



New Zimbabwe

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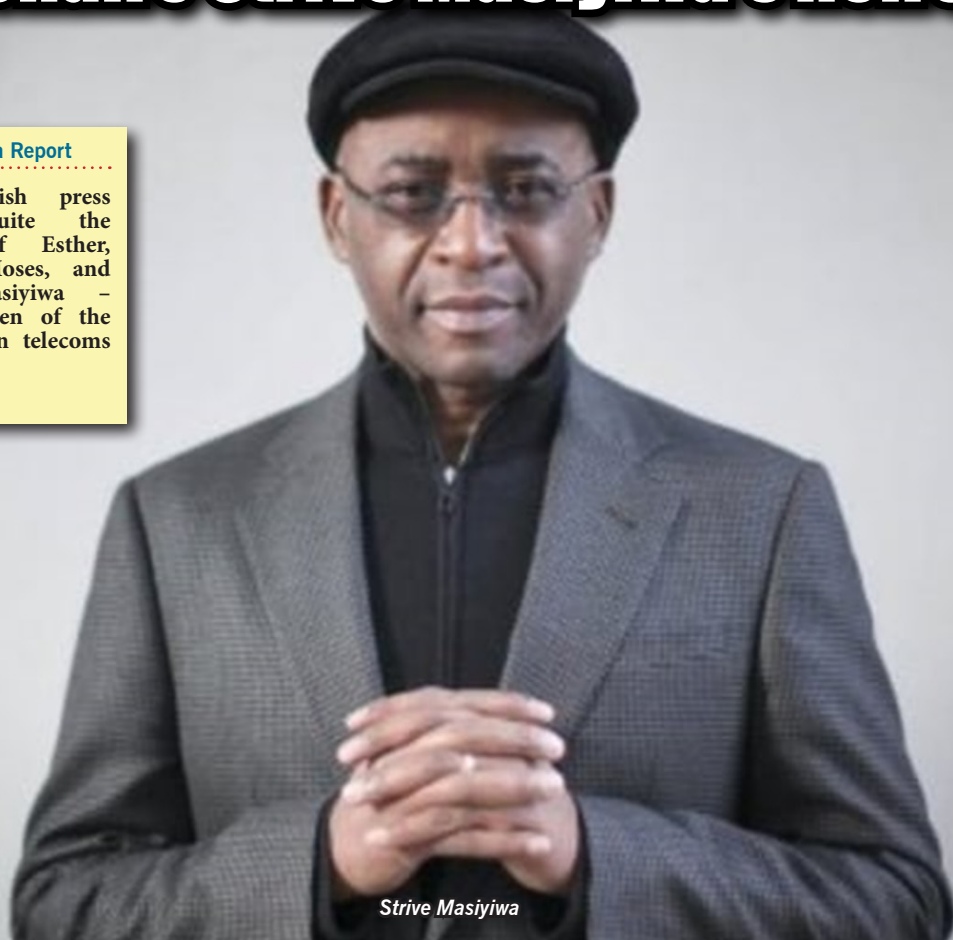
BILLION-HEIRS

London's jet-set swoon over billionaire Strive Masiyiwa's heirs

By The Africa Report

THE British press paints quite the picture of Esther, Vimbai, Moses, and Sarah Masiyiwa – four children of the Zimbabwean telecoms tycoon.

● to page 2



Strive Masiyiwa

INSIDE

PAGE 6

He injects US\$420K in FinTech Start-up

PAGE 14

From Zim roots to Bloem beats

PAGE 19

Raza receives two-match ban

ALSO INSIDE Gold dealer Sakupwanya wins Mabvuku-Tafara constituency uncontested | Page 4

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It's the Best By Far!



London's jet-set swoon over billionaire Strive Masiyiwa's heirs...

● from page 1

A “glamorous philanthropist”, a pyjama party aficionado, a documentarian who likes pink flamingo pool floats, and an heir enjoying his New York apartment with Central Park views...

Tatler magazine's portrayal of Strive and Tsitsi Masiyiwa's four kids in a list of the most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes is a different vibe from their father's serious, entrepreneurial, and visionary image.

He works daily to build the foundations of an African telecoms empire, beloved by international financiers and Google executives alike.

Family of entrepreneurs

The Zimbabwean mogul, attentive to developing the continent that made his success, does not usually flaunt his private life in the media, let alone tabloids.

Beyond Tatler's “lifestyle” depictions of the offspring of the founder of Econet and Cassava



Vimbai Masiyiwa, Esther Masiyiwa, Moses Masiyiwa and Sarah Masiyiwa. © MONTAGE JA: DR

Technologies lie journeys sometimes far removed from Zimbabwe and Africa.

Esther, the youngest, with a fresh bachelor's degree in digital culture from King's College London, is pursuing a master's in fashion entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of the Arts London.

Vimbai Masiyiwa, the “glam philanthropist”, has been an accomplished entrepreneur since 2019. While working on her UCL master's degree, the

29-year-old, who “inherited her father's work ethic” per Tatler, created Batoka Hospitality – a luxury hotel group developing local entrepreneurship in Zimbabwe.

When not “lolling” on a pink flamingo pool float, 27-year-old Sarah Masiyiwa takes an interest in Africa's “unexplored independence stories” through a podcast. The documentarian holds degrees in economics and journalism from NYU. Alongside this personal project, she works in

business development at the media company Sky.

Sporty Son

As the son of Tsitsi and Strive, 23-year-old Moses Masiyiwa devotes himself to sports as a coach and founder of his own company, Mofitness Limited. Though fond of high-society soirees, the Regent's University London graduate (bachelor's in sports management/marketing) often features in Tatler's columns. Committed to African youth, he chairs the Africa

Arise Youth Foundation – a Harare NGO using sports for youth personal development.

Strive and Tsitsi have two other daughters unmentioned by Tatler. Born in 1998 in Zimbabwe, Joanna studied at the prestigious Yale University, graduating with an ethics, politics, and economics degree.

A daughter in her father's footsteps

Elizabeth Tanya, the eldest sibling, appears most directly connected to her father's activities. In April, she replaced Strive Masiyiwa on Econet Wireless's board – a leading Zimbabwe telecoms operator he created in 1993.

