MBALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUCK PARK, HELD AT MBALA MPULUNGU JUNCTION, ON 2ND JULY 2025 AT 09:30.

Mbala Municipal Council Town Clerk and officers receiving submissions from Community Members on the proposal to construct a Truck Park at the Mbala Mpulungu Junction.

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Prayer by a Stakeholder
- Self - Introductions by Mbala Municipal Council Officers
- Opening Remarks by The Health Inspector
- Remarks by The Town Clerk on The Construction of a Truck Park
- Receiving Of Submissions from Stakeholders and Responses from Council Officers.
- Address by The Town Clerk on Submissions Made by Stakeholders
- Closing Remarks by The Town Clerk
- Closing Prayer by a Stakeholder

The meeting was called to order at 09:40 with an Opening Prayer given by a Stakeholder, after which Mbala Municipal Council officers introduced themselves to the gathering.

SH/01/07/25 WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE HEALTH INSPECTOR.

The Health Inspector Andrew Yakobe Banda welcomed all stakeholders present and informed them that the purpose of the meeting was to consult and receive submissions from them as part of the feasibility study on the environmental, social and economic impact a Truck Park may pose on the catchment area and the District at large. He informed them that the Local Authority intends to receive both positive and negative submissions with a view to arrive at resolutions that would ensure that the venture contributes positively to the social economic status of the District.

SH/02/07/25 REMARKS BY THE TOWN CLERK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUCK PARK.

The Town Clerk informed stakeholders that the Local Authority wishes to receive feedback on whether the community is receptive to the construction of the Truck Park at the Mbala Mpulungu Junction. She informed stakeholders that the truck park would in the near future be installed with chalets and restaurants which will provide further opportunities for the business community to exploit. She then requested stakeholders to make submissions.

SH/03/07/25 SUBMISSIONS FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUCK PARK.

1. Charles Sinyangwe a businessman and Village Committee Chairman submitted that the Local Authority had recently met with the Village Committee and showed them the proposed site for the construction of the truck park. He said the committee informed the Council that the proposed site belonged to the Zambia Air Force after which the Local Authority informed the Committee that engagement had been done with the Zambia Air Force and a resolution had been arrived at after reviewing the map which showed that the site was falling within Council land. The Chairman said after the consultation was concluded, the Village Committee supported the proposed venture because it would bring economic growth as many trucks would transit through and make a stop in Mbala.

2. Peter Sichilima Chitongwa a Transporter inquired whether the Truck Park was only for large Trucks or any type of fleet.

   Response: The Town Clerk responded that the facility would only accommodate large Trucks and that consideration may be made in the near future to allocate a section for other types of fleet.

3. Chonya Sichamba in reaction to Mr. Chitongwa's inquiry stated that the project is a Truck Park but the community should mobilize themselves afterwards to

submit a request to allow other vehicles access to the Truck Park.

4. Cecilia Mkandawire a marketeer at Mbala Mpulungu Junction expressed her support for the project as the community desires development.

5. Phenius Silwimba stated that the development was welcome and inquired what truck tonnage will be allowed in the Truck Park.

   Response; The Quantity Surveyor guided that Truck Parks are meant for Trucks bearing 7.5 Tonnes and above and it would be the same with the Mbala Truck Park.

6. John Chandi Sikapizya submitted that the community had received many unfulfilled promises from leaders and demanded that the construction of the Truck Park be fulfilled.

7. Emmanuel Simbeye demanded that the construction of the project with accompanying shops should be given to Zambians and not foreigners.

8. Emmanuel Banda commended the Local Authority for the initiative as it would enhance business operations for himself and the families of the business community. He encouraged the Local Authority to commence the project and complete it timely.

9. Mutale Charity inquired if business men and women would be allowed to build shops and restaurants in close proximity to the Truck Park.

   Response; The Health Inspector responded that the project site falls within Council land and therefore the Council plans to build 48 shops which would be rented out to business owners.

10. Muziya Desmond, a businessman stated that he had the same concern as Mutale Charity which had been settled by the Health Inspector's response.

