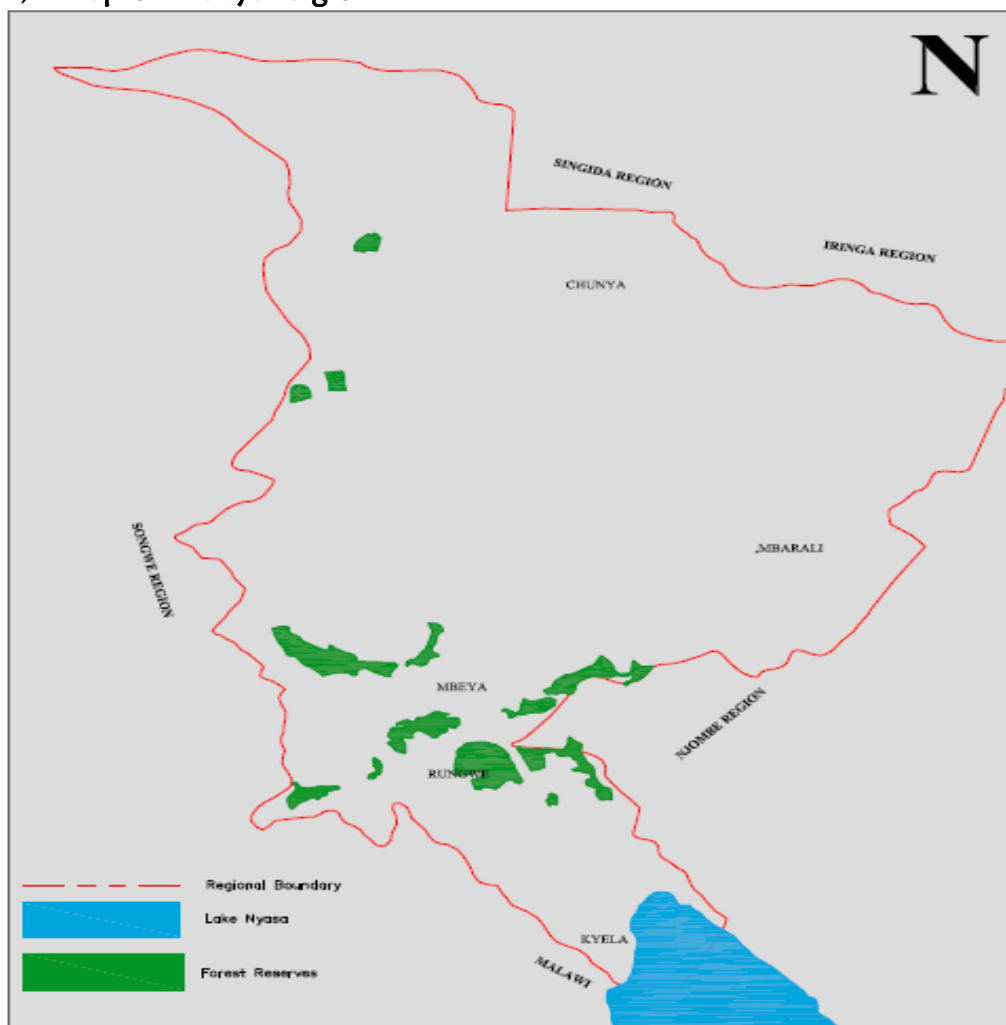# MBEYA REGIONAL PROFILE

1.0 Geographical Location and Borders

Mbeya Region is located in the south-western corner of the southern highlands of Tanzania. The Region lies between latitude 7^0 and 9^0 31' south of the Equator and between longitude 32^0 and 35^0 east of Greenwich. In 2015 Mbeya Region was divided into two Regions of Mbeya and Songwe.

The newly formed Mbeya Region, shares borders with the Republic of Malawi and Songwe Region to the West, Singida and Tabora Regions to the North and Iringa and Njombe Regions to the East with Kasumulu in Kyela district being the main entrie and exit into the neighbouring country of Malawi.