Aged 34 with degrees in international banking/finance, social entrepreneurship, and an Executive MBA from Cambridge, she has founded several online education and leadership companies and serves on various philanthropic boards.

FBC's Mushayavanhu appointed new RBZ Governor



John Mushayavanhu

By Alois Vinga

FBC Holdings
CEO Doctor John
Mushayavanhu has been appointed as the new Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Governor.

He takes over from John Mangudya whose 10-year term ends in April 2024. Mangudya has also been appointed the new CEO of the Mutapa Investment Fund.

The latest appointment was announced by the chief secretary to the President and Cabinet Doctor Martin Rushwaya.

“Doctor Mangudya

will be succeeded by Dr John Mushayavanhu who is a career banker with over 30 years of banking experience, having worked at Standard Chartered Bank and FBC Bank in senior capacities.

“Dr Mushayavanhu holds several educational qualifications including a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a PhD in Business Administration,” he said in a statement.

The incoming governor is an Associate of the Institute of Bankers in Zimbabwe (AIBZ).

He has over 41 years in the financial services sector having previously held senior positions in corporate and retail banking with a local multinational bank.

Mushayavanhu is a former President of the Bankers Association of Zimbabwe (BAZ) and joined FBC Bank as an Executive Director in the Corporate Banking division in October 1997.

He became Managing Director in 2004 and was appointed Chief Executive of FBC Holdings on the 1st of June 2011.

Mozambique: Passenger train services to Zimbabwe start on Monday



By clubofmozambique.com

CAMINHOS de Ferro de Moçambique (CFM) will resume passenger rail transport on the Machipanda line, which links the Mozambican city of Beira and Zimbabwe on Monday (December 11), the company announced yesterday.

CFM said in a statement that the train would run on Mondays and Saturdays from Beira to Machipanda, and on Tuesdays and Sundays in the opposite direction.

"The 317-kilometre Machipanda line, from Beira to the border extension of Machipanda, is of strategic importance for the Beira Corridor, especially for neighbouring Zimbabwe, whose exports and imports are ensured by Mozambican ports and corridors. It is also an important way of encouraging social life," the note states.

In addition to the long-distance train that will start running again next Monday, a car will also be running – as from this Tuesday (December 5) – between the cities of Beira, in Sofala province, and Chimoio, in Manica province, twice a week, the statement said.

The CFM company also announced in the same statement the introduction

of a third track on the Sena line, between Beira and the district of Moatize was "a useful measure for the movement of people and goods".

The Machipanda railway line underwent rehabilitation and modernisation and was reopened on 23 November by the presidents of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, and Zimbabwe, Emerson Mnangagwa. Nyusi said on the occasion that the Machipanda railway line is "safer and more comfortable" as a result of the rehabilitation and modernisation of the infrastructure.

"The Machipanda railway line is now open to passenger transport, 26 years later, and in a safer and more comfortable way, following the rehabilitation and modernisation of the track," said Nyusi on his Facebook page.

The President said that the upgrading of the strategic line considerably increases the volume of cargo transported and reduces the transit time of trains and the cost of travelling.

"Freight trains used to travel with a lot of problems because the track had many tight curves, leading to accidents or loss of speed," he noted.

NATIONAL CHAMPION DJ CLASH SCHEDULE

NO.	DATE	REGION	VENUE
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3.	10 NOVEMBER	CHINHOYI	MZIMBA GARDENS
4.	17 NOVEMBER	GWERU	BOWLING CLUB
5.	24 NOVEMBER	BULAWAYO	TIN CUP PUB AND GRILL
6.	01 DECEMBER	HARARE SOUTH	CLUB ZONE MACHIPISA
7.	08 DECEMBER	CHITUNGWIZA	TANZA NITE CLUB
8.	15 DECEMBER	HARARE NORTH	ECLIPSE PUB AND GRILL

**CHAMPIONS DESERVE
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Gold dealer Sakupwanya wins Mabvuku-Tafara constituency uncontested as High Court amends judgement



Pedzai 'Scott' Sakupwanya

By Mary Taruvinga

GOLD dealer Pedzai 'Scott' Sakupwanya has won the Mabvuku-Tafara National Assembly seat uncontested after High Court corrected an earlier judgment and added his opponent, Munyaradzi Kufahakutizwi to the list of Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) candidates barred from running in Saturday's by-elections.

In Thursday's judgement, Judge Never Katiyo had excluded Kufahakutizwi.

Self-proclaimed CCC interim Secretary General Sengezo Tshabangu had said he erred in recalling Kufahakutizwi who has now been joined as a respondent in a judgement blocking CCC MPs seconded by Nelson Chamisa from running in Saturday's by-elections.

Reads the new court order.

"Whereupon after reading documents filed of record and hearing counsel, it is ordered that the decision of the Nomination Court sitting at Harare, Bulawayo, Gwanda, Lupane and/or any other location around the country on 7

November 2023 to accept the nomination papers and candidature of 1st to 23rd respondents for election in the by-elections set to be conducted on 9 December 2023 is unlawful, of no force and effect and hereby set aside.

"That 1st to 23rd respondents are not candidates for election in the by-elections scheduled to be conducted on 9 December 2023.

"That 24th and 25th respondents shall not include the names of 1st to 23rd respondents in the preparation of ballot papers to be used in the by-elections scheduled to be conducted on 9 December 2023. 4. That the 1st to 23rd respondents are interdicted from representing or holding themselves out to the general public and electorate in the constituencies concerned or any other place in Zimbabwe, whether physically or through any form of media, as candidates for election in by-elections scheduled to be held on 9 December 2023."

All respondents were ordered to pay costs.



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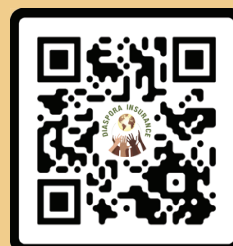


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Chaos at jobs fair in Zimbabwe underscores desperation for work



By PA News Agency

A STAMPEDE at a government-organised jobs fair involving hundreds of young people in Zimbabwe desperate for work left some limping and others screaming in pain, after being stamped on or beaten by security guards on Wednesday.

The chaos came as job seekers rushed to register for potential vacancies, but no serious injuries were reported.

