



Reimagining Zambia's Mining Towns as Thriving New Cities

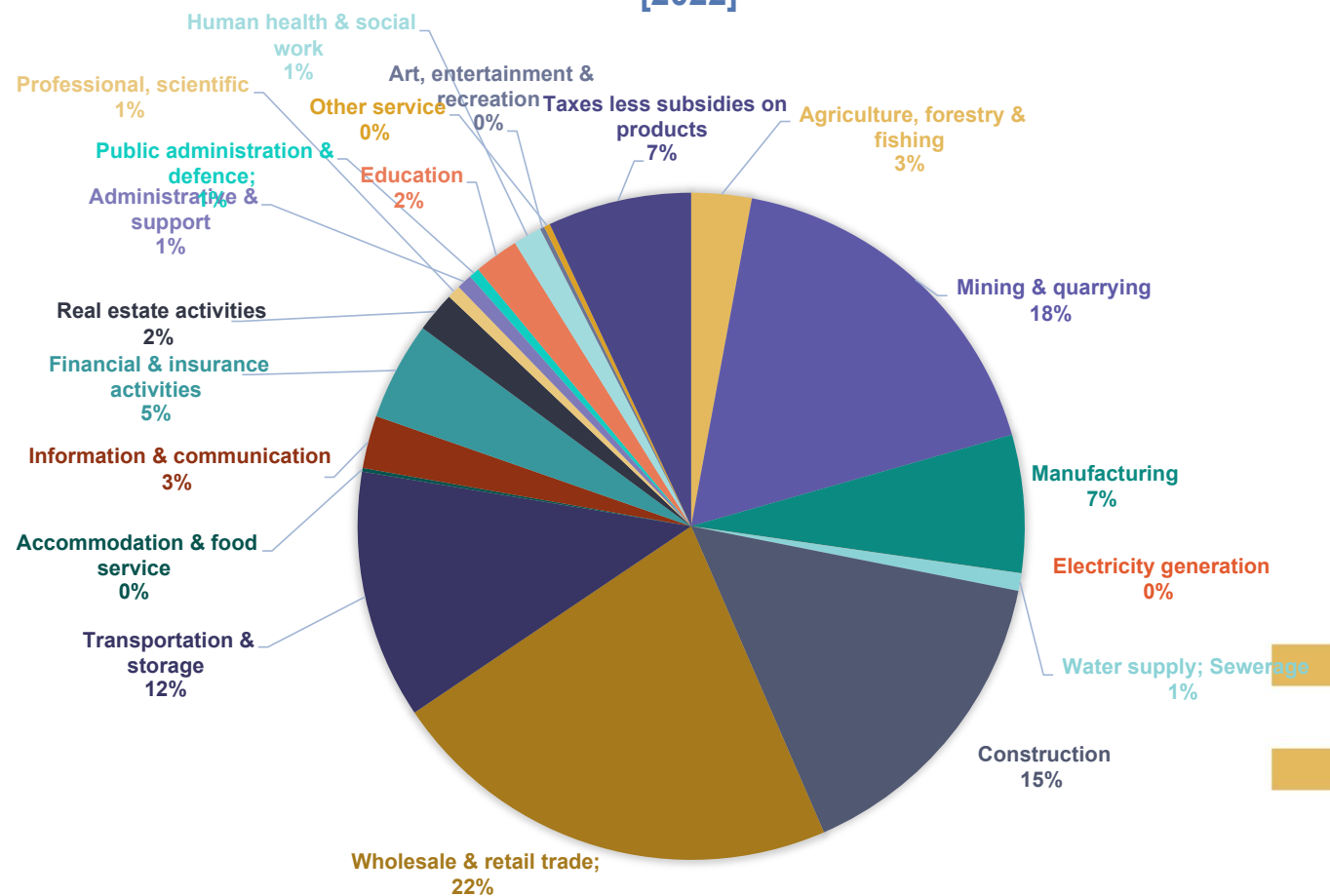
Mwanda Phiri-Mwewa
ZAMREAL Property Forum: Forging Ahead
9th April 2025s

The Paradox of Plenty

...problem of transforming towards diversified & sustainable economies...

