

= Msambweni =

Msambweni ( meaning " land of Sable Antelope " in Swahili ) is a small fishing town and constituency in Kwale County of southeastern Kenya , formerly in Kwale District of Coast Province . By road , Msambweni is 55 @. @ 4 kilometres ( 34 @. @ 4 mi ) south of Mombasa and 46 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 28 @. @ 9 mi ) northeast of Lunga Lunga on the Tanzanian border . As of 2009 , the town had a population of 11 @, @ 985 people .

Fishing is the primary source of income , although coconut palm , buxa coloring , cashew nuts and fruits are produced for trade . Because of its reef and extensive beaches , the snorkeling industry is gaining in popularity in Msambweni , and holiday cottages and hotels have sprung up in the area , such as the Msambweni Beach House . The town is noted for its leprosarium and contains the Msambweni District Hospital . The Koromojo Dam is immediately north of the town .

= = Geography = =

By road , Msambweni is 55 @. @ 4 kilometres ( 34 @. @ 4 mi ) south of Mombasa , 46 @. @ 9 kilometres ( 29 @. @ 1 mi ) southeast of Kwale , and 46 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 28 @. @ 9 mi ) northeast of Lunga Lunga on the Tanzanian border . It lies along the A14 road ( Ukunda @- @ Ramisi Road ) between the villages of Ukunda and Shimoni .

Msambweni forms a constituency that starts from the Mwachema River at the border of Tiwi and Diani Beach to the north , and down to Vanga at the border of Kenya and Tanzania to the south .

The area 's scenery is characterized by its beaches , rocky outcrops and low cliff tops and is relatively unspoiled . At one end of the beach is a " rocky headland of fossilized coral , which is a jumble of cracks , caves and chimneys that make an ideal roost for bats " and there are baobab trees in the vicinity . There is a reef channel at Msambweni and aquifer which is about 25 kilometres ( 16 mi ) south of the Tiwi aquifer . The reef , which stretches from Msambweni to Malindi in the north , is the world 's largest continuous fringing reef . At the northern end of Msambweni Bay is Chale Island , a headland rather than an island , which is known as a sacred kaya ( worshipping place ) . Many of the locals are superstitious and believe in witchcraft and spirits ( jinis ) .

Bedrock in the area was likely formed by Mazeras Sandstones . Msambweni has an average rainfall of 55 @. @ 18 inches a year .

= = Politics = =

Msambweni Central forms a constituency with an elected Member of Parliament . As of 2001 the Msambweni Constituency had an area of 3 @, @ 267 square kilometres ( 1 @, @ 261 sq mi ) with a population of 211 @, @ 011 people . By 2009 it had a population of 288 @, @ 393 people . Kassim Mwamzandi was MP from 1988 @- @ 1997 . As of 2010 , Robert Challos was MP for Msambweni Central and Minister for Agriculture .

= = Economy = =

Msambweni grew from a small village into a bustling little town . Fishing is important to the local community of Msambweni and is the primary source of income . The area is mainly Muslim and inhabited by Digo peoples . The Kwale District Development Plan 2002 @- @ 2008 attempted to improve fish landing sites and beach access for fisherman on the coast of Msambweni . Coconut palm is grown , as are cashew nuts , fruits and buxa coloring . Maize , cassava , cowpeas and rice are grown for domestic consumption . There are numerous stalls along the main road in the town selling fruit and vegetables . Silica sand is mined at Msambweni and transported to Nairobi to make bottle glass . Beekeeping and seaweed farming are also local occupation and its commercialization in the area has been supported by ACT ! Kenya with financial assistance from the European Union .

A result of its reef , the tourist industry is taking off in Msambweni attracting snorkelers . Holiday

cottages and hotels have sprung up . Club Green Oasis caters mainly to German tourists . Although supplied with electricity , in the 1990s the government expressed concerns about access to an ample clean water supply in the division .

= = Landmarks = =

Msambweni is noted for its leprosarium , and contains the Msambweni District Hospital , which is reportedly one of the best hospitals on the coast , and Kari Medical Clinic , Vingungini Primary School , and Msambweni Secondary School . The Msambweni Campus of Kenya Medical Training College ( KMTTC ) , formerly the Matuga Medical Training College in Matuga , is located next to the hospital . It was established in 1977 and shifted location to Msambweni in August 2006 . It trains pupils in the Environmental Health Sciences , and since 2005 they have offered a three @-@ year pre @-@ service diploma course .

On a 40 feet ( 12 m ) clifftop is the Msambweni Beach House , set in 28 acres with a 700 feet ( 210 m ) stretch of private beach . Although predominantly Muslim , the town has an interdenominational church . Immediately to the north of Msambweni is the Koromojo Dam. and between Msambweni and Kwale is the Shimba Hills National Reserve . There is a marine reserve at Shimoni beyond Funzi Island to the south .