

BOXING SA NEWS

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1. BSA SET TO SIGN A HISTORIC MOU WITH THE NAMIBIAN BOXING AND WRESTLING BOARD

Boxing South Africa (BSA) is taking a massive step forward as they are set to sign a historical Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Namibian Boxing and Wrestling Control Board, in February 2024.

The agreement was reached after the two parties had a successful meeting in the middle of October, in Gauteng, as per the request by the Namibian Boxing Federation.

In the meeting BSA shared valuable knowledge with Namibians on how BSA has successfully embarked on a positive turnaround to empower and better the sport for both male and female fighters in the country.

"We are humbled by the fact that SADEC countries are now reaching out to us for guidance when it comes to boxing development, this is as a result of the work we have done in the past two years. The session with the Namibian Boxing Federation was a success and we are looking forward to sign a MOU with them by February 2024," Said Erick Nskayezwe Sithole, BSA Acting CEO

"In the next few months, we will welcome to South Africa the Zimbabwean Boxing Controlling Board. They will be here for same reason – to learn how we have turned around Boxing in South Africa.



We truly appreciate this and we are willing to go beyond the call of duty in assisting Boxing Boards in the SADEC region and in Africa in matters related to the professionalization and development of Boxing," Concluded Sithole. ☺

2. ANOTHER HISTORIC MOU ON THE CARD FOR BSA



BSA has another Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cards, this time involving a partnership with the University of Zululand.

The proposed agreement is a joint effort by both parties in pursuit of making boxing a safe sport, for the benefit of Boxers and all other Boxing Licensees.

This will be conducted by means of research by the University of Zululand postgraduate students.

Under this MOU the University plans to uncover different aspects in boxing such as Concussion Protocols, Prevention of Injuries, Boxers and Nutrition, Qualifications and Experiences for Referees and others.

BSA Medical Committee Member Dr. Robert Selepe said this MOU will assist in improving the state of South African boxing.

"At the moment we are busy doing things the way they were done in the past, but we haven't improved the state of boxing in terms of the athletes themselves. We haven't improved the state of boxing in terms of the business - the way it is run.

"This research will bring and increase the state of professionalism in the sport, and it is going to benefit the whole industry of boxing," said Dr. Selepe.

As a whole the BSA is excited and has welcomed this initiative. Dr. Selepe added that the thrilling part is that the boxers will be educated and this will improve the life of individual boxers once the research comes out and point out the things that are affecting them. 



3. BSA RATINGS COMMITTEE RESPONDS TO CRITICISM

In the past few weeks BSA has noted criticism directed to the newly appointed Ratings Committee.

However, in response to the critics, the newly appointed Rating Committee Chairperson Mr. Willem Saayman has responded saying:

"It is a vainglorious attempt to bring chaos and bedlam in our ranks. Duplicity lies and half-truths will never see the light of day in BSA ranks.

"We will clean the Ratings Gradient to the best of our limited abilities. We will not bow to unnamed publications by unknown and non-accredited sources. We do acknowledge the truism — there is a democratic order in the country, on the same wavelength it cannot be correct to insult the new Rating Committee.

"Agreed - the naysayers are free to disagree vehemently with us, they can make fun of us - they can even lampoon us, but we cannot accept to be insulted." 

4. GAUTENG HOTBED LERENA PRIMED FOR A GALE BOUT AGAINST GASHI

South African born fighter, Kevin "KO Kid" Lerena (29-2-0) will get a big chance when he fights Senad Gashi (26-3-0) of German for the WBC interim Bridgerweight World Title, on 25 November, at Empires Palace, Johannesburg.

The duo, who are ranked in the TOP10 in the WBC, gets the opportunity to fight in a weight-class between cruiserweight and heavyweight, which was newly established by World Boxing Council.

Building up to another massive event, other than Rugby and Cricket World Cup, South Africans were sitting on tips of their chairs when Lerena fought against Ryad Merhy in May, beating him by unanimous decision.

He spoke to BSA ahead of this fight indicating that his preparation and build up towards are on track.