- Economic dependence on a single industry: lack of economic diversity
- Vulnerability to commodity price shocks: economic instability (boom-bust cycles)

COPPERBELT: DISTRIBUTION OF GDP BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
[2022]



The Paradox of Plenty

...problem of transforming towards diversified & sustainable economies...

- Economic dependence on a single industry:
lack of economic diversity
- Vulnerability to commodity price shocks:
economic instability (boom-bust cycles)
- Urban and economic decline:
contractions in production &
investment, relocation of capital,
unemployment and population loss
- Socioeconomic problems: low growth
rates, inadequate infrastructure, poverty,
low human development



Introducing Charter Cities

... New Generation of Special Economic Zones/Cities...

- New Cities, with New rules that drive growth
- Large geographic area
- Multi-industry
- Residential Component



- Devolved Authority
 - To create a new governance system
 - Responsive to evolving needs, institutional gaps and interests of local communities
 - Policy experimentation
- PPP development model



Why Charter Cities?

... Rationale Resembles Rational for SEZs...

1) What do we want to see for Africa/Zambia?

2) What prevents us from achieving this aspiration?

3) Are there some reforms we can pilot to change this situation?

4) Would the reforms be more tractable if they were implemented in a small city or zone?



Why Charter Cities?

... Rationale Resembles Rational for SEZs...

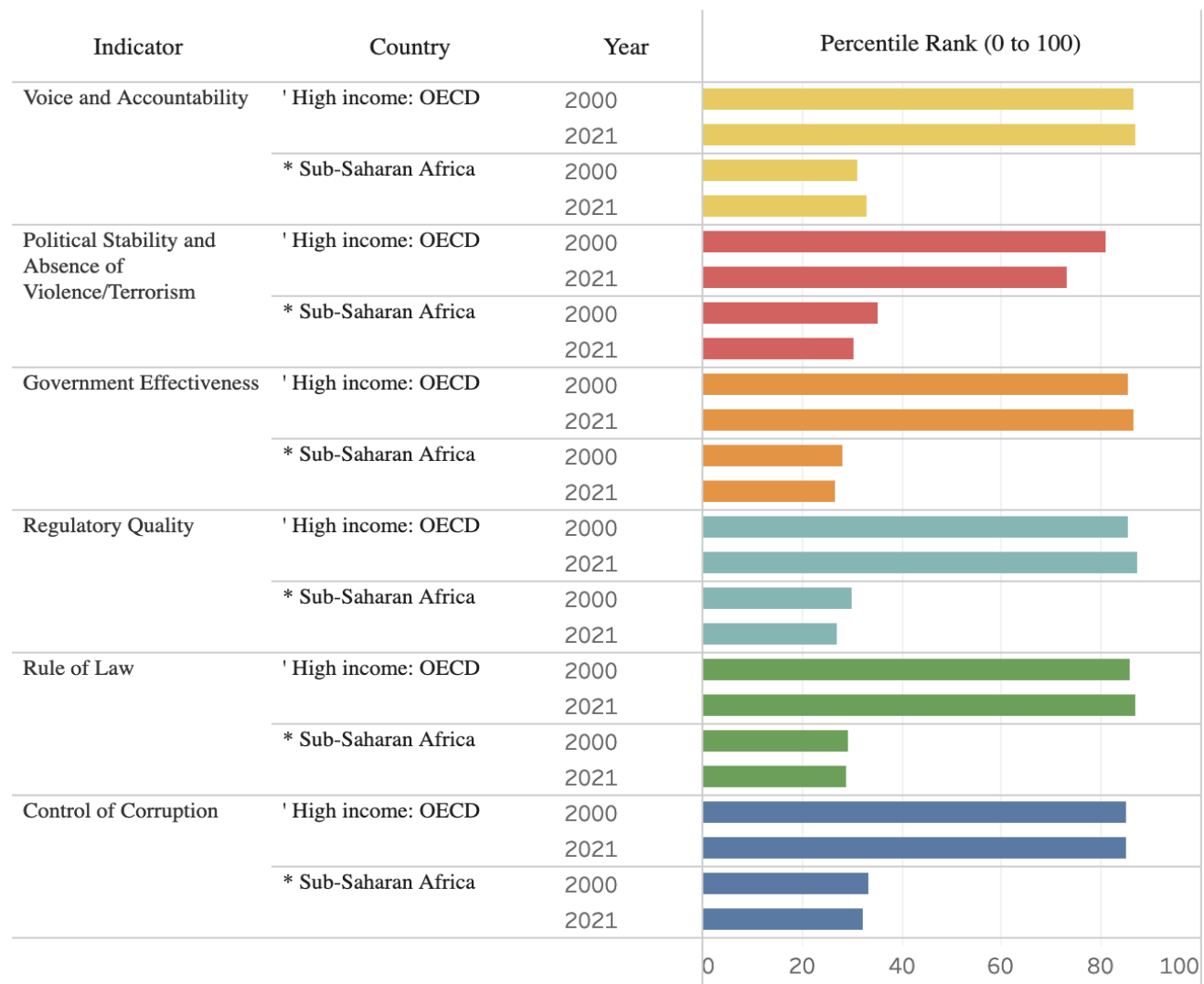
Market- Enhancing & Growth- Enhancing Governance approach...

