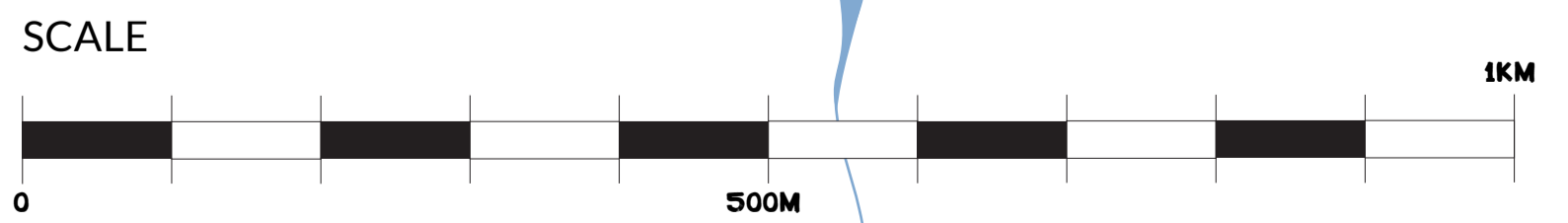


# MBARE DURA



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## CREDITS

suburb in the country. With daily movements of approximately 1.5 million people, Mbare is a notable hub of informal business. Daily income is pegged at an estimated \$5 million; prices are reasonable, but mostly payable in cash.

Mbare's largest business and community infrastructures include Mbare Musika bus terminus, the vegetable market, crafts markets, the Pioneer cemetery, Rutaro Stadium and Stodart Hall amongst others. Stodart Hall, Mbare's biggest community centre, hosted Sir Cliff Richard during his tour in the 1960s, and the recently upgraded hall hosts DJ parties and club nights. Other notable cultural locations in Mbare include the Mai Musodzi Hall, one of Harare's oldest theatres, named after Mai Musodzi, a pioneer of education for women in Zimbabwe. The hall serves as a site for young adults to watch movies and is also used as a place of last vigil for deceased national heroes.

Before independence, Mbare was known as Harare, a variation of 'Havarrh', which loosely translates to "they do not sleep." With its rich infrastructural, cultural and artistic history, Mbare is a memorable place.

Dating back to 1907, Mbare is the oldest township in Harare, established as a native location for labour immigrants from Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, and other African countries, a phenomenon that gave rise to its urban development. Till today, its rich cultural diversity abounds.

The high-density suburb has grown to become a place of conjunction in the big city due to its accessibility to affordable markets.

In 2012, Mbare's population was estimated at 800 000 inhabitants, making it the most densely populated

## MURALS

Murals have come to form a signifying element of the Mbare locale. Notably, 'Matapi flats,' a mural created by Dutch graffiti artist Roy Valk, depicts the everyday lives of the people of Mbare. This initiative is part of an on going project to create large-scale public art known as the Mural Project, started by the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) in 2010, to inspire the beautification of the country's capital city. The project has gone on to encompass two other blocks of flats in the same area. The murals depict children who are residents of the flats, to help enhance the sense of ownership of the project, and to portray youth, vibrancy, hope and the future possibilities for Zimbabwean children.

Source: The Herald

## PLASTIC RECYCLING ALONG MUKUVISI

Plastic recycling has grown traction over the past couple of years and notably artists including Petros Ndllovu, have pioneered the field working along the Mukuvisi river banks, the end product? Life sized sculptures made from recycled plastic. The area has recently been dubbed an 'artist's paradise', owing to its transformation into a workstation for artists to curate these environment friendly pieces of fine art.

Source: The Herald

## TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP MBARE

Team Up to Clean Up Mbare is a project designed to engage the Mbare community in cleanliness, recycling and creating a green space for future generations. To date, the campaign has carried out over 25 Clean-Up Campaigns in the Mbare area. Phase 1 of the project is complete; with a smart, walled-off, concrete area for refuse collection that facilitates easy pick-up of waste by council trucks. The team has also planted its first trees with landscape operations in progress. For their next big project, they are looking to build a soccer stadium using recycled gyres for the stands.

