



# Simbine to shine Down Under!

By CHARLES BALOYI

SOUTH AFRICA'S 100m record holder Akani Simbine has promised much but delivered little in previous world events.

Simbine has passed that stage of going to major events just to compete or gain experience.

He is seen as a worthy medal campaigner for Team SA ahead of the 21st Commonwealth Games starting in Australia in Gold Coast on Wednesday.

All eyes will be on Simbine to see how he will perform at the Games.

Simbine made the men's 100m final at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2016. He also made another 100m appearance at the world champs in London last year.

But he flopped in the 200m in the UK as he failed to make the final.

Simbine started his athletics season well and comfortably won his two meetings at the Telecom Athletix Grand Prix Series events at Tuks and Paarl.

Now he'll be expected to step up his game Down Under.

Simbine will do the 100m and 200m double events and is expected to win at least one medal.

SA Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee president Gideon Sam said he expects six medals from Team SA.

SA's super star Caster Semenya will double in the women's 800m and 1 500m and has promised two gold medals, while javelin queen Sunette Viljoen is expected to add to the medal tally.

Long jumper and world champion Luvo Manyonga and 2014 Commonwealth bronze medallist Rushwahl Samaai, are other strong medal contenders in the track and field.

Simbine said: "I want to go to the Commonwealth Games and dominate there. That's my ultimate goal. I want to try and get as many podium finishes as possible this year."