Figure 1;   Map of Mbeya Region

The Region is accessible by road and TAZARA railways from Dar es Salaam through Pwani, Morogoro, Iringa and Njombe Regions; it is a junction to Tabora and Singida through Chunya and Itigi-Manyoni districts. Although not all the roads are passable easly during rainy seasons, they expected to be so in the near future when the connections to Tabora will be tarmac.

1.1 Topography

The major part of Mbeya Region lies within the Great Rift Valley. Other major topographic features are:

(a)   The low elevation of the Western Rift Zone encompassing lakes Rukwa and Nyasa.

(b)   The Eastern Rift Zone covering the Usangu Plains and the neighbouring parts of the Ruaha trough.

Altitudes range relatively from 475m above sea level at Lake Nyasa to over 2900m on Mount Rungwe Peak.

1.2 Drainage System

There are three main drainage basins within the region. Ruaha and Rufiji basins extending towards the East, the inland Lake Rukwa basin in the North West and Lake Nyasa basin in the south. The surface runoff pattern corresponds closely to the unimodal rainfall distribution. The highlands on the Southern Plateau of Tanzania form a watershed area of the main drainage in the region. Main rivers include the Great Ruaha, Zira, Songwe, Kiwira, Lufilyo and Mbaka. The Great Ruaha which is fed by Kimani, Chimala, Igurusi and other tributaries is one of the great inlets of the Indian Ocean. Rivers Zira and Songwe form the inland drainage into Lake Rukwa, while those of Kiwira, Lufilyo, Mbaka and Songwe drain southwards into Lake Nyasa.

1.3 Climate

The climate of Mbeya Region is greatly influenced by physiology and altitude. The climate is generally tropical with marked seasonal and altitudinal temperature variations and sharply defined dry and rainy seasons. Temperature averages range between 16°C in the highlands and 25°C in the lowland areas.

The Region enjoys abundant and reliable rainfall. Annual rainfall varies from 650 mm in Usangu plains and Chunya to 2600 mm on the Northern shores of Lake Nyasa and

in the highlands. The rains normally start in October and go through to May followed by a dry and cold spell between June and September.

1.4 Geology, Soils and Vegetation

As with the great variation in physiography and climate, so there is much diversity in the geology, soils type and vegetation of the region. Crystalline and mainly fersic gneiss and granite rocks predominate in much of the Region, these are covered with thick layers of volcanic and alkali basalt. Limestone locustrine rocks form the base in much of Kyela and Usangu plains. In main arable areas, soils are most commonly of moderate fertility, coarse of medium texture and varying from sandy loams, alluvial soils to cracking clays.

The most predominant nature vegetation is Miombo (*Brachystegia julbarnadia*) woodland. Areas with rains between 800 – 1200mm per annum favour the growth of Miombo woodland species, while areas with less rain especially in the north of the region support the growth of wooded grassland and bush-land of dense thickets of *acacia* and other thorny trees. Those areas with higher rainfall support forest, often evergreen and bamboo thickets, except at the highest elevations, where afro – alpine grasslands occur.

1.5 Agro-Ecological Zones(AEZ)

The region is divided into 3 main Agro-economic Zones, as shown below:

1.5.1 High Potential Zones

It includes areas with high rainfall and fertile soils, with a lot of agricultural production. These are the density populated areas ie. South Usangu Plains, Central Mbeya Plain, Poroto and Ilembo Highlands, East, Central and South Rungwe, West Rungwe Plain, North and South Kyela. The high potential zones lie at an altitude of 1,500 to 2,400 metres above sea level. The Highlands have cool temperatures and receive rainfall exceeding 2,500 millimetres per year. Crops cultivated include, maize, rice, beans, groundnuts, wheat, potatoes, coffee, bananas, tea and cocoa. Dairy farming is common in this zone.

1.5.2 Medium Potential Zones

Areas that fall under Medium Zone experience moderate rainfall and they include Rukwa Valley and North Usangu Plain. These lie at an altitude of 800 to 1500 metres above sea level. Rainfalls are highly variable and increase with increasing altitude, ranging from less than 700 mm. per year at North Usangu Plain to 1,700 mm per year at Hezya/Isangati in Mbeya District.