Source: Team Up to Clean Up Mbare Facebook Page

## MBILEZ24

Mbilez24 is a Media House transitioning into the Mai Musodzi Hall, which will serve as their new headquarters. The media house reports on current affairs gathered through research and investigations, providing access to relevant information on what is happening in and outside the community. With unique access to breaking news, Mbilez24 believes that by offering reliable and timely news stories, they empower locals through dialogue, sharing ideas, skills and opportunities. Citizen journalism forms a core component of the media house offering community members an opportunity to be active citizens by producing their own news stories.

## MR. MADORA

Dressed in reused plastic bottles and tin cans, nurseries are common ground in the Mbare area, housing seedlings groomed and carefully placed along pathways lined with bricks in the small household yards. At the crossing of Ninth Avenue and R. Makoni St. resides. Mr Madora who was the first black councillor for Mbare after independence. In his living room he exhibits family portraits and other photographs - one showing himself at a ceremony handing over the city to the late Robert Gabriel Mugabe. While his wife is responsible for the vegetable garden, Mr Madora is building shelves, tables and other accessories for his plant exhibition, following a no waste concept.

## CORNER TO CORNER

Mai Maring sells donuts in sets of 3 from a window of her house at the corner of Rakajani and Madzima. Small shop outlets known as corner shops are popular in Mbare, for provision of diverse services and products. From barbershops, tuck shops to restaurants, they provide a well-rounded source of everyday needs, from corner-to-corner.

## MAGABA HOME INDUSTRY

Magaba Siyaso, (loosely translated to mean "tins") also known as Durawall, is a home industry in Mbare, a popular one-stop-shop for various products, mostly second hand. Otherwise known as the industrial hub of Mbare, the marketplace is a hive of activity with many industrial traders and manufacturers selling local produce, car parts, household goods (cooking pots, cups of all sizes and bathing basins), metal, plastic and timber. Imports have also wormed their way in. Sale of such products provides a livelihood for a substantial portion of the local population.

Sources: The Herald, NewsDay, Pindula

## CHINEMBIRI CRAFT CENTRE

Chinembiri Craft Centre is a craft space comprising of a group of artists producing different kinds of crafts. Items including life scale animal sculptures, metal carved sculptures and other forms of memorabilia that make for great souvenirs and collectibles, are available for sale. Not to be confused with the Chinembiri Vocational Training Centre that one can find at the Mbare High School where some of Mbare's finest artists e.g. Troy Makaza have their studios. Make sure you pay them a visit soon, they will be moving out looking for a new space.

Source: Newsday

## MBARE MUSIKA

Mbare Musika is the major trading market for vegetables and fruits in Mbare. It acts as the distribution centre for agricultural produce in Zimbabwe and doubles up as a major bus station for rural bound and incoming transport.

The fresh produce market has three different sections: the farmers market (open until 11:30am every morning giving customers an opportunity to buy directly from the farmer), the wholesale and the retail section. Another part of the market sells dry produce including grains, beans, nuts and fish. Household goods and school uniforms can also be found at the market.

## KUDOVI

In a space simply known as 'behind Carter house,' a women's organisation produces peanut butter - known as dovi in the local shona language - with peanuts brought from Murehwa or locally, from the Mbare market. The nuts are roasted on site and the peanut butter is bottled in different quantities for diverse clientele. The product is 100% organic and solely consists of peanuts, no additives.

## BAT WORKSHOP STUDIO

After independence in 1980, a new formal school was established known as the BAT Workshop Studio, the goal was to provide arts education for disadvantaged youths, returning ex-combatants and unemployed but otherwise talented, young people. The BAT Studio was facilitated with the kind benefaction of British American Tobacco Zimbabwe Limited, whom over the next two decades supported in the development of Visual Art. A wide spectrum of creatives enrolled thereafter. The emphasis has expanded to different disciplines including metal sculpture, painting and printmaking.

Source: nationalgallery.co.zw

## TISUNUNGUREIWO RECYCLING

Tisunungureiwo Bottle And Plastic Recycling Cooperative is a Community Based Organisation (CBO) specialising in glass and plastic packaging waste recycling and disposal initiatives. Its main objective is to tap into the waste that has been sorted by the many mushrooming waste collection organisations in the Greater Harare area. The idea is to address the multi-dimensional growing problems emanating from poor waste management through collection of refuse from the various townships that surround the City of Harare. The Cooperative dreams of building solid infrastructure at their complex, in order to do the recycling themselves.

The project was conceived with hopes of alleviating the health problems of the poor urban dwellers. This, on the premise that a clean environment will bring good health and the community can also generate income from the waste management programs.