- ❖ Market-enhancing ‘good’ governance - creating efficient markets through property rights, contract enforcement, and control of corruption.
- ❖ Growth-enhancing institutions emphasize state intervention to promote industrialization, innovation, and structural transformation.

The 'Failed' Good Governance Agenda

- Figure shows mainly stagnation or decline in measures of good governance in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Despite strong emphasis on the good governance agenda over the years, no big impact
- Politically tractable method to create a new city with new rules in a delimited geographic area than to change an entire country's institutional framework

Worldwide Governance Indicators: Percentile Rank



Source: <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports>

"The charter city approach is about implementing policies that deliver the greatest economic and social transformation."



Precedence: Tapping into the Magic of Cities

- ❑ It is the Singapore, Hong Kong Shenzhen, Dubai story...

Shenzhen
Average Yearly Income



1980: \$137 USD



2017: \$13,997 USD

Singapore
GDP per Capita



1960: \$428 USD



2018: \$64,582 USD

Hong Kong
GDP per Capita



1980: \$5,700 USD



2018: \$46,193 USD

Dubai
UAE GDP



1980: \$75 billion USD



2017: \$689 billion USD

Precedence: Tapping into the Magic of Cities

Singapore

- Grew from poor fishing island in 1965 to the future of cities

Shenzhen

- Was fishing village of ~300,000 residents in 1980, now manufacturing capital and tech hub

Hong Kong

- Went from poor colony in 1945 to global city and top 20 financial centres

Dubai

- 30% literacy in 1971. Now the business, financial and tourist hub of the Middle East

