

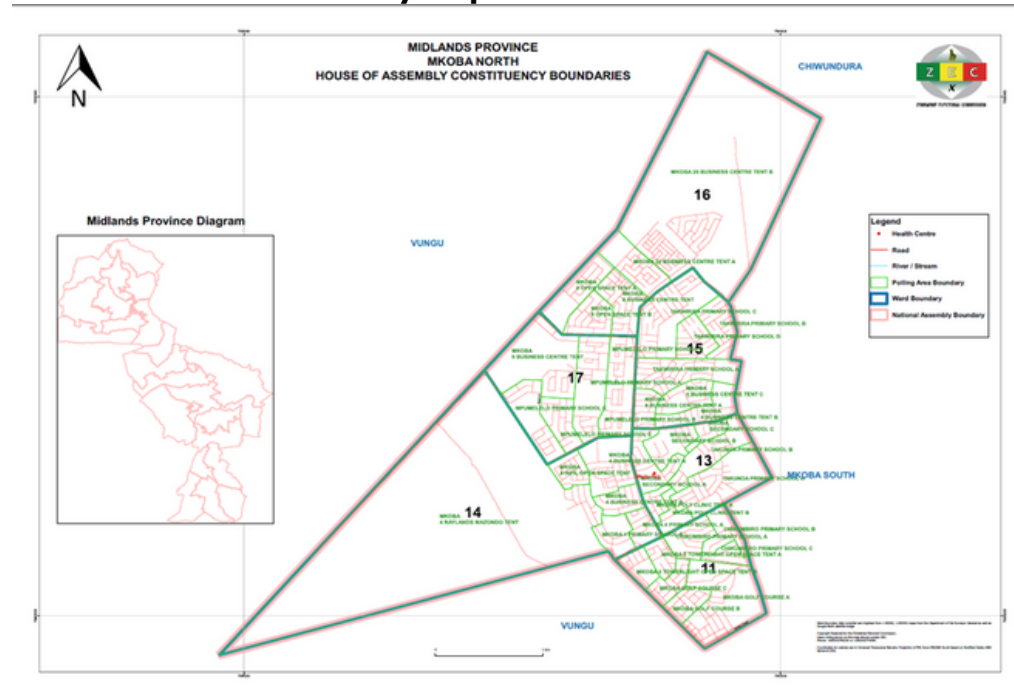
CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

MKOKA NORTH CONSTITUENCY

Introduction

Mkoba North is an urban Constituency located in Gweru provincial town of Midlands Province. The Constituency share borders with Chiwundura, Vungu and Mkoba South. On 14 November 2023, the Speaker of Parliament declared Mkoba North Constituency vacant. This followed the recall of National Assembly representative, CCC's Chief whip, Amos Chibaya, three months after he was elected in the August 2023 Harmonized Elections. The CCC 'interim Secretary General' Sengezo Tshabangu claimed Chibaya ceased to be a member of the party with effect from 7 November 2023. Chibaya, alongside other recalled CCC members challenged this in Courts but lost the matter to Tshabangu and in line with the Constitution and the Electoral Act, this triggered a By-Election that will be held on 3 February 2024.

Mkoba North Constituency Map



Source: ZEC

Nomination Court

Nomination Courts sat on 21 June and 18 December 2023 at the Gweru Magistrates Court to receive nomination papers from interested aspirants for the August Harmonized Elections as well as the 3 February 2024 By-Elections. In June, five (5) candidates filed nomination papers under five party jackets of Freezim Congress, CCC, ZANU-PF, MDC-T and UZA. December witnessed a drop in number of candidates filing to contest for direct Election in the Constituency. Three (3) political parties, MDC-T, UZA and Freezim Congress opted out of the race. A new political outfit, DOP came on board and forwarded Tayiya Patrick to battle it out with Amos Chibaya (CCC) and Edgar Ncube (ZANU-PF).



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CANDIDATE	GENDER	21 June 2023 Nomination	18 December 2023
Gondo William	M	ZANU-PF	----
Chibaya Amos	M	CCC	CCC
Antonio Learnmore	M	Freezim Congress	----
Kandai Clifford	M	MDC-T	----
Mkandla Tadios	M	UZA	----
Ncube Edgar	M	----	ZANU-PF
Tayiya Patrick	M	----	DOP

Previous Election Results

Mkoba North consists of six (6) Wards of Gweru Municipality. These are Wards 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Due to the 2022 Delimitation, the extent and distribution of some wards and Constituencies changed as a result of variations in the distribution of registered voters in the province. In Midlands, the Mkoba North Constituency was therefore created, Amos Chibaya who historically contested and won the Mkoba Constituency on an opposition ticket contested under the created new Constituency

According to the 2022 Delimitation Report, Mkoba North has a total of 28 043 registered voters. In August 2023, five (5) male candidates contested for the seat and the results were as follows

CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Mkoba North	Gondo William	ZANU-PF	4 906
	Chibaya Amos	CCC	12 555
	Antonio Learnmore	Freezim Congress	68
	Kandai Clifford	MDC-T	124
	Mkandla Tadios	UZA	56



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Political landscape

Mkoba North is in Midlands Province and by virtue of being an urban Constituency, it has provided a very fertile ground for opposition support. Zimbabwe urban areas have, for more than a decade now been aligned to the opposition, in contrast to rural areas that have strongly rallied behind and backed the ZANU-PF party. Overall, political engagement of the Mkoba North population is very high, the Constituency has an active citizenry that voice choices through the ballot. In 2023, the CCC's Amos Chibaya was voted for by 12 555 people, ahead of his main ZANU-PF (4 906) rival with more than half the votes. Before 2023, Amos Chibaya contested and won the then Mkoba Constituency in 2013 when he garnered 10 097 votes and the ZANU-PF candidate got 5 327 votes. In the 2018 Harmonized Elections, Mkoba Constituency was hotly contested, 11 candidates vied for the electoral position. Chibaya, emerged the winner as he polled 18 925 votes, well ahead of the ZANU-PF candidate who polled 6 088 votes.

The politics is male dominated, both contests- 2023 August Harmonized (5) elections and February By-Elections (3) featured male candidates. Looking back the then Mkoba Constituency had a similar attribute, in 2013, five (5) males contested. Women entered the political race in 2018 and out of the 11 candidates, three (2) were females.

Socio-economic status

Mkoba North is in Gweru, one of the largest cities of Zimbabwe. Gweru has struggled economically, just as is the case with the rest of Zimbabwe. Mkoba North has not been spared from the hyperinflation, high poverty levels, limited access to clean and safe water, acute shortages of healthcare services and poor road networks that have permeated most parts of Zimbabwe society. The Constituency is highly informalized, unemployment levels are high, and the greater population has resorted to informal and creative survival means.



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