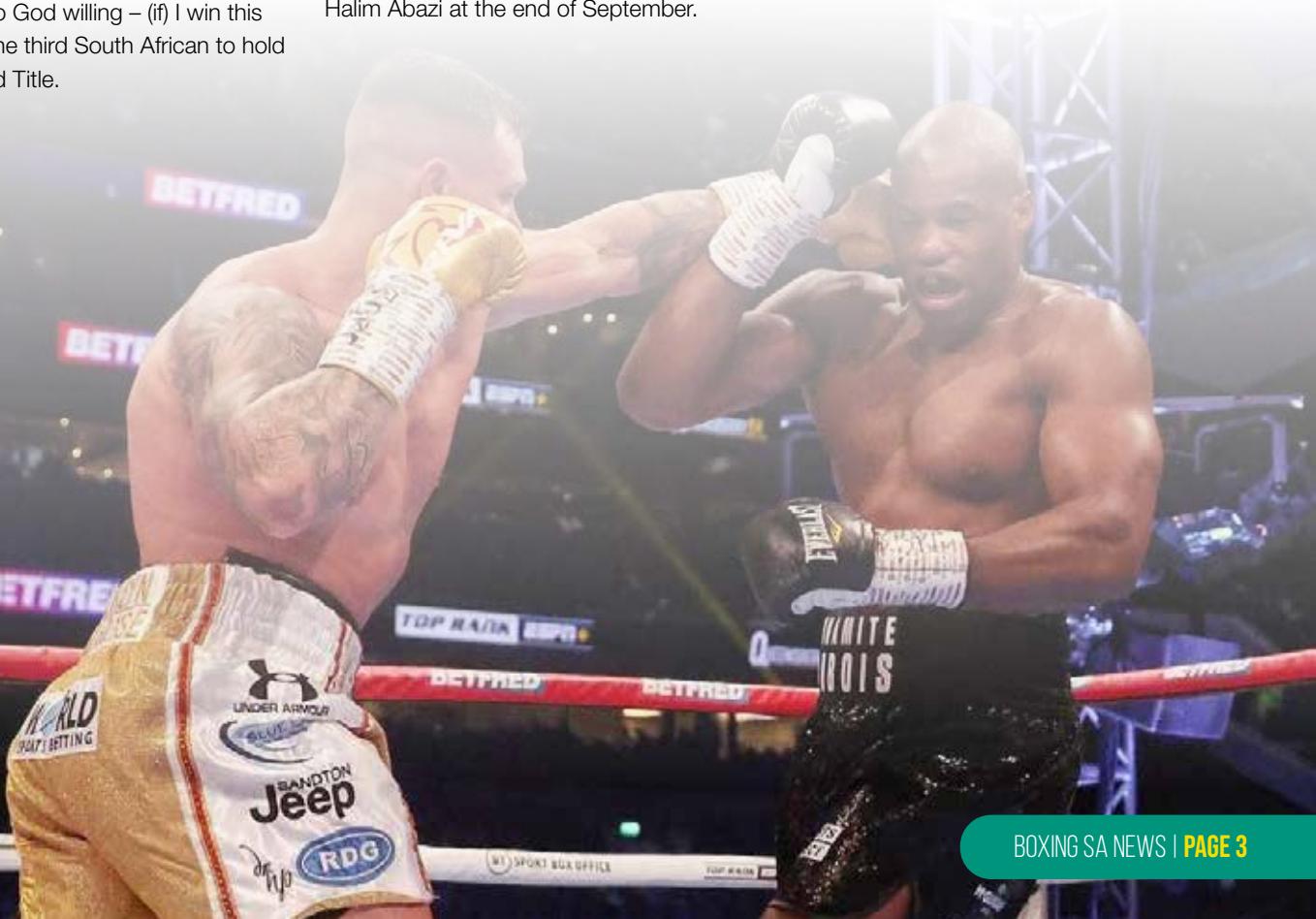
"The preparations are going very well, it will be the third time a South African will fight a WBC World Title, so it is myself, Dingaan Thobela, and Sugarboy Malinga. I'm the third boxer to fight for the WBC, it's been ongoing and so God willing – (if) I win this fight, I will be the third South African to hold the WBC World Title.



"And it's an honour to be mentioned among such great name, I'm really excited to do it for South Africa," said Lerena.

On the other hand, according to German reports the 33-year-old Gashi went to Thailand for his preparations with his trainer Halim Abazi at the end of September.

To remain in the swing of things, German born fighter boxed and won against a build-up opponent Alen Lauriolle (35) in Leverkusen. Then he set his focus on Lerena. ☺



5. MPUMALANGA SERVED A SUCCESSFUL THRILLING FIFTH SERIES OF THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING



Infinity Boxing Promotion in arms with BSA successfully staged Series five of The rise of Women in Boxing on 22 October, at The Ridge Casino, Hotels & Entertainment in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga.

The tournament had an exciting celebrity exhibition fight and two Titles on the bill - the Female WBA Pan Africa Middleweight Title: between Mapule Ngubane of South Africa and the Kenyan born, Charity Mujwiri.

While the second Title of the SA Jnr Featherweight was between Matshidiso Mokebisi against Monalisa Takane who was the challenger.

In the first Title fight, the main bout, Ngubane lived up to expectations when she triumphed Mujwiri in 1"14 seconds (four rounds) to be crowned the new WBA Pan Africa Middleweight Champion.