Sources: sdp.undp.org and Kubatana

## BASKET WEAVERS

Basket weavers can easily be spotted within the Mbare area, commonly forming base under trees for some shade. Their products include baskets from recycled packaging straps, arranged in colourful patterns of blue, green, black, yellow and white.

## CHILL SPOT

As a neighbourhood closely associated with rich musical history, it is hardly surprising that one of the fastest growing record labels in the country, Chill Spot Recordz, is housed in Mbare. Chill Spot Recordz is home to some of the most prominent artists producing a viral sub-genre of reggae music called Zim Dancehall. A mural on the exterior wall towards the studio along Harare Road directs the way to this hidden place of production on the third floor of a flat complex.

## N'ANGA SHRINE

'N'anga' otherwise known as traditional healers or sangomas in other African cultures, form a significant part of Zimbabwean history. Stories are told of how these spirit mediums gave portions and lucky charms to users within the township who wanted to gain favours from their employers. However, their work serves other purposes, including healing of ailments. Rituals are conducted by a n'anga seated on mats on the floor. Mbirimi Road is home to a popular n'anga within the Mbare vicinity, Ambuya Phiri. Ambuya Phiri welcomes clients in her house along Mbirimi Road. Her husband's passion for gardening and landscaping gives the entrance and the passage to the "Ku Matare" - the space for rituals - a special character. In the back yard is a collection of children's toys and chairs scattered around. "I actually don't have that many grandchildren - but all the children from the neighbourhood come here and call me \_gogo". "Ku-Matare" is a makeshift from bamboo and sheeting, the rituals are conducted seated on mats on the floor. Ambuya Phiri is a traditional healer that treats physical as well as mental sicknesses.

## URBAN FARMING

The urban agriculture phenomenon has gripped the city of Harare and Mbare long joined the wave, increasingly becoming the go-to source for agricultural produce both sourced and/ or grown through horti-culture along Mukuvisi River. As transporting fresh vegetables from outside towns increasingly becomes costly for farmers, the produce readily available for sale at the Mbare market provides a welcome relief for customers. While most is locally sourced urban produce, outside farmers also frequent the markets to sell their harvests creating a competitive market with diverse offerings including vegetables, meat and eggs. The market provides subsistence income for locals.

## CANON PATERSON CRAFT CENTRE

The Canon Paterson Craft Centre in Mbare is an artists' cooperative established in 1973. Currently, it has a membership of fifty artists who utilise its base. The artistic legacy of its home base, Cyrene Secondary School is historically significant. It was there in 1939 that missionary Canon Paterson first introduced formal art education in painting and sculpture (including stone) to young people in the region, to encourage local visual interpretation of the Christian narrative.

Source: avacarts.com

## I-HARARE

The UCHI Trust adopted part of a local bar formerly known as Chiveshe bar and brewery, to initiate the Harare-I-Harare Creative Precinct. The aim of the project is to create a vibrant youthful neighbourhood, and to redefine the contemporary urban space setting for Mbare, offering a thriving junction of cultural and commercial spaces.

Internationally acclaimed artist Moffat Takadiwa moved into the precinct to produce his artwork from there and activities including Saturday music classes for children are available.

In order to develop a continuous program consisting of storytelling, conversations, festivals, art work-shops, crafts markets, organic vegetable markets and many others; the project managers initiated private public partnerships with the City of Harare, local craftsmen, artists and experts as well as international universities, to bring the project to fruition.

## GULE WAMKULU

Along the vibrant streets of Mbare, sights of masked men clad in costumes and masks made of wood and straw, dancing with extraordinary energy are typical. Particularly, the season following the July harvest, they put on a performance called Gule Wamkulu.

Gule Wamkulu is a ritual dance practiced among the Chewa in Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique. It is traditionally performed by members of the Nyau brotherhood, a secret society of initiated men. At the end of the initiation process, a celebration of the young men's integration into adult society takes place. Gule Wamkulu is also performed at weddings, funerals, and the installation or the death of a chief. On these occasions, the Nyau dancers wear costumes representing a great variety of characters, such as wild animals, spirits of the dead, as well as more recent figures such as the honda or the helicopter. Each of these figures plays a particular, often evil character expressing a form of misbehavior, teaching the audience moral and social values.

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