Chinsali District Profile

Chinsali district is located in Muchinga Province and is the provincial headquarters of the province after its declaration in the year 2011.

The district occupies the total surface area of approximately 11,150 square kilometers. It is located about 827 km from the City of Lusaka, the Capital of Zambia and it lies on UTM Zone 36L (-10O32'29.1''S, 32O04'53.3''E) with an elevation of 1256.672m Above Sea Level. It shares its boundaries with Shiwang'andu district to the south, Chama district to the east, Isoka district to northeast, Nakonde district to the north and Mungwi to the Northwest. Chinsali has a humid subtropical climate which is characterized of mild temperatures and uniform rainfall cycles. The average annual rainfall received is 1100mm and the annual mean temperature ranges between 16° and 24ºC. The north-eastern half of the district is relatively flat plateau.

The district has one (1) constituency (Chinsali Constituency) and seventeen (17) wards namely: Chambeshi, Chilinda, Chilunda, Chipanga, Chunga, Ichinga, Itapa, Ituntwe, Kaunga, Lubu, Lubwa, Malalo, Mikunku, Munwakubili, Nkakula, Chinsalu and Mulemba.

It lies on the watershed between the Chambeshi river in the Congo basin and the Luangwa River in the Zambezi basin**.** Its western part consists of lowland and wetland of Lubu river and its tributaries in the middle, Kalungu to the North, Chambeshi to the West and Manshya River to the South. The Chambeshi River marks the boundary between Mungwi and Chinsali districts. The district is home to Chipoma waterfalls about 8km off the T2 Road which acts as a tourist site for both local and foreign tourists.

According to the 2010 Census, Chinsali District has a population of about 87,248 people. Of this population, 42,653 is male population and 44,595 is female representing 49 and 51 percent male and female population respectively. Thirty (30%) of the population live in the urban area while 70% live in the rural area. The district has an estimated 19,218 households with an average of 5 people per household. The district is characterized by a youthful population.

Major economic activities in the district include subsistence agriculture, seasonal collection of natural forest products and local trade. Growth opportunities lie in transport and logistics, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, tourism, mining, and energy.

Traditional leadership characterizes the district with three (3) Chiefs namely: Senior Chief Nkula, Chief Mubanga and Chief Nkweto responsible for enforcing customary law through various committees comprising of advisers and village headmen. In terms of ethnicity, the district is predominantly Bemba speaking, however, other dominant ethnic groups include the Namwanga and Bisa.