Shenzhen

Average Yearly Income



1980: \$137 USD



2017: \$13,997 USD

Singapore

GDP per Capita



1960: \$428 USD



2018: \$64,582 USD

Hong Kong

GDP per Capita



1980: \$5,700 USD



2018: \$46,193 USD

Dubai

UAE GDP



1980: \$75 billion USD



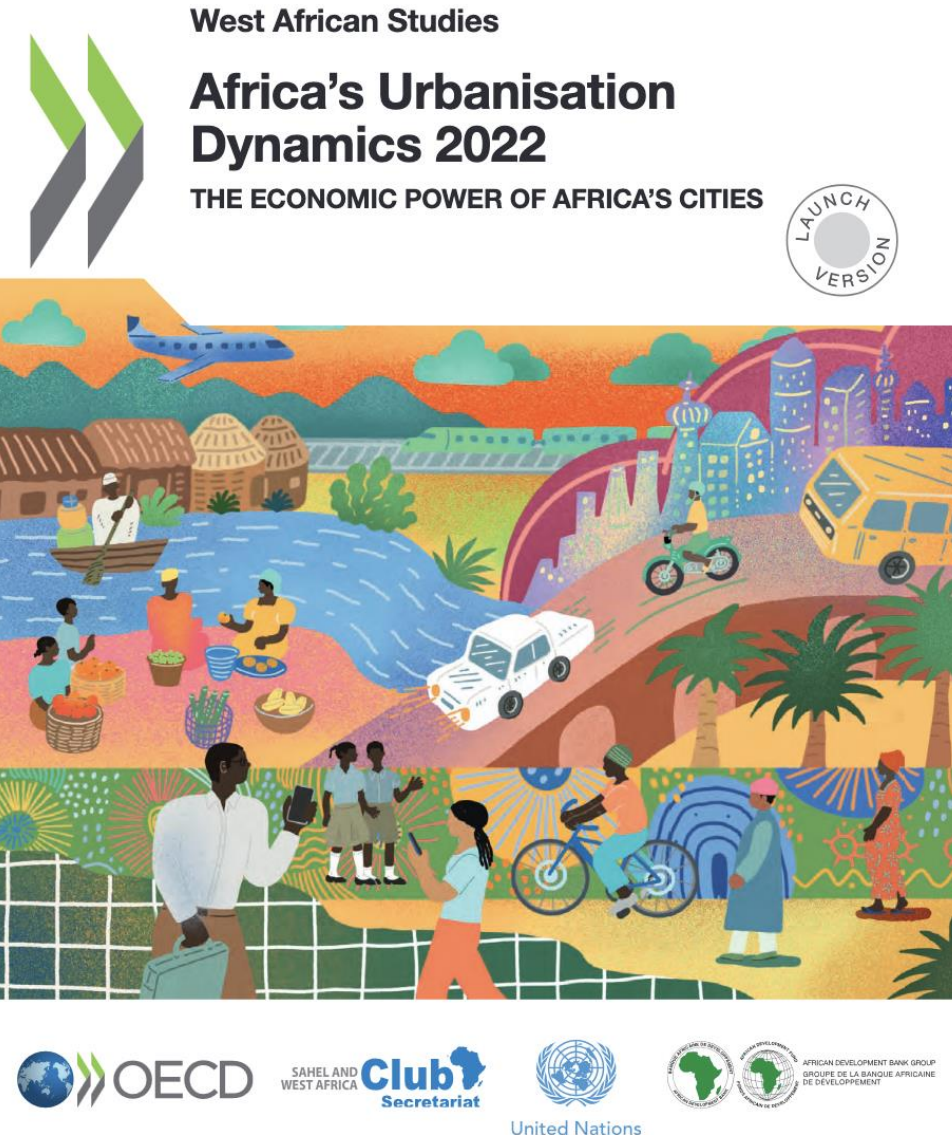
2017: \$689 billion USD

Precedence: Tapping into the Magic of Cities

❑ It can be Africa's story...

❖ Bright spots in Africa, evidence of a positive and higher contribution of African cities to :

- GDP per capita growth
- Wages
- Educational outcomes
- Infrastructure and service provision



Shenzhen 1980

An aerial photograph of Shenzhen in 1980. The landscape is predominantly green, with dense forests in the foreground and middle ground. A winding river or stream flows through the lower right portion of the image. In the background, a range of blue mountains stretches across the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene depicts a rural, undeveloped area.

Average Yearly Income, 1980:
\$137 USD

A panoramic view of the Shenzhen skyline at night. The city is densely packed with skyscrapers and residential buildings, many of which are illuminated with warm yellow and orange lights. In the foreground, a large, modern stadium with a blue roof and white structure is visible, surrounded by greenery and other buildings. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape under a twilight sky.

Shenzhen 2017

Average yearly income, US\$13,997

The Market and Timing

...Leveraging Rapid Urbanization...

