

# Central Province

Presentation to e-Brain Monthly Open Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Misuku Lodge  
By Anthony Sikana



# PROFILE OF CENTRAL PROVINCE

---

- Central Province (CP) is situated in the centre of Zambia
- Shares borders with all other provinces and with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Comprises six (6) districts: Kabwe (urban), Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi, Mkushi, Mumbwa and Serenje (rural districts)

# POPULATION

---

- **Central Province has a total population of 1,293,300**
- **Over 65% live in rural areas**
- **69% poor**
  - **50% of the population is extremely poor**
  - **19% moderately poor**
- **Inability to afford due to high cost of commodities is such reason for this high poverty level**

# Kabwe in brief

---

- Kabwe is the Provincial Capital
- It is mainly urban
- Has a population of 183,954

# ICT Services provided include

---

- Internet Cafes mainly private owned
- Public Libraries – Govt owned
- ZANIS – Govt owned
- NAIS – Agriculture specific
- Mass Media
  - Radio Maranatha – Church owned (SDA)
  - TBN TV – Church owned

# ICT Services provided include

---

- Satellite dishes such as free to air
- Radio Phoenix
- ZNBC – TV and Radio
- Shortwave Radio (International)
  - BBC
  - Voice of America
  - Radio South Africa

# ICT Challenges

---

- Although Central Province is centrally located, access to ICT services still remain a big challenge
- These services are mainly found in NGOs and **some** Government Departments and within **specific** offices - not accessible to all members of staff let alone the public and schools

# ICT Challenges continued

---

- People cannot afford to own ICTs such as Computers and their accessories viz-a-viz
    - Printers
    - Scanners
    - Cameras
    - Musical Instruments
- Because of the high costs

# ICT Challenges continued

---

- For those that own ICTs, maintenance and repair is costly and normally accessed outside Kabwe and the province (mainly Lusaka)
- ICT facilities such as Internet services are
  - Few in number compared to the demand
  - Inadequate space – mostly requires waiting
  - Long connectivity time making it expensive
  - Sometimes there is completely no network service
- Information provided by the available ICTs is very limited e.g.
  - Satellite Dishes
  - Public Libraries

# ICT Challenges continued

---

- Limited Trainers of Trainers, Trainers in ICTs
  - Some Schools and Churches have computers but do not have trainers for prospecting users
  - Limited training facilities in ICTs

# Opportunities

---

- Kabwe has a pool of educated, knowledgeable and skilled people
- Resources are there if only they can be tapped
- There is a people that need to be serviced
- There is a good link with the other parts of the country

# Our Aim

---

1. To open an Information Centre where ICT services such as:

- **Information sharing**
- **Education**
- **Research**
- **Internet**
- **ICT accessories**
- **ICT maintenance**
- **Telephones**

**can be provided at a low (affordable) cost**

# Our Aim

---

- To create a forum or platform for information sharing on a regular basis – e.g through meetings and online discussions

# Recommendations

---

- It is a well known fact that being residents of Kabwe, we have a duty and a right to own, utilise ICTs for developing our own life and that of others and those to come
- I call for those involved in ICT: dealers, service providers and users to create a linkage (bundle resources together) to enhance the utilisation of ICTs in Kabwe and Central Province as a whole

# Appeal

---

- Those with the knowledge and skill, share it with others
- Those with resources bring it forward, it will put to good use for development
- Together, we can make it available, accessible, affordable and reliable

# Conclusion

---

*Create a  
Better  
Future for  
us!!!*

