Council Chairman
CDE	Centre for Development and Enterprise
CPT	Central Place Theory
CS	Council Secretary
CSB	Cold Storage Board
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
CTI	Community Transport Infrastructure
DISS	Department of Infrastructure and Support Services
DSA	District Situational Analysis
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia
FDD	Forum for Democracy and Development
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FRA	Food Reserve Agency
FSP	Fertilizer Support Programme
GDRC	Global Development Research Centre
GMA	Game Management Area
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
ID	Integrated Development
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
IDZ	Integrated Development Zone
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFPRI	International Food Policy Institute
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMT	Intermediate Means of Transport
INDECO	Industrial Development Corporation
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KDC	Kalomo District Council
KDSA	Kalomo District: Situational Analysis
LED	Local Economic Development
LINTCO	Lint Company
MACO	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MATS	Mukwela Assisted Tenants Scheme
MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development Social Services

MDSA	Mazabuka District Situational Analysis
MIDP	Mazabuka Integrated Development Plan
MLGH	Ministry of Local Government and Housing
MMB	Mazabuka Management Board
MMC	Mazabuka Municipal Council
MMD	Movement for Multi-Party Democracy
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MTENR	Ministry of Tourism Environment and Natural Resources
NAZ	National Archives of Zambia
NDP	National Development Plan
NERP	New Economic Recovery Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NIEC	National Import and Export Corporation
NPF	National Pension Fund
NRB	National Roads Board
NRC	National Research Council
NRFA	National Road Fund Agency
NRIDC	Northern Rhodesia Industrial Development Corporation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development
OSP	Outgrower Support Programme
PF	Patriotic Front
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
PSC	Public Service Commission
RDA	Road Development Agency
RDC	Resident Development Committee
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RSZ	Railway Systems of Zambia
ROADSIP	Road Sector Investment Programme
RTSA	Road Transport and Safety Agency
SAG	Sector Advisory Group
SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SIAS	Scandinavian Institute of African Studies
SNDP	Second National Development Plan
SPCMU	Southern Province Co-operative and Marketing Union
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SRP	Social Recovery Project
TBZ	Tobacco Board of Zambia
TC	Town Clerk
TDAU	Technical Development Advisory Unit
TNDP	Third National Development Plan
UDI	Unilateral Declaration of Independence
UFRD	Urban Functions in Rural Development

UMCA	Universities Missions to Central Africa
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIP	United National Independence Party
UPND	United Party for National Development
WAD	Water Affairs Department
WINLA	Witwatersrand Native Labour Association
WVZ	World Vision Zambia
ZAMSIF	Zambia Social Investment Fund
ZAMTEL	Zambia Telecommunications Company
ZANACO	Zambia National Commercial Bank
ZANIS	Zambia National Information Services
ZAWA	Zambia Wildlife Authority
ZCBC	Zambia Consumers and Buyers Corporation
ZDPB	Zambia Dairy Produce Board
ZIAH	Zambia Institute of Animal Health
ZIMCO	Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation
ZISC	Zambia State Insurance Corporation