

Harare Urban Problems

Harare, Zimbabwe, like any other city in the world experiences urban problems which are mainly attributed to rural-urban migration and unemployment.

Urban Problems



Source Zimapapers

- Traffic Congestion and jams which is worsened when robots are nonfunctional or during peak hours.
- Human congestion.
- Noise pollution from commuter omnibus operators
- Litter, bad odors and urine especially on tax ranks.
- Air pollution from unroad worthy vehicles.
- Increased potholes making vehicle navigation difficult.
- Increased street vendors.
- Theft

Causes

Rural to urban migration combined with an acute shortage of jobs is the most cause of these urban problems. People migrate to the Harare CBD looking for employment. Unfortunately, jobs are very limited, and as a result, some are forced to street vending or as unofficial commuter bus operators.

Most roads are small, mainly two ways and consist of potholes which increase traffic congestion, jams and accidents. In addition, most roads are overburdened and fail to support increased vehicles. Electricity cuts sometimes render robots nonfunctional increasing traffic congestion.

Measures & Solutions to the Problems

Most measures and solutions have been implemented, but without much success.

- Widening main roads
- Mass transportation (buses) introduced to curb congestion, although unofficial commuter omnibuses are still present.
- Dedicated police personals which direct traffic.
- Relocating vendors and tax drivers from the main CBD to designated zones. This has not been much successful
- Vendor licensing (no much success)
- A Cleanup Campaign held on the 5th of every month

Other measures that can be done

Decentralising services and jobs from the main CBD to other less populated areas (e.g Chitungwiza) can alleviate some of the problems in Harare

Opening industries to increase proper employment and lessen street vending and other related problems

Establishing rural growth points which provide services such as banks, education, health centers, jobs e.t.c to local rural people