The crush of people illustrated the growing distress over the lack of formal jobs in the country of 15 million people, which has been hit by long-running economic problems.

Hundreds turned up for the fair in the capital, Harare, holding envelopes with their CVs and college certificates.

They were hoping to be registered on a database of job seekers.

People stamped on each other in the rush to access a large hall where the registration was taking place.

Security guards used batons to restore order, but people still surged forward.

Last month 31 people died in a crush at a military recruitment event at a stadium in the Republic of Congo as large crowds of young people gathered to register to join the army, one of the few institutions in that country still offering employment.

A security guard uses a baton to control people at the jobs fair in Harare (Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi/AP)



Young people are desperate for work (Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi/AP)



Zimbabwean business tycoon injects US\$420K in FinTech Start-up, Jamboo

By Alois Vinga

BUSINESSMAN Rutenhuro Moyo will be injecting US\$420 000 into the revolutionary fintech start-up, Jamboo.

The game-changing firm will provide digital solutions offering banking and investment services tailored for African expatriates in the U.K and Europe.

Jamboo's Chief Investment Officer, Innocent Chinyama expressed enthusiasm over the latest development.

"We are excited to announce that Mr. Moyo is going to invest US\$420,000 into Jamboo. This injection of capital signifies a pivotal moment for the start-up, propelling it toward its mission of transforming financial services for the diaspora community," he said.

Moyo has wide experience and has held senior positions in international corporations such as Anglo-American, Old Mutual and Coca-Cola Central Africa. He is a director of several other companies.

He holds a Masters in Industrial and Occupational Psychology and has postgraduate qualifications in Business and Finance among others.

His entrepreneurial prowess and extensive experience in senior roles at international corporations underscores his commitment to drive positive change and foster

economic growth.

"This funding not only validates our mission but empowers us to revolutionize banking and investment services for the African diaspora," said Jamboo's Co-Founder and CEO, Takwana Tyaranini, expressing gratitude for Moyo's investment.

The strategic alliance between Moyo and Jamboo promises to reshape the landscape of financial services, bringing innovation, accessibility, and empowerment to the African diaspora in the U.K. and Europe.

The developments follow Moyo's recent successful consortium that took over the lender group's debt in Tongaat Hulett, where this strategic investment promises salvation for thousands of jobs across South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana.



Rutenhuro Moyo



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'Choiceless elections': Zimbabweans cry foul before bizarre by-elections

● *Opposition figures and analysts say Zimbabwe's political arena is being shaped to enforce a one-party state.*



People await the reading of the presidential election results by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) in Harare on August 26, 2023
[Jekesai Njikizana/AFP]

By Chris Muronzi | Al Jazeera

WHEN Obert Manduna was elected member of parliament for Nketa constituency in Zimbabwe's second biggest city of Bulawayo in August, the former humanitarian worker was elated.

"It has always been my passion to work with the downtrodden, vulnerable, and disadvantaged members of the society," Manduna told Al Jazeera. "So this has been a calling, an inborn talent that is in me to help [the] community, and this desire was cemented by my entry into politics."

But this Saturday, his seat and that of 14 other members and eight senators, all members of the country's main opposition, the Citizens Coalition for

Change (CCC) are up for grabs in a by-election. The events leading up to the vote have been a bizarre episode even in a country all too used to unpredictable political developments.

Barely a month into his new role, Manduna was shocked to discover on social media he had been fired from his dream role. A man purporting to be the CCC secretary-general, had recalled him and the other 20 opposition lawmakers.

"Kindly be advised that the following members of the senate were elected under Citizens Coalition of Change (CCC) political party and have ceased to be members of the Citizens Coalition for Change political party," read part of a letter dated October 3. It was authored by one

Sengezo Tshabangu to Speaker of Parliament Jacob Mudenda.

The news hit him hard. "It affected me psychologically for a few minutes but I am [a] strong believer in community development and I have continued with my work," Manduna said.

Under Zimbabwean law, a member's seat can become vacant when parliament is dissolved, if he or she ceases to be a voter, is absent for 21 consecutive days, or is certified mentally unfit or "intellectually handicapped". And then, a resignation letter to the president of the Senate or speaker of parliament is sent by the party he represents.

None of that had happened to the affected lawmakers. One more

thing struck them as odd: the man claiming to be the main opposition's interim secretary general was neither a member of CCC nor its secretary-general. The party said it had never heard of him either.

Naturally, the CCC disowned Tshabangu but Mudenda the speaker of parliament nevertheless heeded the request to recall the legislators.

Following their recall, President Emmerson Mnangagwa proclaimed a by-election on December 8 in line with the country's laws.

'A joke'

The drama, which sent the entire opposition into panic mode and ignited debate in Zimbabwe's political arena, was further complicated by this week's

events.

On December 7, Manduna and his 21 displaced colleagues were barred by the High Court from participating in the elections in their constituencies. The court ruled that the nomination body should not have accepted them as candidates in the by-elections.

CCC alleges that Tshabangu is a governing party operative bent on undermining the main opposition, a charge he has denied. ZANU-PF Secretary-General Obert Mpofu, secretary-general of the governing Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) has also said his party has "nothing to do with what is going on".

● to page 10

'Choiceless elections': Zimbabweans cry foul before bizarre by-elections...

● from page 9

"I don't even know Sengezo myself," Mpfu said on the campaign trail in November. "I have never seen him ... I really take all that allege that we have something to do with CCC as a joke."

Meanwhile, CCC spokesperson Promise Mkhwananzi says the recalls are "unacceptable and disturbing" as they run parallel to the wishes of the people of Zimbabwe.

"It's an attempt to subvert and undermine the will of the people, to disrespect the right to vote, to disregard the right of choice of the people of Zimbabwe. It has become meaningless to vote in Zimbabwe because when you vote, your vote is undermined," Mkhwananzi said.

Political analysts said the opposition should have boycotted the by-election from the beginning.

Harare-based political analyst Rashweat Mukundu told Al Jazeera saying the situation was a continuation of "manipulated electoral processes", a reference to the disputed presidential election.

He said the opposition, must now engage the "broader society, churches, students, labour" to "demand for rule of law, independent state institutions and free and fair elections".