In the Midland zone, people cultivate maize, sorghum, finger millet, cotton, cowpeas, groundnuts, cassava, beans and paddy. Cattle and goats are also common livestock in this zone.

1.5.3 Low Potential Zones

The lowland zone lies at an altitude of 500 metres to 1000 metres above sea level, occupying mainly the areas of North Chunya Plain, Central Chunya, Msangaji Plateau and Kyela Lowlands. Usually rainfalls are unreliable and soils are less fertile. Temperatures are warm with annual rainfall of less than 1000 mm. However, the Kyela Lowlands sometimes get rainfall as high as 2500 mm. per year. Several crops thrive well in the Lowlands zone including tobacco, maize, sorghum, finger millet, cassava, groundnuts, cocoa, cashew nuts, palm oil, paddy and bananas. Livestock reared in this zone include cattle, goats and sheep.

1.6 Land Area, Land Use Pattern and Administrative Units

Mbeya Region covers a total 35,954 sq. kms, which is 4.1% of the total area of the United Republic of Tanzania excluding sea area of 883,343 sq.km. Out of the Region's total surface area, 35,201 sq. kms is dry land and 753 sq. kms is covered with water bodies of Lake Nyasa and rivers Kimani, Chimala, Igurusi, Kiwira, Lufilyo, Mmbaka and Zira.
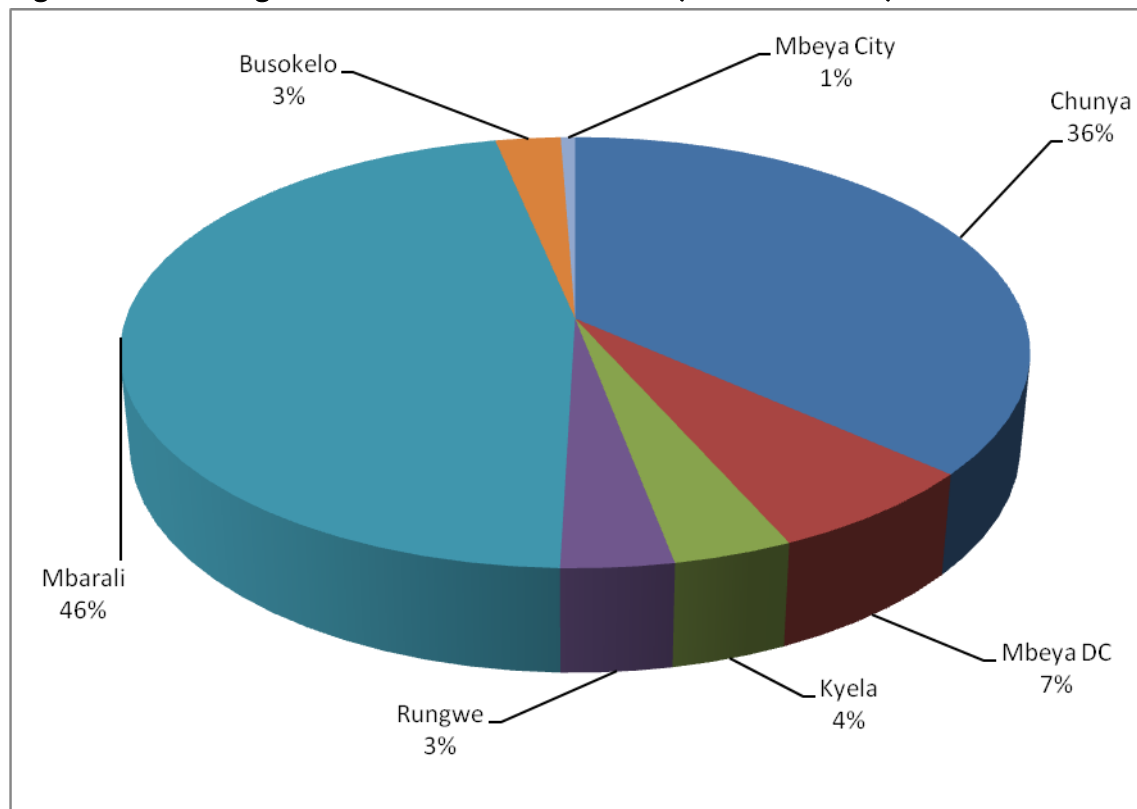
Table 1.1 and Figure 1 show that distribution of the Region's area among the Councils and this is heavily in favour of Mbarali (46.3 percent) and Chunya (36.6 percent) followed by Mbeya DC (6.8 percent).