Africa's
Population
growth to
2050

Africa
Population
1.2
Billion
2023

1+ billion new people – 41 million
per year – means hundreds of
bankable new city projects are
urgently needed in Africa.

Africa
Population
2.3
Billion
2050

120 planned new cities across
40 African countries as of 2019



The Market and Timing

...Leveraging Rapid Urbanization...

Zambia's
Population
projected to
grow to 26
Million by
2035

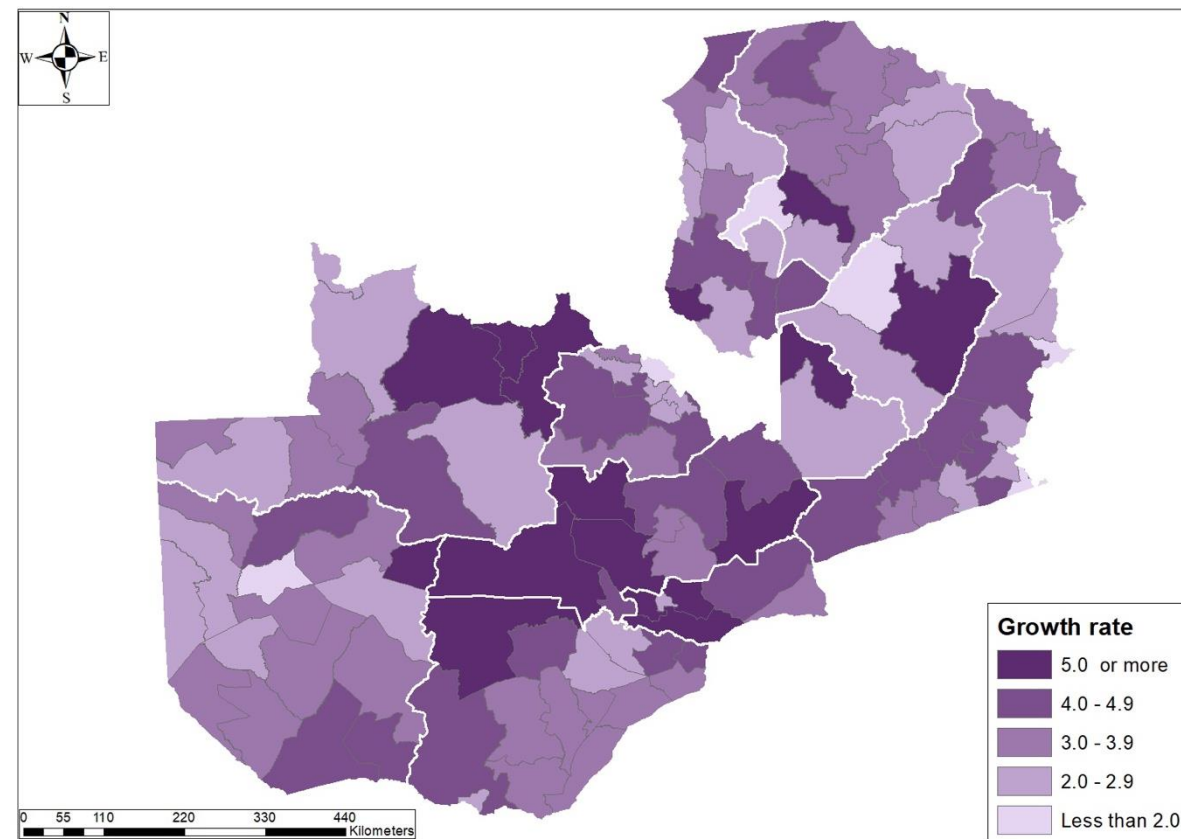
Zambia
Population
**4.1
Million**

1969

Zambia
Population
**19.6
Million**

2022

Average Annual Population Growth Rate by District,
Zambia 2010-2022 (3.4% country growth rate)



Mining Rebound

...Leveraging Mining Growth & the Green Transition...



Reimagined Mining Towns

... Some Examples ...