"CCC cannot participate hence legitimise and cry foul at the same time," he added.

A broader plan

Others say the recalls are part of a much broader plan by Mnangagwa to consolidate power in his second and final term.

The governing party, won a total of 136 seats in the polls while CCC got 73 seats. The recalls are therefore seen as an attempt to tilt the balance of power in ZANU-PF's favour by ensuring it ends up with a two-thirds majority in parliament.



A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Kwekwe, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, August 23, 2023 [AP Photo]

With a parliamentary majority, the presidency would have more extensive powers, including the capacity to elongate his tenure, analysts said.

Under the Southern African country's constitution, presidential terms are capped at a maximum of two five-year terms. A two-thirds majority in parliament would be key in pushing constitutional amendments.

CCC youth wing interim spokesperson Stephen Chuma called it a "clear decimation of multiparty democracy" and reversal of the gains of the liberation struggle from British colonial rule.

That struggle ended in independence in 1980 and helped foster the dominance of ZANU-PF at the national level since then. Its disputed win in August extended that run.

Across Zimbabwe, the fear of the erosion of multiparty democracy being installed in the country is on the rise, even as a long list of opposition figures and supporters, journalists, and dissidents are being arrested or detained arbitrarily.

One of them, Job Sikhulala, has been in prison



President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa looks on as he addresses a news conference at State House in Harare on August 27, 2023 [Jekesai Njikizana/AFP]

since June 2022 for allegedly obstructing justice and inciting public violence. It is his 65th arrest since joining partisan politics in 1999.

"It is clearer now that ZANU-PF seeks to impose [a] one-party state system in the country. ZANU-PF knows they are unelectable hence they want to bar CCC from contesting elections," Chuma told Al Jazeera. "So many people died during the liberation struggle for the right to vote now some greedy individuals violate that right. The situation

calls for progressive citizens to unite and fight this dictatorship."

Stanford Nyatsanza, a researcher at the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute concurred, saying the developing situation is an indication that ZANU-PF is overseeing a series of "choiceless elections" to gradually make this happen.

"Politically, it means the opposition faces an uphill task to dislodge a competitive authoritarian regime from power which effectively captures all

institutions of democratic contestation," he told Al Jazeera.

"The absence of opposition CCC candidates from ballot papers in the by-election is a clear testament to holding elections in which opposition supporters cannot freely make their choices," Nyatsanza added. "Basically, ZANU-PF is going to compete against itself on 9 December and that cannot be classified as an election."

Zimbabwe digs boreholes to tackle growing cholera outbreak

More than 8,000 Zimbabweans have fallen ill with the deadly bacterial illness since February, but the health system is working hard to get ahead of the growing epidemic.

By Elia Ntali

A CHOLERA outbreak that began in February in Zimbabwe and is thought to have so far killed more than 155, sickening well over 8,000, is spiking.

As bad memories of 2008's wildfire epidemic stirred, Harare, the capital, declared a state of emergency earlier this month. Restrictions on gatherings and food vending have been imposed across much of the country. Burials in affected regions are being monitored.

In a bid to get at the root cause of the outbreak, the Government of Zimbabwe is drilling for clean water sources.

Tunnelling out of an epidemic

Speaking at a post-cabinet press briefing late last month, Jenfan Muswere, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, said the Ministry of Health and Child Care has overseen the drilling of new boreholes in some of the worst-affected districts, including the outbreak epicentre, Buhera.

"Cabinet reports that health education on cholera prevention and control measures, including hygiene promotion, is ongoing in provinces," he added. "Door-to-door cholera [awareness] campaigns are being made in the affected provinces," said Muswere. A recent Health Ministry situational report confirms that to date, 17 boreholes have been drilled, and 20 have been repaired in Buhera District.

Cholera has been surging around the world since 2021, with Africa seeing the largest numbers of outbreaks. The causative bacterium, *Vibrio cholerae*, spreads in contaminated water. Scientists have known for well over 150 years that this explosively deadly epidemic disease is preventable with good sanitation and a reliable supply of potable water.



A borehole drilling rig in Harare's Kuwadzana suburb. Credit: Elia Ntali



A complete solar powered borehole in Buhera district Credit: Elia Ntali

According to Samson Chitamba, a representative of Prevail, the company installing the boreholes, the boreholes will provide that via a solar-powered system that draws water up from the ground and through a chlorination mechanism.

"As water is being drawn into the tank, it passes through the inline chlorinator (which contains chlorine tablets) which is fixed along the pipe. The tablets are dissolved, meaning that the water is chlorinated, making it safer for drinking. The inline chlorinator can take up to five years before it is replaced," said Chitamba. **"We never thought we would get piped water"**

Villagers in Buhera

district's Ward 15 welcomed the development.

"The borehole initiative is a blessing to us as it has come at a time that we are facing a difficult situation. We are facing a cholera outbreak that has come as a result of polluted water sources. The initiative will help improve hygiene among villagers, especially schoolchildren," said Tichafara Muchadenyika.

Obert Marufu, a village head, said: "We never thought that one day we would get piped water. Since the installation of the solar-powered borehole, the community is now safe from cholera. As community leaders we will continue to raise awareness on the effects of drinking water from

unprotected sources. We will ensure that the boreholes are safe and well maintained."

Healthy reception

Village health workers (VHWs) and community leaders who went through training on waterborne diseases were gratified by the community's response.

"I have received some trainings on cholera and other waterborne diseases since the cholera outbreak began," said Judith Mapanzure, a VHW. "I have been carrying out awareness campaigns in six villages and I am glad villagers have been responsive, including some religious sects that are known for shunning clinics. We have been educating villagers on basic hygiene and

encouraging them to seek medical attention when they observe cholera symptoms."

Resistance to treatment and prevention on religious grounds among the Apostolic sect remains a hindrance to the control of the disease. However, the government has been engaging church leaders in a bid to bring hold-out groups on board.

Zvidzai Zaranyika, a community leader, echoed Mpanzure's resolve. "We have moved around villages raising awareness and the response has been exciting. I attribute this to the situation that we faced as a community following the death of some villagers. We are doing our best as a community to maintain good hygiene practices," said Zaranyika.