Table 1: Distribution of Land Area and Water Area by Councils in Mbeya Region, 2016

Council	Dry Land Area (Sq.kms.)	Percent of Land Area (Sq.kms.)	Water Area (Sq.kms.)	Percent of Water Area (Sq.kms.)	Total Surface Area (Sq.kms.)	Percent of Surface Area (Sq.kms.)
Chunya	13,143	37.0	0	0.0	13,143	36.6
Mbeya DC	2,432	6.9	0	0.0	2,432	6.8
Kyela	872	2.5	450	97.6	1,322	3.7
Rungwe	1,231	3.5	11	2.4	1,242	3.5
Mbarali	16,632	46.9	0.1	0.0	16,632	46.3
Busokelo	969	2.7	0	0.0	969	2.7
Mbeya City	214	0.6	0	0.0	214	0.6
Total	35,493	100	461	100	35,954	100

Source: Regional Commissioner's Office, Mbeya Region, Feb, 2016

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Land Area by District, Mbeya, 2016

Source: Mbeya Regional Commissioner's Office, Feb, 2016

Administratively, The Region is divided into 5 districts with 7 Local Government Authorities namely: Chunya, Mbeya, Kyela, Rungwe, Mbarali, Busokelo and Mbeya City. It is further sub divided into 15 divisions, 178 wards, 533 villages and 181 Mitaa.

Table 2: Land Area and Administrative Units by Councils – Mbeya Region, 2016

Councils	Area Sq. Kms.	Divisions	Wards	Mitaa	Villages
Mbeya CC	214	2	36	181	0
Chunya	13,143	2	19	-	43
Kyela	1,322	2	33	-	92
Mbarali	16,632	2	20	-	102
Mbeya DC	2,432	3	28	-	141
Rungwe	1,242	3	29	-	99
Busokelo	969	1	13	-	56
Total	35,954	15	178	181	533

Source: Mbeya Regional Commissioner's Office, 2016

1.7 Population Characteristics
1.7.1 Population Size and Growth

According to 2012 census, the total population of Mbeya Region was 2,707,410 of which 1,409,672 were females (52.1%) and 1,297,738 were males (47.9%). The regional population growth rate is 2.7%. The data included the population f the newly established Region of Songwe.

Like most Regions on Tanzania mainland, the population of Mbeya Region has experienced a significant growth. Table 1.4 shows that the Region had 2,707,410 people in 2012 compared to 2,063,328 inhabitants in the 2002 Population Census, resulting in a significant increase of 644,082 people (31.2%) during the intercensal period. The Region represented 6.0% of the total population of Tanzania mainland which was 43,625,354 in 2012. Compared to other Regions on the Mainland, Mbeya Region is the 3rd Region with high population after Dar es Salaam and Mwanza.

Table 3: Administration, Population and Households per Council, 2015

Councils	Area Sq. Kms.	Population (Projection)	Population per Sq. km	Mitaa	Villages	Population per Village/ Mitaa
Mbeya CC	214	421,965	1,972	181	-	2,331
Chunya	29,219	318,137	11	-	86	3,699
Kyela	1,322	242,580	183	-	92	2,637
Mbarali	16,632	329,132	20	-	102	3,227
Mbeya DC	2,432	334,391	137	-	141	2,372
Rungwe	1,242	371,451	168	-	155	2,396
Busokelo	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ileje	1,908	136,301	71	-	71	1,920
Mbozi	3,592	488,839	136	-	121	4,040
Momba	6,038.2	215,559	36	-	72	2,994
Tunduma	48.8	106,852	2,190	71	-	1,505
Total	63,617	2,965,207	47	252	840	2,715

Source: *Mbeya Regional Secretariat, 2016 & National Bureau of Statistics 2012.*
*Busokelo: information of population, it's area of 969 Sq. kms and 56 villages is included in Rungwe District Council
*The table includes also data for Councils of Songwe Region, which were counted during Census period.

