

Natasha Kapota

Municipal Solid Waste Management of a border town

Case of Kasumbalesa, Zambia

Case Study

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THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY
School of Built Environment
Department of Urban and Regional Planning

**INVESTIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF MUNICIPAL SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF A BORDER TOWN: CASE OF
KASUMBALESA**

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Degree of
Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning.

NATASHA KAPOTA

August, 2018

DEDICATION

I Dedicate this study to my father and mother, Mr. Elias Kapota and Mrs Ireen Kapota, who selflessly provided the emotional and financial support that allowed me to pursue my studies for as long as it took to complete all my degree requirements.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated challenges of Municipal Solid Waste Management in Kasumbalesa border town of Chililabombwe District. Generally, border towns are unique territories that are largely influenced by trans-border movement and trade. However, these socio-economic activities tend to generate significant volumes of waste which present an overwhelming challenge to authorities managing it. This study aimed at advancing postulations made by renowned scholars such as Schübeler (1996), Medina (2010), Mihai (2012), Lindell (2012) and UNEP (2010), who call for a location-specific and decentralized model of addressing challenges of the MSWM. Thus, guided by the System theory, Contingency theory and the ISWM concept, with the use of qualitative, case study research design, the research examined the major challenges of MSWM. Identified the alternative initiatives employed by the municipality and assessed whether the process of waste management was inclusive of various actors existing at Kasumbalesa. The findings show that, there was a high level of waste generated at the borderlands of Kasumbalesa, due to the increase in the day-time population. This placed a waste collection and disposal challenge on Chililabombwe municipality who were already facing financial, institutional, technical, human resource and socio-cultural challenges. In addition, the research indicated that, even though the public health team had initiatives they wanted to develop they failed to do so due to the weak financial, technical and institutional capacity. Furthermore, the research showed that, the mammoth task of MSWM was regarded as a sole responsibility of the council, thus the process was not inclusive of the diverse range of stakeholders existing at Kasumbalesa.

The paper recommends that intervention is needed in terms of; Chililabombwe municipality opening a sub-station for public health at Kasumbalesa, it emphasizes that financial resources should be ring-fenced for waste management and that sensitization programs must be conducted in various languages. The paper further highlights the need for an all-inclusive process of MSWM at Kasumbalesa border. This means that each and every actor existing at the border should take part in the process of waste management

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