Hardlife Mudzingwa, the director of a local water and sanitation advocacy group called Community Water Alliance (CWA), said boreholes are great solution for some of the zones hardest hit during the current cholera outbreak.

"In a rural setting, boreholes are ideal -- particularly for cholera hotspot areas like Buhera. However, standards for these boreholes are critical so that water generated is of good quality. Not all ground water is safe for drinking, so an inline chlorination system is required among other interventions that ensure quality borehole water," said Mudzingwa.

Preventable scourge

Health and Child Care Minister Dr Douglas Mombeshora said that medicines and water treatment chemicals had been distributed to households in affected areas. "One death is more than enough. We are losing lives and it is necessary for us together as a community, with our partners and the Ministry, to scale up our interventions to stop this cholera outbreak," he added.



Ramaphosa's Zim blind spot will come back to bite him in devastating fashion



Presidents Cyril Ramaphosa and Emmerson Mnangagwa. File photo. Image: Elmond Jiyane/Business Day



By Emily Osborne and Jonathan Moakes

DESPITE travelling over 9,000km in an attempt to intervene in the war in Ukraine, President Cyril Ramaphosa is unwilling to condemn political violence and repression on his own doorstep.

In the months after his "victory" in Zimbabwe's shamelessly rigged elections in August, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has continued to ride roughshod over the country's remaining political freedoms.

Since election day, opposition MPs and activists have been abducted and murdered, wrongfully imprisoned, and recalled under false pretences. Zimbabweans are living in

desperate conditions within a violent and repressive regime.

As Zimbabwe's opposition and civil society are crushed north of the Limpopo River, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa remains silent. He regards Mnangagwa as an ally and was one of the few African leaders to attend his inauguration.

By endorsing Mnangagwa's brutal regime, Ramaphosa proves to South Africans (and the world at large) just how low he values commitment to democracy, human rights, and basic humanity.

A pattern of political repression

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF is determined, by any means necessary, to reclaim the two-thirds majority in the National Assembly it lost in this winter's elections. How fortuitous, then, that a man calling himself the "Interim Secretary General of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC)" has written to the Speaker of Zimbabwe's Parliament recalling 28 of

the party's MPs and multiple senators and councillors.

It did not seem to matter to the Speaker that CCC officials vehemently refuted this and denied any knowledge of the man and his supposed role in the party; the MPs were stripped of their seats and by-elections are now scheduled for 9 December.

Opposition candidates for these seats are campaigning in an increasingly dangerous environment. CCC activist and cleric Tapfumaneyi Masaya was abducted while canvassing for his candidate in a constituency just outside of Harare. His body was later found dumped on the outskirts of the city.

Tragically, this was one in a series of increasingly violent crimes carried out against CCC MPs and supporters. Party activist Jeffrey Kalosi was kidnapped with Masaya, although he survived the ordeal. Two opposition MPs, James Chidhakwa and Takudzwa Ngadziore, were also abducted and tortured in recent weeks.

● to page 13



ABOUT US

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Ramaphosa's Zim blind spot will come back to bite him in devastating fashion...

• from page 12

These tactics are grotesque, although sadly quite common in the Zanu-PF playbook, particularly around an election period. They have naturally prompted deep condemnation of Mnangagwa's regime by concerned onlookers including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the US government.

History, however, teaches that these complaints will have little bearing on Mnangagwa's behaviour. Especially when regional partners, like South Africa, continue to look the other way.

Ramaphosa's silent support

In the face of these egregious and well-documented human rights violations, Ramaphosa continues to back his ally in Harare, tacitly condoning the attacks against opposition leaders with his silence.

At the United Nations General Assembly in September, Ramaphosa called Mnangagwa "my brother" and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Zimbabwean

president after SADC and AU election observers had decried his election as deeply flawed.

Ramaphosa's silence on Zimbabwe is also deeply hypocritical, given how vocally he claims to defend civil liberties elsewhere in the world. On Israel, he has referred the country's government to the International Criminal Court for its military operation in Gaza, backed a motion to sever diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv, and promised unwavering support to the Palestinian people.

In Ukraine too, the President has sought to style himself as a statesman: leading a delegation of six African heads of state to Moscow and Kyiv in June in a vainglorious attempt to broker a peace agreement. Yet despite travelling over 9,000km to intervene in a European war, he is unwilling to condemn political violence and repression on his own doorstep.

Chickens coming home to roost

Ramaphosa's tacit

support for Mnangagwa is fostering an incredibly unstable situation in Zimbabwe. This will only spell bad news for the South African president, whose party is currently polling below 50% in the lead-up to next year's elections. He would do well to remember that his stance on Zimbabwe may be consequential for many voters.

As long as Mnangagwa's regime is allowed to continue unchecked by South African intervention, Zimbabweans will continue to migrate in large numbers to South Africa. They are fleeing from the political repression and economic turmoil, many crossing the border at Beit Bridge into South Africa in search of a more stable, prosperous, and hopeful future.

Figures vary, but there are estimated to be more than one million people in the Zimbabwean diaspora currently residing in South Africa. The issue of migration into the country is a key concern for many voters heading into 2024, many

of whom would like to see numbers reduced to free up employment opportunities. As a result, anti-Zimbabwean xenophobia is on the rise, a situation populist opposition politicians are already exploiting.

Ramaphosa's silence is also fundamentally not a good look for him or South Africa, both at home and on the global stage. It completely undermines any effort by South Africa to present itself as an international peacemaker, and Ramaphosa as a crusader for civil liberties.