➤ **Ruhr Valley, Germany:**

Reindustrialized post mining economy, evolving from a coal and steel powerhouse to a region embracing cultural, technological, industrial and environmental advancements.



Reimagined Mining Towns

... Some Examples ...

➤ **San Francisco, USA:**

Evolved from extractive industries to high-value knowledge economies marked by rapid growth, cultural innovation, economic change, and social evolution.



steelblue via SocketSite.com

Reimagined Mining Towns

... Some Examples ...

➤ **Johannesburg, South
Africa:**

Metamorphosis from a dusty
gold mining camp into South
Africa's largest city and a global
financial and service centre

~1886



Reimagined Mining Towns

... Some Examples ...

➤ **Johannesburg, South Africa:**

Metamorphosis from a dusty gold mining camp into South Africa's largest city and a global financial and service centre

Now



Reimagining Zambia's Mining Towns

... Thriving Inclusive Diversified Mining Cities...

- Reimagine Zambia's mining towns as powerful engines for investment attraction, infrastructure development, job creation and inclusive and sustainable growth
 - ❖ Develop cities/SEZs that go beyond industry silos/enclaves
 - Leverage mining as a key anchor to foster linkages with key economic sectors and long-term urban development
 - Plan for long-term urban infrastructure and housing
 - Public-private partnerships and inclusive governance



A New Investment Asset Class

... Potential Revenue Sources...

➤ Land Value Capture

- ❖ Land sales and leases: Selling or leasing serviced land to developers, businesses, or residents.
- ❖ Appreciation capture: Capturing the increase in land value resulting from infrastructure and regulatory enhancements i.e., land value taxes.

➤ Real Estate Development

- ❖ Residential sales & rentals: income from unit sales, long-term rentals, and short-stay services.
- ❖ Commercial property: Office parks, retail centres, and industrial buildings provide rental income and capital gains.



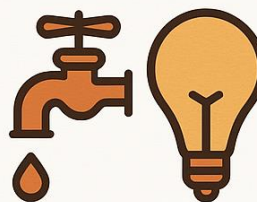
Land Sales
/ Leases



Residential
Rentals or Sales



Commercial
Leases



Utility and
Service Charges



SEZ Licenses/
Business Fees



Public
Infrastructure

A New Investment Asset Class

... Potential Revenue Sources...

➤ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Fees

- ❖ License and registration fees: Charged to businesses operating within the SEZ or charter city.
- ❖ Utility and service charges: Revenue from electricity, water, waste management, and ICT infrastructure.

➤ Infrastructure and Utility Concessions

- ❖ Toll roads or bridges: User fees from transport infrastructure.
- ❖ Power generation or distribution
- ❖ Water supply and waste treatment



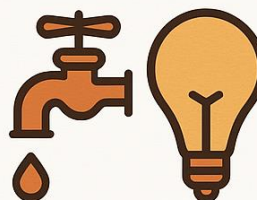
Land Sales
/ Leases



Residential
Rentals or Sales



Commercial
Leases



Utility and
Service Charges



SEZ Licenses/
Business Fees



Public
Infrastructure

A New Investment Asset Class

... Potential Revenue Sources...

➤ Tax Revenue (Subject to revenue sharing agreement and incentive structure)

- ❖ Corporate income tax: Phased or performance-based tax collection from businesses.
- ❖ Value Added Tax and property taxes on commercial activity and land use.
- ❖ Withholding taxes or payroll taxes on employment within the zone



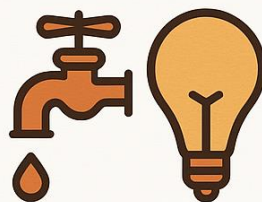
Land Sales
/ Leases



Residential
Rentals or Sales



Commercial
Leases



Utility and
Service Charges



SEZ Licenses/
Business Fees



Public
Infrastructure

Thank You



Mwanda Phiri-Mwewa
Africa Policy Lead
Charter Cities Institute



mwanda@cci.city