The Kenyan, who last had a competitive fight in 2013, did not have a chance in the bout and Ngubane said she saw the end of

the fight from the start and she managed to put down her opponent via KO.

"I saw that she was not fit because she came to ring overweight, and I told myself that I will knock her out, and I did. But I still wanted to go on with the fight just to exchange some blows with her," said Ngubane.

Meanwhile the fat bill saw Bernice Ferreira of South Africa brushing aside via KO Mitchell Mubaya from Zimbabwe in the Junior Lightweight bout. Sazisiwe Simon also made a light work of another Zimbabwean born, Pamela Matunga in the Bantamweight bout.

While the Celebrities Zodwa Wabantu and Manaka Ranaka ended their entertaining exhibition fight in a draw.

Arnold "Squire" Nododile, the man behind Infinity Boxing Promotion said he was thrilled by the support and the outcome of the event.

"I am happy, the support from BSA and our sponsors went a long way.

"The idea of the celebrity fight was to entertain and attract more people to an all women event as it not popular in Mpumalanga, it worked. I am grateful to these ladies (Zodwa Wabantu and Ranaka Manaka) who did not hesitate to show up in support of the development of women in the sport when I asked them, that was purely the reason why they came," Nododile told BSA.

The event was also graced with the presence of the abaThembu Royal family, who are supporters of Nododile..

"The royal family, the kings that are here - they have always been supporting and encouraging me in the preparations, as hard it was and we made it through and I am happy with the outcome," Nododile added. ☺

THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING SERIES 5 RESULTS

TITLE	FIGHT	WINNER
Female WBA Pan Africa middleweight title	Mapule Ngubane (SA) VS Charity Mujwiri (Kenya)	Mapule Ngubane (SA) - KO
SA Jnr featherweight title	Matshidiso Mokebisi (champ) VS Monalisa Takane (Challenger)	Matshidiso Mokebisi - Split decision.
Jnr lightweight 6 Rounds	Bernice Ferreira (SA) VS Mitchell Mubaya (Zimbabwe)	Bernice Ferreira - KO
Bantamweight 6 Rounds	Sazisiwe Simon (SA) VS Pamela Mutanga (Zimbabwe)	Sazisiwe Simon
Jnr Flyweight 6 Rounds	Asanda Simelane (NW) VS Emihle Ntunja (WC)	Asanda Simelane - KO

6. GQEBERHA SET FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING SERIES SIX

Mpumalanga province had a successful run of their lap of the Rise of Women in Boxing Series Five. They passed the baton to Zantsi SA Show-time Boxing Promotion in Eastern Cape Gqeberha for Series Six, to be staged on the 28th of October 2023 at Wells Estate Multi-Purpose centre.

The Promoter in hands, the forever-looking-forward Mbali Zantsi is set and prepared for this event.

Zantsi, who has old passion and drive to see women in boxing recognised, is no stranger to an all-women boxing event as she started it in 2003 (The Boxing Act Of 2001 allowed women to box professionally for the first time in 2006). In 2007 and 2011 Zantsi she hosted 100% female boxing tournaments called "For Us (women) By Us (women)" and she never stopped working for female fighters.

Zantsi said she is excited that BSA has made the women boxing one of their top priorities, which is a dream come true for a South African girl.

"I'm excited because it is coming back to Eastern Cape where it started. For me it's a big deal because it is my baby."

"From the word go I got involved it and I remained there, even when it was not fashionable to promote girls. But I became intentional and my objective was to see it up to a point where it is acceptable and it is a norm for both genders to be treated and paid equally," Zantsi told BSA.

There are several women that have shown interest and are champions in their respective fields, and it is promising to be lovely showcase. Zantsi believes that they are all ready for this event.

"I'm sure the girls are also excited for this initiative because in past these events used to be in August during the women's months and around women holidays in the calendar."



"The girls have been preparing for some time now, so they are ready as the event has been moved from September to this month, they have had more time to prepare," Zantsi concluded. 

7. RISE OF THE WOMEN IN BOXING SERIES SIX BILL

MAIN BOUT - VACANT SA FEMALE MINIFLYWEIGHT: THOBELA NYANDA VS YONELISA PONI

MAIN SUPPORTING BOUT: FEMALE FLYWEIGHT CONTEST 6 ROUNDS: THAPELO BOKWE VS OKUHLE MTHI

CATCHWEIGHT CONTEST 6 ROUNDS: OWETHU RULA VS NAMHLA MANKAYI

FEMALE LIGHTWEIGHT 6 ROUNDS: SINOYOLU MELANE VS ABONGILE LUBAMBO

FEMALE MINIFLYWEIGHT 6 ROUNDS: UNATHI SITYOTYO VS SIBABALIWE GWEBITYALA



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