



Border Economies: A Case Study of Beitbridge Border Post

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Overview

- Introduction
- Trade facilitation: Standing time
- Border economy
- Women and youth
- Recommendations

1. INTRODUCTION

- Relationship between industrialisation, regional integration and trade facilitation
- Objectives of the study
- Methodology

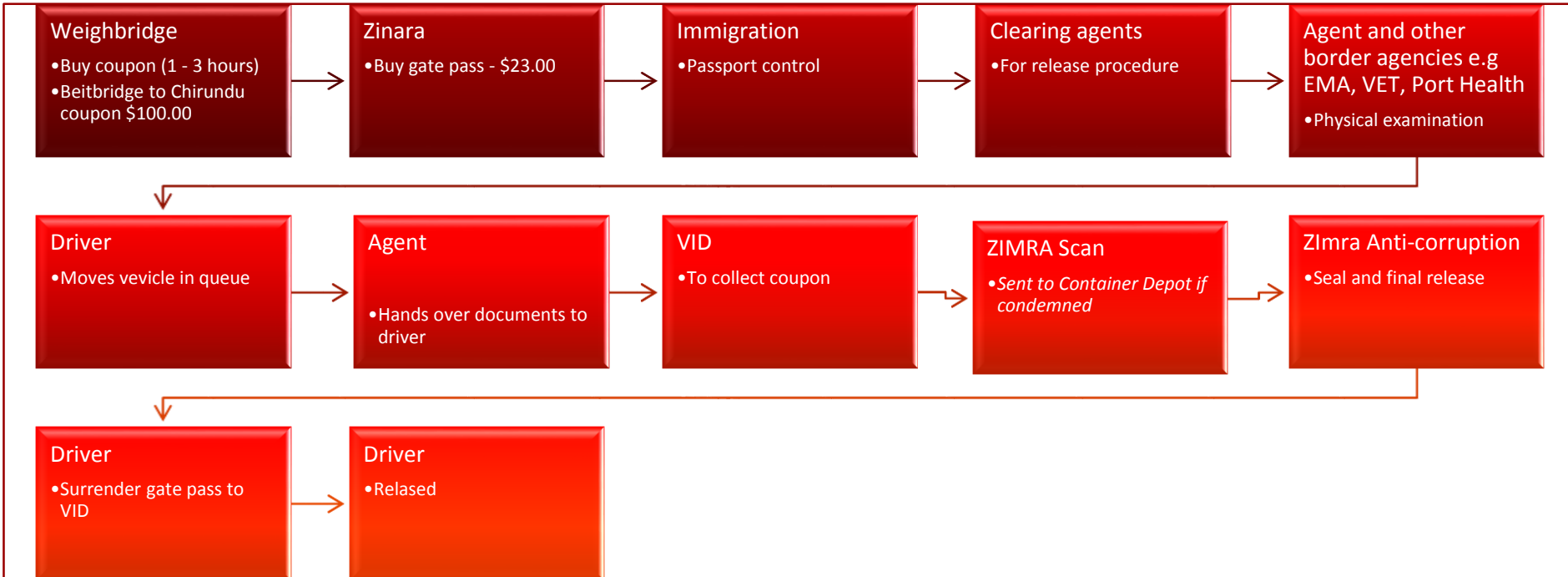
Trade Facilitation

- At least 3 000 commercial trucks and 14 000 travelers cross Beitbridge Border Post on a daily basis
- Truck drivers appreciate mandatory pre-clearance procedures introduced by Zimbabwe
- It takes two days for a truck with proper documentation to cross border post
- Drivers complained of poor working conditions resulting in them spending more time at the border after customs clearance