From Table 3 above it can be realised that Tunduma Town Council is highly populated with 2,190 people per square kilometre followed by Mbeya City Council with 1,972 people per square kilometre. Chunya District Council takes advantage of its vast area where as it has only 11 people per square kilometre.

1.7.2 Household Size and Characteristics of Rural and Urban Populations

According to 2012 population census the Region had a total of 635,032 households and household size of 4.2. Mbeya Region like most of other regions in Tanzania has more population living in rural areas than those living in urban area.

Table 4: Population by age and distribution in the Region

Age Category	Total Population			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0 - 4	2,707,410	1,297,738	1,409,672	1,809,298	869,874	939,424	898,112	427,864	470,248
5 - 9	421,482	209,359	212,123	294,297	145,916	148,381	127,185	63,443	63,742
10 - 14	392,062	194,556	197,506	277,007	137,960	139,047	115,055	56,596	58,459
15 - 19	351,672	173,656	178,016	243,519	122,082	121,437	108,153	51,574	56,579
20 - 24	290,636	138,833	151,803	182,844	90,462	92,382	107,792	48,371	59,421
25 - 29	246,454	111,652	134,802	145,166	66,658	78,508	101,288	44,994	56,294
30 - 34	210,022	96,213	113,809	125,014	57,008	68,006	85,008	39,205	45,803

Age Category	Total Population			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
35 - 39	176,874	82,435	94,439	108,512	49,369	59,143	68,362	33,066	35,296
40 - 44	146,774	70,940	75,834	94,531	44,456	50,075	52,243	26,484	25,759
45 - 49	109,219	52,764	56,455	73,342	34,685	38,657	35,877	18,079	17,798
50 - 54	96,036	40,065	55,971	65,466	27,121	38,345	30,570	12,944	17,626
55 - 59	66,799	33,531	33,268	47,356	23,386	23,970	19,443	10,145	9,298
60 - 64	45,703	22,655	23,048	32,857	15,939	16,918	12,846	6,716	6,130
65 - 69	45,458	21,648	23,810	33,826	15,816	18,010	11,632	5,832	5,800
70 - 74	31,644	14,576	17,068	24,426	11,066	13,360	7,218	3,510	3,708
75 - 79	29,898	13,771	16,127	23,528	10,834	12,694	6,370	2,937	3,433
80+	19,452	9,254	10,198	15,543	7,386	8,157	3,909	1,868	2,041

Source: 2012 population and housing census, 2012 Vol. II
The table includes also data for Councils of Songwe Region, which were counted during Census period.

1.7.3 Ethnic Groups

The main indigenous ethnic groups in the Region are Nyakyusa, Ndali, Nyiha, Nyamwanga, Bungu and Safwa. Others who form significant minorities are the Kisi, Malila, Masai, Kinga, Hehe, Wanji, Sukuma and the Sangu. The Nyakyusa are mainly in Kyela, Mbeya and Rungwe districts while the Sukuma, Sangu, Hehe, Kinga and Masai predominate in Mbarali district. The Safwa people, mostly found in Rungwe, Mbeya and Chunya districts

Table 5: Number of Major Ethnic Groups by District; Mbeya Region, 2016

District	Number of Ethnic Group	Major Ethnic Groups
Chunya	9	Kimbu, Bungu, Guluka and Safwa
Mbeya DC	9	Nyakyusa, Safwa,Malila
Kyela	5	Nyakyusa, kinga, kisi, Ndali and Ngoni
Rungwe	3	Nyakyusa, Wandali and Wasafwa
Mbarali	9	Sangu, Hehe, Kinga, Bena, Nyakyusa ,Sukuma, Wanji, Masai and Gogo

Source: Regional Commissioner's Office, Mbeya, 2016

1.8 Economic Development

The economy of Mbeya is based on agriculture, livestock keeping, mining, natural resources, manufacturing , commercial activities and employment in the public and private sectors. It accounts close to 69 per cent of the Region's GDP. Agriculture

contributes most of the Region's cash income mainly from maize, sorghum, finger millet, cassava, beans, groundnuts, cowpeas, rice, cotton, tobacco, onion, sorghum and pigeon peas' production. Generally the crop sub-sector's performance has been adequate to ensure good food security, although the sector still depends on variable climatic conditions in the form of rainfall

2.0 SOCIAL SERVICES IN MBEYA REGION

2.1 Health Facilities

The region is expected to improve the existing health facilities and services hence establish new ones based on the need to reach KPs, pregnant women and the general public on services such as YFSs/SRHs, CTCs, eMTCT, VMMC, VTCs etc.