11. Kazimana Muzenzi expressed joy at the development and declared that he would occupy one of the rental shops at the facility.

12. Fundum Descent, a member of the People With Disabilities Association expressed support for the project as it would discourage Trucks from parking on the roadside overnight, which would prevent accidents. The stakeholder asked to be allocated one of the shops to help support his family as a person with disability. He further appealed to the business community to work as hard as businesses in neighbouring countries such as Tanzania whose businesses operate overnight.

    Response; The Town Clerk informed him that his submission was received and instructed the Stakeholder to register with the Housing Department for possible consideration.

13. Sinyangwe Charles, a resident of Mbala reported that Zesco Compound has a dilapidated path which serves as an access road for the compound and requested the Local Authority to rehabilitate it. He further reported that developers were encroaching the road making it more narrow.

    Response; The District Planning Officer assured the Stakeholder that the Planning Department would visit the compound the following morning to address the matter. The Civil Engineer further guided that Zesco Compound was among the compounds whose access roads were slated for the current road rehabilitation programme under the Constituency Development Fund and that it would be rehabilitated within the next few weeks.

14. Nampokolwe, a marketeer inquired who would be allocated the rental shops between already established businesses owners or business owners who don't have shops.

    Response; The District Planning officer responded that once ready, the shops would be advertised for applications after which interviews would be held to determine who would be given shops.

The Town Clerk further guided that businessmen and women operating at the Mbala Mpulungu Junction would be given priority in the allocation of the shops.

15. Andrew Mizu submitted that the community surrounding Mbala Mpulungu Junction had grown and inquired which health facility the people were to be accessing as the existing health facilities were far from the area. He further inquired if security would be provided at the Truck Park.

    Response; The District Planning Officer responded that the community should submit a project proposal for a Health Facility through their Ward Development Committee under the Constituency Development Fund. He further guided that security would be provided at the Truck Park through the Local Authority.

16. Ndalama Ashen submitted that the Chief in Zambia Compound was selling land at exorbitant Prices. He implored the Local Authority to go on the ground and resolve the issue to avoid anticipated violence among the affected groups.

    Response; The District Planning Officer assured the stakeholder that the Local Authority was aware of the issue and were set to hold a meeting the following day to resolve it.

17. Simpungwe Jame reiterated the sentiments of other stakeholders stating that none of the traders at the Mbala Mpulungu Junction had a shop as they all erected makeshift stands. He then requested the Local Authority to allocate shops to traders in the junction first.

18. Simbeya added that the construction of a Truck Park was a progressive step and should be supported by all. He commended the Town Clerk and her team for physically visiting the stakeholders demonstrating that the Local Authority values their input in developmental programmes. He further stated that the stakeholders were ready to form a spearheading committee to assist the Council in monitoring the project once works commence.

19. Mulwanda, a District Youth Committee Member submitted that the community was aware that the President of the Republic of Zambia had released 3 million kwacha for the rehabilitation of feeder roads and cautioned the Local Authority not to spend it on the construction of the Truck Park.

    Response; The Accounts Officer guided that each source of funding has guidelines which are strictly adhered to. He emphasized that the Local Authority cannot divert funds to another activity other than the one intended for. He assured the Stakeholders that they were protected.

SH/04/07/25 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE TOWN CLERK.

The Town Clerk thanked the Stakeholders for meeting with the Local Authority. She stated that Stakeholder Engagement is essential to facilitate harmonization and collaboration in the development of Mbala District. She stated that the emerging projects were a prelude to opening up of Zombe Boarder Post and that those intending to build should engage the Local Authority timely.

The Town Clerk assured stakeholders that all their submissions had been received and that they would be given feedback in due course, hence it is important that any time such a meeting is called, all stakeholders attend.

She also encouraged stakeholders to participate in the Keep Zambia Clean Campaign every Friday morning as turn-out had been consistently low.

The Town Clerk further informed stakeholders that the Local Authority was still receiving applications for 2026 Constituency Development Fund Community Projects, Bursaries and Empowerment Grants and encouraged those eligible to apply.

The meeting ended at 11:00 with a closing prayer from Mrs. Nyimbili.