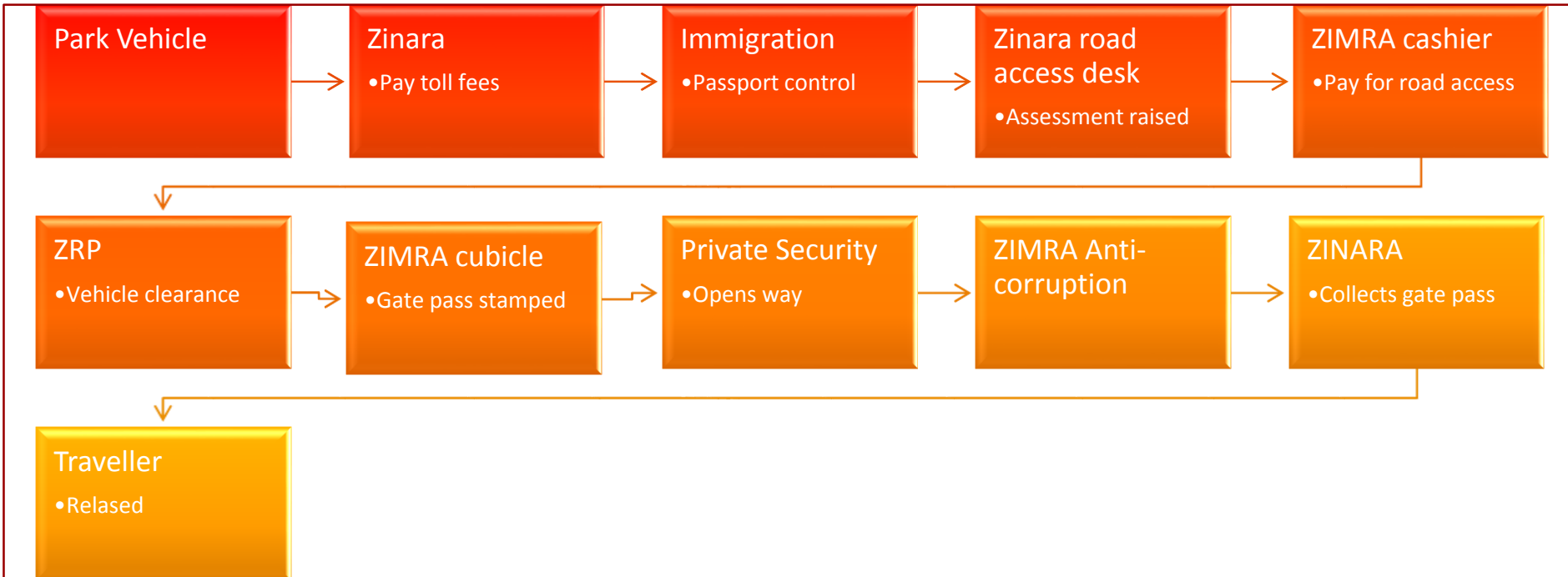
Trade Facilitation

- Lack of truck driver downtime results in most of them resorting to engagement of commercial sex service providers
- The Zimbabwe Vehicle Inspectorate Department was alleged to be taking almost 3 hours to process receipts for payments made (coupons) thereby increasing standing time
- Border design does not facilitate smooth flow of traffic

Movement of Trucks



Movement of Private Motorist: Zim Side



Movement of Private Motorist: SA Side

Park vehicle

Immigration

Customs TIP

Police

Gate and proceed

Negative Impact

- Closure of hotels: Beitbridge Express Hotel and Rainbow Hotel



Negative Impact

- The hotels closed when Beitbridge Border Post started operating 24 hours per day as this led to reduction in demand of overnight accommodation
- Customs modernization has resulted in many importers and exporters reducing outsourcing of customs clearance services as they can now have in-house clearing facilities thereby affecting clearing agency firms

Cross Border Traders



Clearance of Travelers

- South African customs was said to be very efficient
- Cross border traders complained of few immigration officers deployed at the South African side to clear them. Travelers can spend up to 3 hours awaiting clearance
- South African immigration control officers were said to be rude and serving clients while on social media (a video was provided)
- Signage on the Zimbabwean side was both invisible and insufficient resulting in touts taking advantage of travelers
- Clearance of private motorist on the Zimbabwean side is cumbersome

Mussina and Beitbridge

- Both Mussina and Beitbridge towns rely heavily on the operations of the border post
- One of the car sales on the South African side



Examples of Current Commercial Activities

Other commercial activities include provision of primary healthcare, truck parks, fuel service stations, banks, customs clearing agents, backyard car repairs and food outlets among others

There are opportunities for developing these towns into economic growth zones as they are surrounded by diamonds and coal mines.

Firms specialising in value addition of minerals such as diamond polishing and electricity generation from coal can be set up

Apart from mines, there are farms such as citrus fruit estates which can attract beverage manufacturers



Chances of Economic Growth Zones

- Beitbridge is also surrounded by two trans frontier parks - Mapungubwe in the west and Gonarezhou in the east and this can be used as a basis for construction of more tourism facilities.
- Implementation of the above should help in the reduction of poverty levels in the border towns as they will create employment.
- Once employment has been created, it may reduce the number of touts in border towns.

Challenges Faced

- 80% of cross-border traders are women
- There is no simplified trade regime between Zimbabwe and South Africa
- There are no low cost overnight accommodation on either side of the border post resulting in women sleeping in the open
- Cross-border market places needs development in Beitbridge

Cross Border Market Places in Beitbridge



Trade Facilitation

- Formation of a regional federation of commercial cross border drivers
- Standardisation of training and qualifications for customs brokers in SADC region
- Government should come up with clear policy on the use of cellphones by border officials on duty
- Border design needs review to facilitate smooth flow of traffic

Border Economies

- Development of border towns into economic growth zones by supporting mines and farms operating close to border towns
- Facilitate construction of firms specialising in value addition of minerals and agricultural produce
- Grow tourism industry
- The above may lead to reduction of poverty levels

Women and Youth

- Construction of low cost overnight accommodation
- Construction of a duty free shop on the Zimbabwean side
- Develop proper marketing places for cross border traders
- Introduce a simplified trade regime for cross border traders

THANK YOU

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