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BRIDGES OF BOTSWANA: KAZUNGULA & MOHEMBO
Commemorative Issue: 09 October 2022

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	First Day Cover - Moheumbo	P50.00		
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DESIGNER PROFILE

Shathani Basupi, Creative Designer

A creative nerd with five years' experience in graphic design and motions graphics design in printing and advertising industries. He has been creating and co-creating stamps since 2020, this is his third issue with BotswanaPost.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BotswanaPost would like to thank:

- Ministry of Transport and Public Works for the provision of information and photographs of Kazungula and Moheumbo Bridges.
- Botswana Tourism Organisation for the provision of Kazungula Bridge photographs.
- BotswanaPost also wishes to acknowledge Onkabetse Reikeletseng, for the provision of images of Kazungula and Moheumbo Bridge.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Printer: Southern Colour Print, New Zealand

Graphic Designer: Shathani Basupi

Process: Four Colour Process

Stamp Size: 50mm x 30mm

FDC: 210mm x 120mm

Sheetlet: 170mm x 100mm

Denominations: P0.50, P7.00, P9.00, P10.00

Date of Issue: 09 October 2022

BotswanaPost Stamp Issuing Policy

Botswana maintains a conservative issuing policy. A Definitive set is released every 5 years, illustrating a theme of international interest. Commemorative sets are issued 4 or 5 times per year, illustrating themes that reveal the environment, cultural and historical heritage of Botswana.



Bridges of BOTSWANA



BRIDGES OF BOTSWANA: KAZUNGULA & MOHEMBO

From early civilization, bridges have served a very significant purpose in societies by enabling the movement of people and goods between two points, for community and trade purposes and as well inland and across borders. People and commodities have been crossing the river between Botswana and Zambia since the 1800's and the main way of crossing was via pontoon which was not only dangerous because of the crocodile-infested rivers but also very tedious with trucks having to sometimes wait for days on end to reach crossing point.

With the evolution of design and modernization globally, bridges have over the years become infrastructural marvels. Upon transitioning from the pontoon ferry system, the Kazungula and Mohembo bridges in Botswana carved their own places in architectural history. The Bridges of Botswana: Kazungula & Mohembo commemorative stamp issue celebrates this very important milestone in the history of Botswana.

1. Kazungula Bridge

The Kazungula Bridge is a multinational border crossing at the confluence of the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers promoting regional trade in goods and services for the whole of SADC (Southern African Development Committee) region. The Governments of landlocked Botswana and Zambia constructed the bridge crossing the rivers to serve as a corridor to activate economies of the region from Democratic Republic of Congo all the way to the port of Durban in South Africa, including Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. This was a major breakthrough to improve overall accessibility with free movement for people, motor vehicles and trains.

The construction of the bridge has already stimulated tourism for the benefit of the communities in the area with Botswana even hosting such events as the Illumination of the Bridge, the Kazungula Bridge Marathon and most recently a fashion show.

The aesthetically pleasing design of the bridge includes a two-lane single carriageway for motor vehicles, central single-track railway and pedestrian walkways on both sides to replace the ferry and juxtaposed one-stop border facilities at Kazungula. Ferry lovers would be pleased to know that the Government of Botswana plans to refurbish the old ferry for nostalgic cruises across the rivers.

Features of the Bridge:

Bridge and Approach Ramps, Railway for Botswana and Zambia side

- Bridge Length : 923 m
- Bridge Width : 18.5 m

2. Mohembo Bridge

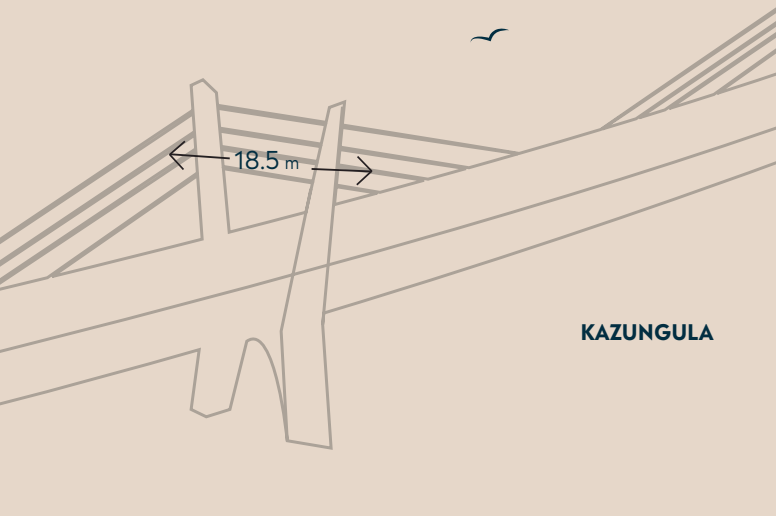
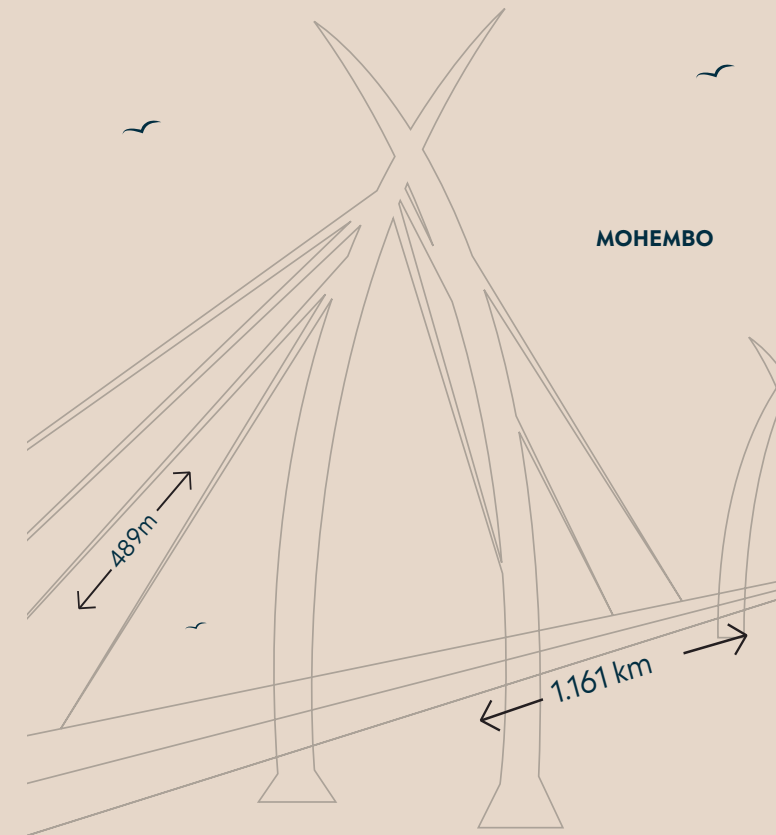
The Mohembo Bridge, also known as the Okavango River Bridge, crosses the Okavango River in Mohembo Village and is essential to connecting the less developed North-western portion of Botswana spanning Mohembo East, Kauxwi and Mohembo West as well as Shakawe, a major village in the area. Before construction of the bridge, crossing was by a motorized ferry, which operated only during working hours, and development on the eastern side of the river was limited. The bridge facilitates seamless movement of people, goods and services in both directions and alleviates dire inconveniences experienced on occasions where the ferry was inoperable.

The bridge is a game changer that has completely transformed the lives of the Okavango Eastern Panhandle community, particularly those of Mohembo village. It is a shot in the arm for tourism as travellers can now move freely into the Delta, the Chobe and entry into Namibia has been made easier. Not only that, but communities are able to access Government services such as medical, education and various other social services provided by Shakawe and Maun, the administration centers of the area.

The beauty of the bridge interplays with nature and the environment while complying fully with UNESCO's 1000th World Heritage Site requirements and those of the Ramsar Convention. A photographer's nirvana, the Mohembo bridge is also a lifeline for the villages north of the Okavango Delta such as Seronga, Eretsha, Beetsha and Gudigwa.

Features of the Bridge:

- The civil works comprises construction of 1.161 km long bridge
- About 489m length of cable stay bridge across the main channel
- About 672m long approach spans on the floodplain on either side of the main channel
- About 3km length of approach roads to the bridge
- Pedestrian walkways and lighting over the bridge and along 3km of approach road were also constructed



← 923 m →