It is not too late, however, for Ramaphosa to change course. Nearly 30 years ago, Nelson Mandela notoriously opted for "quiet diplomacy" in his dealings with Nigeria's General Sani Abacha, refraining from publicly speaking out against his increasingly brutal regime. However, as the atrocities of Abacha's military rule mounted — culminating in the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, an environmental activist and government critic — Mandela reversed his earlier stance. He called

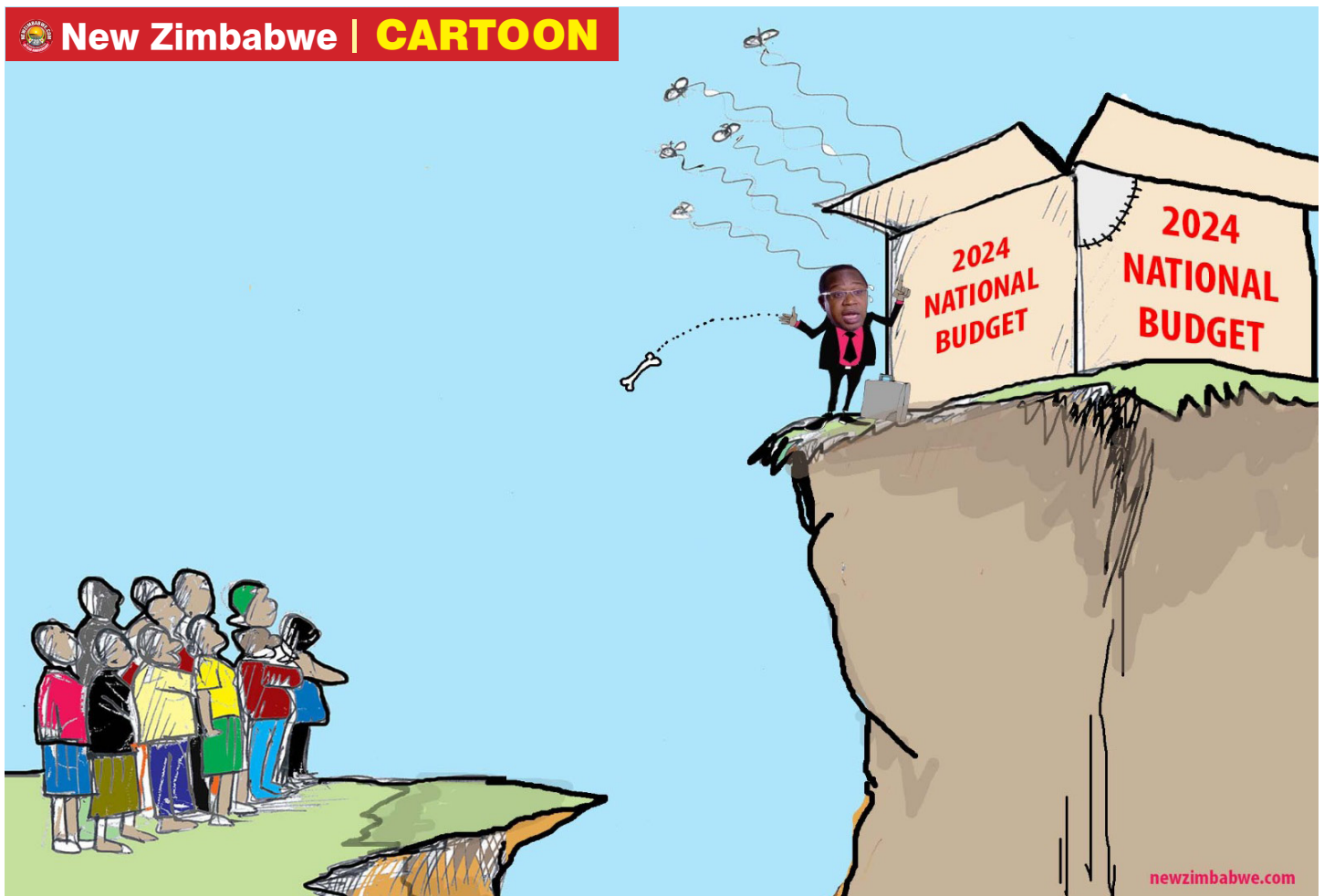
for sanctions on Nigeria and its suspension from the Commonwealth.

In 1994, Mandela and the ANC swept to victory with the promise of a better life for all. As we approach the 30th anniversary of democracy in South Africa, and the 10th anniversary of Madiba's passing, Ramaphosa has the chance to embody the teachings of his former mentor by championing political freedoms and human rights in our region.

If he cannot do this for the people of Zimbabwe, perhaps he can do it for his own re-election campaign.

Jonathan Moakes and Emily Osborne conduct political research, campaign and communications consultancy as well as political analysis for SABU Strategy Group, a communications and campaigning firm based in London and Johannesburg. Disclosure: SABU Strategy Group (which the authors work for) conducted work for the Citizens Coalition for Change during the Zimbabwe 2023 elections.

New Zimbabwe | CARTOON





New Zimbabwe ARTS | CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT

From Zimbabwe roots to Bloemfontein beats

By Justine Fortuin |
Bloemfontein Courant

SIMBX M, legally known as Simba D Matema, is a Zimbabwean-South African singer, lyricist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist based in Bloemfontein.

According to Simbx M, he grew up in a music-loving household and it exposed him to diverse genres, shaping his unique sound. "I grew up around music almost my whole life.

"I always recall back in Zimbabwe where I knew I'd wake up to my father either watching BBC News, or full blast reggae. This has indeed shaped my sound and inspiration, because I was exposed to a lot of music, different kinds from Keith Sweat, Aleck Macheso, Thomas Mapfumo, Leonard Dembo, Oliver Mtukudzi, Louis Mhlanga, Afrika Revenge, from Jazz to Hip Hop, to Reggae, to African music in general," he said.

Simbx M's sound usually has a blend between genres ranging from house, Amapiano, Hip Hop, jazz, reggae, and Afropop.

When it comes to his songwriting process he said before he even writes lyrics for a song, he takes the lead from the beat/instrumental. "Everything first starts as a freestyle, with random recordings

of random words and melodies, then I chop and join the melodies I liked. Once I have a flowing structure, I start scripting the lyrics onto the beat and the random recordings," he said.

When asked about being based in Bloemfontein as an artist, he said that it has not always been the easiest thing. "A typical trend is that artists tend to relocate once they start getting exposure and becoming famous. In as much as this could be fruitful for their career, it always happens that people forget to mention which areas they began being appreciated in," said Simbx M.

"Forme, Bloemfontein has welcomed me and my talent, versatility, and experimentation with various genres and sounds, to the point where I can almost give credit to the city for getting me this far with its people's support," he added. Simbx M believes that there is a reason why it is called the City of Roses.

"To me, this is significant in the way that I have grown, through all the battles and red-tape and gatekeeping. Despite all these, I was still able to rise, just like a rose fights to grow through its thorns, I fought and raised above all the challenges I encountered."



