

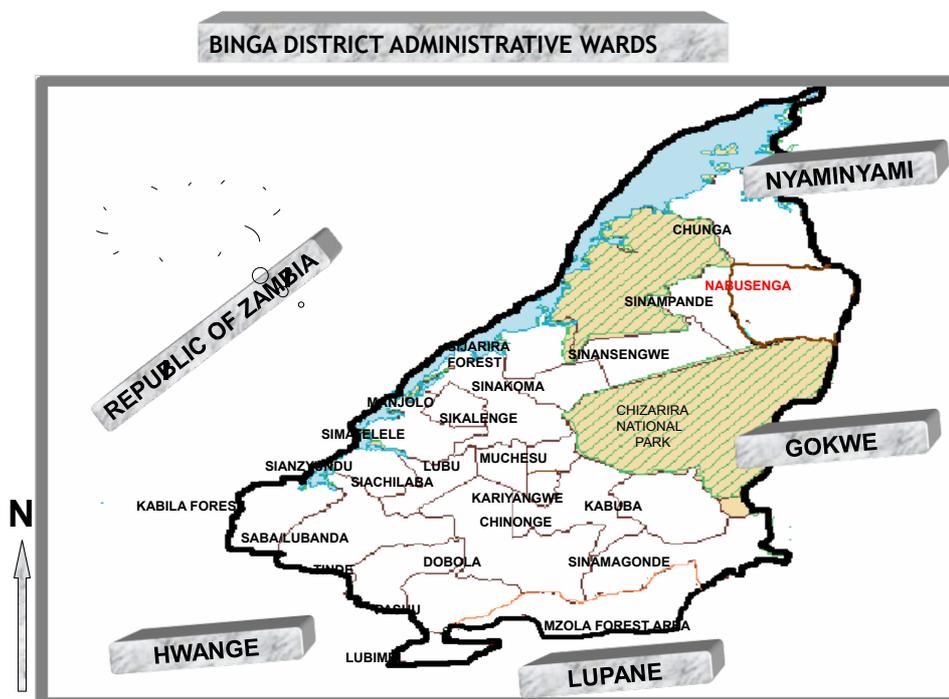
# The BaTONGA People from Lindatumune Nyono Mudimba

## Introduction

The BaTonga people were moved from their land in 1955 where they had lived for many generations by the Zambezi River, on both sides of the river. When the Kariba Dam was built, their river became a lake.

They were forced to relocate from their fertile land and sent to so many different areas like Lusulu, Kariyangwe, Siabuwa and Tyunga amongst other places. These people relied on farming and fishing, and after their relocation one may realise that; from some areas they were relocated to, it now takes them some years to taste a piece of fish and on the same note, some were placed on infertile soils of which they cannot farm like they used to do. Uprooted from their land, they have left behind a way of life and a culture that was built around their closeness to their river. The BaTonga people like any other cultures had their own way of entertaining themselves and still have a way of bringing their income through their cultural artefacts. The following shall show some few pictures of the baTonga artistic artefacts.

Our location of wards on our Zimbabwean Map;



Crafts;



1. Everything starts here, this is mainly done by women. They get their ntimya here and the ilala for their basket making and insangwa. Only fresh of these are collected and used. Some certain procedures when making these baTonga weaving baskets shall be shown below.



2. that is Lindatumune Mudimba collecting the barks of the monkey nut tree (mwiiyi) using an axe.



3. You pound the barks into powder and mix with what would have been collected in step number 1. By mixing this ilala and mwiiyi powder, one will be dyeing the ilala into brown colour. For the white colour, there is no need of mixing with powder; however there is a selection of water which is used so that the white colour may really be seen. One may use the vlei source of water or any other water as long it is not hard water.



4. From stage number 1 where everything was collected, here is Martha Munkuli, weaving nsangwa using black and white ilala. From this, a basket can also be made. As you can see she has soaked her ilala in a white container with the required water so that the ilala can be tender. There is also another type that is made of reeds and finished up by fibre, thus called chisuwo. See the pictures below. These baskets are mainly done for entertainment and also business at the same time. They can also be used for decoration in homes. These weaving baskets had a season when to work on them especially during the time when they were not working in the fields. From the following pictures, the inside part of the chisuwo is painted with cow dung and the hemming part is reinforced by fibre.



#### Traditional pots;



This clay pot is called Kalongo in Tonga. This was mainly for cooking ie relish or anything else. As you can see in the other picture, it looks black showing that it has been used on the fire. This clay pot has its special way of making it, mix the black clay or from an anthill and you shape a clay pot. Let it dry for four days then burn it on fire with the special fire wood called mupopozyo in ChiTonga as a way of reinforcing it.



This is called impali, as you can see it's different from the top one in the sense that it's decorated. This was mainly used for drinking mahewu ....Placing mealie meal, honey or as a traditional refrigilator for cooling drinking water.



Despite the modern chairs we now have in our days, the picture above shows the baTonga home made stool. However this was made by male people compared to the above work.