Table 6: Number of health facilities and services has been increasing per years.

No/Yr	Health Facilities	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
1	Hospitals	20	20	20	20
2	Health centers	36	36	38	37
3	Dispensaries	374	374	365	412
4	CTCs	68	68	82	94
5	PMTCT/OB+	349	350	354	354
6	VMMC	15	17	21	21
7	VCTs	157	157	57	57
8	PITCs	254	254	270	270
9	YFSs/SRHs *etc.*	366	366	183	183

Source; Regional Medical Doctor's Office, 2016

2.1 Education

2.1.1 Primary and secondary status

Primary schools

Mbeya region has a total of 704 pre- primary and primary schools with a total number of 326,534 pupils (159,330 boys and 167,204 girls)

2.1.2 Secondary schools

There are 152 secondary schools which have a total of 84,290 students of which 40,177 are boys and 44,113 girls

2.1.3 High learning institutions and other Colleges

Mbeya is among the regional with big number of high learning Institutions providing various courses from ranging Diploma to master levels. There is a total number of seven high learning institutions which are Mzumbe, Teofil Kisanji, Makumira, MUST, Tumaini, St Augostine and Open University.

Others colleges/institutions offering certificates and diploma courses include Tanzania Institute of accountant, CDTI Uyole, VETA, Mpuguso Teachers College, Tukuyu Teachers College, Mwambani Nursing College, Learner Nursing College, Uyole Agriculture College, Inyala Agriculture College, Igurusi Agriculture College etc.

All these High learning institutions and other Colleges collect students from different regions in Tanzania which most of them are youth.
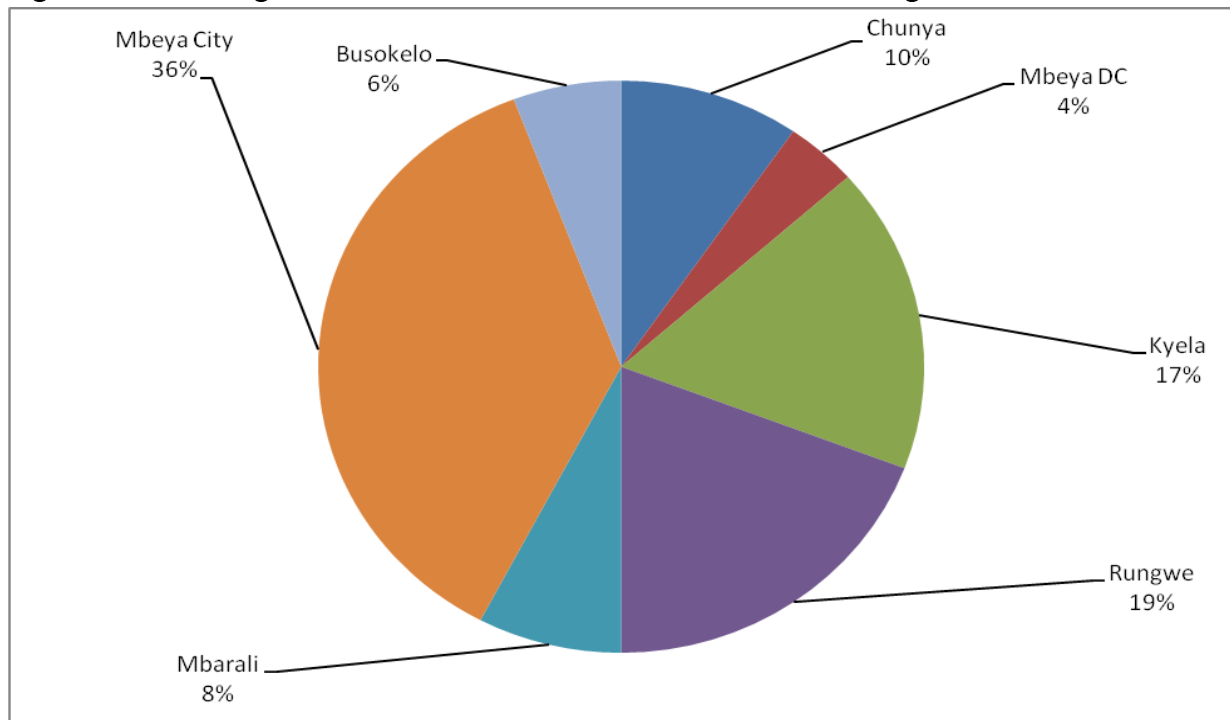
3.0   FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