Simba D Matema, better known as Simbx M. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

CANADA: Zimbabwe-born author fundraising for youth education in Africa



By [swiftcurrentonline.com](https://www.swiftcurrentonline.com)

IN A MISSION to ensure that all children have access to education and sports, a Swift Current resident is taking action and making a difference.

Collin Nyabadza wrote his book *All for the Children* to share his decades-long journey of working with youth around the globe. Now, proceeds

from sales of his story are going right back into enriching the lives of kids in rural Zimbabwe.

"Kids over there are not as fortunate as our own kids here in Canada and other developed countries," he said. "You find that the majority, especially the rural based, don't have basic stuff like classrooms, classroom furniture, sports equipment, even basic

things like soccer uniforms and soccer balls."

The educational assistant started The Collin Nyabadza Children's Voice Charitable Trust in 2012, which works to support academics and sports in his homeland.

Copies of *All for the Children* can be purchased on Amazon, 100 per cent of proceeds going to the cause, with the first plan of action

being to ship out soccer jerseys.

When asked about why he's passionate about the younger generation and how it feels to be an advocate for them, he said, "It's a journey that I've travelled.

"And you just see the impact," he added. "Every dollar counts. Sometimes people fail to help because they think if I give five

dollars, what is it going to do? But at the end of the day, you find that every single dollar makes a very big difference.

"Now, as I'm speaking, every container full of soccer uniforms, which are just waiting to be shipped to Zimbabwe, so every dollar makes a very big difference, and it makes me feel so happy."



From a pig farm in Zimbabwe to trailblazing HIV researcher – Prof Linda-Gail Bekker



Linda-Gail Bekker. Photo: Desmond Tutu Health Foundation

By Medical Brief

INSIDE Professor Linda-Gail Bekker's office is a bookshelf stacked with titles on general medicine, HIV/Aids and TB, while against this rests a mannequin dressed in a white doctor's coat, a stethoscope protruding from her pocket; on her head, a sparkling tiara and a pink Venetian mask.

Pinned to a wall is a picture of raised fists bearing the hashtag #youthinaction.

This tableau captures the driving passions and quirks associated with the petite physician-scientist with the lilac hair, writes Biënné Huisman for Spotlight.

Propelled by a want to create better lives for people, while "fascinated and thrilled" by medical

science, Bekker chose infectious diseases as her core career challenge.

Combining research and community outreach is her strong point, and 2024 will mark the 20th year since she established the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF) inside the University of Cape Town (UCT) with her husband, renowned TB researcher Professor Robin Wood.

To colleagues, she is simply known as "LGB" – short for "Linda-Gail Bekker". An A-rated researcher (with South Africa's National Research Foundation), with a string of awards including several for her contribution to the global HIV response, her career, from the start, has pivoted around social

justice.

Former president of the International Aids Society, this year she joined the board of Dutch-based non-profit organisation Access to Medicine Foundation, which advocates for big pharma to distribute lifesaving drugs to low- and middle-income countries.

From small beginnings in the 1990s as the HIV Research Unit at Somerset Hospital – one of South Africa's first public clinics to offer antiretroviral therapy, under directorship of Wood – today the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation and HIV Centre has a fleet of five "Tutu Tester trucks", a TikTok channel, and a new gym-style health park that encourages youngsters to get both "ripped and prepped", a reference to

PrEP.

'Get ripped, get prepped'

Wedged between mountains and the sea along the Cape Peninsula coast, the township of Masiphumelele is home to tens of thousands of people (reliable estimates are hard to come by) on about 40ha of land.

Despite its name, which means "we shall succeed" in isiXhosa, living conditions here are dire. It is overcrowded, sanitation is not what it should be, and infectious diseases like HIV and TB are rife. This is the site of DTHF's youth centre, opened in 2011.

And since September it is also Mpilo health park – with gym equipment and facilities for soccer, netball and basketball at a yearly membership fee of R150.

"I'm constantly looking for new ways to reach people," says Bekker. "We've had a youth centre down in Masiphumelele for years, but realised we were missing young men aged between 17 and 29. So we've built a health park alongside the youth centre, basically a gym with all the latest equipment."

"And the message now is: 'get ripped, get prepped.' You know, if you want to look gorgeous, if you wanna be attractive, build your muscles, but have a healthy penis too."

Bekker said they charge membership fees as this creates a perception of value. She hopes the health park will become a blueprint for similar facilities to be rolled out countrywide.

● to page 17

From a pig farm in Zimbabwe to trailblazing HIV researcher – Prof Linda-Gail Bekker...

● from page 16

"In the middle of the health park, we still have the sexual reproductive health clinic," she says. "Plus a mental health support component. We see a ton of mental health difficulties post-Covid. So just some basic support. Somebody who can sit next to you and say: 'I see you, I feel your pain. If you are using substances, can you use less? If you're smoking, can you smoke less?'"

"We're trying to address the non-communicable diseases as well. There is an epidemic of obesity now. So we are trying to say to young women: 'This BMI is going to get you into trouble. What can we do, sister? How can we help you? What's your diet? Can we advise around the dietary side?' You know, gentle engagement around non-communicable diseases."

Another current DTHF project is "FastPrEP", in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, plus the Western Cape and national Health Departments since 2019, which endeavours to have PrEP distributed in a "fun" fast-food modelled manner, ranging from discreet home deliveries and WhatsApp support to PrEP ambassadors on social media channels like TikTok.

'A dream come true'

Bekker recalls a happy childhood surrounded by droves of cousins (her mother was one of 15 children) on a pig farm in Zimbabwe. She was the first in her family to graduate from a university.

Despite a flare for drama and the stage, Bekker wanted to become a doctor from as early as she

can remember.

"My first memory was making sure I got into medical school," she says. "I am a terrible achiever, competitive to a fault, which can be difficult. I just love the arts, but I truly loved science too, and it was a dream come true when UCT said I could come here to do medicine."

Bekker graduated from medical school at UCT in 1987, followed by service at McCord Zulu Hospital in Durban and Eshowe Provincial Hospital, returning to Groote Schuur in Cape Town in 1993.