A number of financial institutions exist in Mbeya Region. There are 17 financial institutions, which contributes highly in the development of regional economy. Mbeya City have larger number of financial institutions comparing to other councils in the region. The National Microfinance Bank is found in every district of the Region except Busokelo council. The table below shows existing financial institutions in the region.

Table 7: Number of Financial Institutions by District, Mbeya Region, 2016

District	Number of Banks	Number of Non-Banks	Total
Chunya	2 (NMB & CRDB)	3	5
Mbeya DC	2 (NMB & CRDB)	0	2
Kyela	3 (NMB, CRDB & POSTA)	6	9
Rungwe	3 (NMB, CRDB & NBC)	7	10
Mbarali	2 (NMB, CRDB & ABC)	2	4
Mbeya City	14	5	19
Busokelo	1 (NMB)	2	3
Total	27	25	52

Source; District Council, Mbeya Region, 2016

Figure 1: Percentage Allocation of Financial Institutions in the Region, 2016

Mbeya City Council shares large portion of financial institution located in town where as it composes third (36%) of the regional total followed by Rungwe (19%) and Kyela (17%).

4.0 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MBEYA REGION

The potential for investment in the region vary from district to district for instance Mbarali and Kyela are potential for Rice farming where as Mbeya and Rungwe are potential for Coffee, Maize, Beans Potato pears, and variety of fruits farming. Chunya District has potential in Cotton, Tobacco Maize and Cassava farming, bee keeping and mining industry. Beef and dairy husbandry also has high potential for and export market domestic.

The region has several tourist attractions such as the Mountain Rungwe, Mbeya peak and Kyejo, sandly beaches on the shores of the lake Nyasa. The Rift Valley (Usangu Plains) ecological features of the tropical rain forests, Usangu game reserve, Utengule wetland, Lake Ngosi Sanic (similar to lake Lomond in England), Daraja la Mungu Biodiversity (Natural Bridge) and Isongole (Fishing Camps), Kaporogwe (Waterfalls) and Lake Masoko (greater Lake) for sport fishing in Rungwe District. In fact the

potential is great but what remains to be done is investment in this sector so that it can attract more tourists. There is also a big potential for the establishment of tourist resort, camping site and Hotels around the Region.

The region has a high potential for investment in the mining sector. The mineral deposit in Mbeya include Nature Coal, Gold, Ion, Limestone, Marble travertine, Kaolin, Copper, Salt and Apatic/niobium and variety of Germstones which remain unexplored. Currently there is small scale local mining using poor equipment/tools with the exception of the marble, coal and cement factories operating under capacity: Hence investors are encouraged for exploration and mining. There are currently investors who are using advance technology in mining industry. Also, Mbeya Cement Company Limited, New Mbeya Textile Mills, Mbozi Coffee Curing, Coca- Cola plants, Mbeya Consolidated mines, Industries under Small Industries Development organization (SIDO) such as Pemacco, Common Facilities Workshop (CFW), Tea processing Industries in Rungwe which are the few Industries which are still existing and are in operation, although most of the Industries are operating below its capacity. There is also a number of Min Edible oil processing Plants and Floe and Roofing Tiles Industries generally all these industries offer both formal and informal employment.