Her initial ambition to pursue care for geriatric patients made way for research into infectious diseases, as the HIV/Aids pandemic loomed darkly over the country and its health agenda.

Her love story with

Wood started in the corridors of Somerset Hospital, in Green Point. Bekker worked at his clinic as part of research for her PhD and for pocket money.

"Robin was doing these very exciting new antiretroviral studies, which was terrific," she recalls.

"Part of our story was that we used to go and watch art movies together, which I love. So, foreign art films at the Labia Theatre and then afterwards we'd go to a pub and have discussions about it."

Bekker obtained her PhD in 2000 and married Wood in the same year. The couple have a 21-year-old son named Ollie.

Bekker notes her son's unusual childhood, growing up in a household with regular dinner-time conversations about CD-4

counts. Ollie in turn, keeps Bekker abreast of youthful trends.

"What they (young research participants) tell me is that they want tailored, direct information, preferably in their pockets," she says.

"On their phones, not written down. I barely know a young person who reads anything if it's not on YouTube, or TikTok. My own son doesn't. So with our services (at the DTHF) we've had to adapt to that. We're really putting a lot of effort into social media and short, sharp messages."

Two years ago, Bekker co-led the Sisonke study into early Covid-19 vaccinations for South African healthcare workers, alongside her peer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Glenda Gray.

Zimbabwean diaspora to explore investment prospects in Homecoming event

By Staff Reporter

ZIMBABWEANS living abroad will converge in the country later this month as they scour for investment opportunities.

Zimbabwe in Diaspora Organisation (ZIDO) will host a homecoming dinner on December 21, as expatriates return for the festive season.

In a statement ZIDO said the forum will create synergies among Zimbabweans based outside the country, establishing conduits for investments.

"Diaspora Homecoming dinner is part of Zido's efforts to create a platform where diasporans who would have come for the holidays mix and mingle and share their experiences in living abroad, while they broaden their horizons through sharing ideas on how to grow different business portfolios and, as part of growing business portfolios,

sharing investments and partnering in different projects in Zimbabwe as we seek to plough back to our motherland. The Homecoming dinner will also create an opportunity for business linkages between the diaspora community and our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe," read the statement.

Zimbabweans based outside the country have been contributing immensely to the country's economy with Minister of Finance Mthuli Ncube saying that over US\$1 billion has been flowing through remittances.

Renowned speakers are expected to grace the event.

"As an organization of Zimbabweans living in the diaspora, we feel that the diaspora plays a pivotal role in Zimbabwe's economic growth hence the hosting of the first ever Diaspora Homecoming dinner in

Zimbabwe."

Speakers drawn for various sectors are lined up. During the event, diasporan trailblazers will also be honoured for their various achievements.

"We have recently seen that Zimbabwe's economy has been on an upward trajectory, hence the Homecoming dinner will serve as a platform where investment opportunities in Zimbabwe will be brought out through various speakers.

"As part of outlining investment opportunities for both the local and the diaspora community this will be an opportunity for those in the diaspora to have a firsthand appreciation of investment opportunities in Zimbabwe and home, will see high-level speakers outline the abundant investment opportunities in Zimbabwe," read the statement further.



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New Zimbabwe SPORT



Raza receives two-match ban after ICC Code of Conduct breach

By Agencies

ZIMBABWE captain Sikandar Raza has been handed a two-match ban and will miss the remaining T20 international fixtures against Ireland after he was sanctioned for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct.

The star all-rounder was fined 50 percent of his match fee and received two demerit points for aggressively charging towards the Ireland duo of Curtis Campher and Josh Little while pointing his bat and breaking away from the umpire who had tried to calm the situation during the first game between the two sides at Harare Sports Club on Thursday.

That penalty took his demerit points tally to four points within a 24-month period, resulting in him being barred from playing two matches.

Sean Williams will stand in as Zimbabwe's captain for the remaining two T20I matches against Ireland this Saturday and Sunday.

For their part, Campher and Little have been fined 15 percent of their respective match fees and received one demerit point each, their first within 24 months.

Campher was charged with charging towards Raza, side-stepping one of the on-field umpires who tried to stop his progress.

Little was charged with making physical contact with Raza after the latter complained about Little's blocking his path when trying to make a run.



Sikandar Raza



Admiral Muskwe: Hamstring injury could end Exeter City loan for Luton Town forward



Admiral Muskwe

By BBC sports news

EXETER City boss Gary Caldwell says he is uncertain if on-loan Luton Town striker Admiral Muskwe will return to the club after suffering a "significant" hamstring injury.

The 25-year-old was hurt playing for Zimbabwe against Rwanda last month and has returned to Luton for treatment.

Caldwell says the forward will be out for "a number of months".

"Our thoughts are with Admiral and hopefully he recovers quickly and gets back as quick as he can," he said.

Caldwell's options up front have been limited this season with deadline-day signing Muskwe carrying an injury when he arrived at the club and only playing eight times.

The Exeter boss says he is yet to decide if he will keep Muskwe when the

January transfer window reopens or opt to cut the loan short.

"As we get closer to January that will probably be a discussion we'll have with Luton, see what happens there and how much he is going to be out for in terms of the rest of the season," Caldwell added.

"It's a position where we're fairly light, but it's an opportunity for other people to come in and stake their place in the team and an opportunity for other people to score goals."

One of those who has been tried up front in recent weeks is centre-back Cheick Diabate.

Despite not scoring a goal, Caldwell says he has been impressed with how the 21-year-old has adapted to his new role.

"We felt we needed some physicality," he told BBC Sport.

"He's been excellent in

training, he's really taken on board what we're asking him to do.

"It is a big change for him physically in terms of what he needs to do as a number nine compared to as a centre-back – that'll take time for him to really feel the benefits of that.

"We've been training

him like a striker for three weeks now in terms of his extra running and different things, but I think he's done well in the games.

"His hold-up play and link-up play has been as good as anyone this season – he still has to pick up little bits as a number nine, as you would expect, but I think he

can be happy with what he's given the team.

"He's given the team a focal point and got us up the pitch better than we have in other games.

"I think it's something we'll continue with for the foreseeable future, definitely up to January."



Central defender Cheick Diabate has been employed as an emergency striker