

BOXING SA NEWS

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1. MOKAILA REFLECTS ON THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING

Boxing South Africa (BSA) has taken hands with all nine provinces in a bid to put women's boxing on the map. Breaking down long-standing gender barriers in the sport, through a project named *The Rise of Women in Boxing Series*.

This project aims to make sure that this once male-dominated field is becoming more inclusive and diverse, showcasing the skills of female boxers.

The series started in KwaZulu-Natal with more and more women stepping into the ring and leaving an impressive mark. Up to this date, the event has been successfully hosted in six provinces with female boxers competing at the highest levels while slowly gaining media attention.

The North West ring announcer, Sylvia Mokaila, believes that this is the beginning of the long-awaited boxing project that will pave the way for successful female boxers and licensees.

"*The Rise of Women In Boxing Series 2023* as an annual project and programme by the BSA as the National regulator is extremely critical to enable ways to integrate boxing as a sport of choice for women and in the overall development efforts of our transforming society in South Africa.

"Since inception BSA has been engaged with many development projects and programs from Baby Champs – Provincial and National – to International. With the hope of furthering social, economic, cultural and sports development in South Africa.



"The Baby Champs programme involved all boxers, male and female, who were newcomers from amateur ranks to professional boxing by getting these fighters to constantly and consistently be active in competition tournaments.

"The projects and programs helped to generate professional development tournaments in many local municipalities and provinces and was supported through the collaboration and partnership of Corporate Sponsorship and other important and relevant stakeholders," said Sylvia.

This initiative further generated revenue streams, employment opportunities,

strengthened traditional livelihoods, fostering the emergence of a dynamic cultural and sporting sector while enhancing the existing ones.

One of the most significant drives of the rise of women's boxing has been the increasing number of female roles in the sport, from the boxers to the promoters and referees. And Sylvia believes that such projects will be the norm to keep up and help raise the bar in female boxing.

The North West hosted Series No 4 of *The Rise of Women In Boxing Series* held in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, Matlosana Local Municipality in Klerksdorp and Promoted by

African Child Boxing Promotion, Slyvia added that for her this was a complete success thanks to the provincial government and BSA.

"For me it was a total and complete success. From planning and preparations stages; the matchmaking of the boxers; transportation and arrival of all participating boxers and officials; weigh in on Friday the 15th of September; provision of accommodation and meals, starting and finishing times of the tournament and by all accounts an incident free boxing tournament as sanctioned by BSA a under the stewardship of our capable Acting Chief Executive Officer as Head of Executive Management."

"The collaboration, Corporation and Partnership of BSA, NW Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation and Matlosana Local Municipality as stakeholders made it all possible to deliver one of the best professional development Boxing Tournament.

"This *Rise of Women in Boxing* Series will definitely go a long way to revive and resuscitate the fortunes of not only women boxing but North West Province in general." ☺



2. GQEBERHA SPEARHEAD BY BSA SET THE BAR IN THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING SERIES SIX

Zantsi SA Showtime Boxing Promotion spearhead by BSA and the Eastern Cape Government ran a successful lap of The Rise of Women in Boxing Series six on the 28th of October 2023 at Wells Estate Multi-Purpose centre in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

The event was headlined by a vacant South African female Mini flyweight title fight between Yonelisa Poni and Thobela "M'sane" Nyanda.

Nyanda emerged victorious and was crowned the new South African Mini flyweight champion after brushing aside Poni on points.

This bout was a rematch of the match in February when, the duo knuckled up at the Ncumisa Kondlo Hall in Peddie. Nyanda said she is excited to have once again won against her familiar opponent.

"I am very excited to get the chance to be the first one to win this Title. I made history and I feel so good," said Nyanda who hopes to maintain her winning streak going forward.

Her ecstatic promoter Sibongile Matiti Mpofu had this to say:



"Thobela "M'sane" Nyanda has always been a star in her amateur years, and she continues to shine in the professional space.

"She is the best in her division but the unfortunate situation is that her last opponent Poni was the only brave one left in her division to take her on.

"We are happy to add another female champ to our list of winners. With this series of female boxing that are taking place, boxing is growing, and we applaud the organization for that."

Meanwhile, Mbali Zantsi, the lady behind the promotion of this event, said she is excited after she and her team pulled a successful show.

"The tournament went very well, the match making was on point. People were there and excited, and the action from the girls was energetic. The girls fought their hearts out, giving us the same vibe that Banyana Banyana gave us for the Women's World Cup," said Zantsi.

Zantsi expressed her gratitude to the attendees stating that she hopes this manner of support does not fade with time.

"We want to see Jobe at more of these tournaments, it was the first time we saw him gracing our event, so we are happy."

"Even the National Chairperson of Promoters was here, the local government delegates were present as well so the tournament was attended by big names. This means that the girls are being recognised not only financially, but by attendance. So, the tournament was a huge success," Zantsi concluded. 



RISE OF THE WOMEN IN BOXING RESULTS

TITLE	FIGHT	WINNER
Vacant SA Female Mini Flyweight:	Thobela Nyanda VS Yonelisa Poni	Thobela Nyanda - points
Female Flyweight Contest 6 Rounds:	Thapelo Bokwe VS Okuhle Mthi	Okuhle Mthi - points
Catchweight Contest 6 Rounds	Owethu Rula VS Namhla Mankayi	Owethu Rula - KO
Catchweight Contest 6 Rounds:	Zizo Skoti VS Sinesipho Poni	Zizo Skoti - KO
Female MiniFlyweight 6 Rounds:	Unathi Sityotyo VS Sibabaliwe Gwebityala	Sibabaliwe Gwebityala - KO

3. ZANTSİ URGES MORE FINANCIAL INJECTION FOR FEMALE BOXING

Following a successful All Women event, championed by BSA and the Eastern Cape Provincial government, the female veteran boxing Promoter Mbali Zantsi has spotted a few gaps that should be addressed in order to take female boxing to an even higher level.

Speaking to BSA in Gqeberha over the weekend, Zantsi did not mince her words when it came to giving her opinion about female boxing-related issues, stating that they simply need more sponsorship on board.

She urged more financial injection for the development of the sport, while breaking down the planning and logistic costs

involved in making a successful show for Women in Boxing

"The boxers come from all over the provinces and the travel logistics becomes costly, so we really urge more sponsorship to be able to do a decent job without taking from our own pockets."

"You need to remember that we have to cater for the boxers' logistics, accommodations, and some of them are from other provinces like Western Cape and Limpopo. And we also need to pay female boxers well," Zantsi explained.

The Eastern Cape born Promoter acknowledging that there is a glimmer

of hope in the female boxing world, and pleaded with existing financially helpers to dig deep in their pockets to help with more expenses so that female boxers will receive the same treatment as their male counterparts.

"The boxers are coming from all over and they must catch flights to come to your province, which is a big expenditure. Then there is the launch of the event, the medical teams, security, ring announcers and catering, all these are necessary to put on a great show. And we also must pay the fighters – so we are pleading with our current and new sponsors to please provide more financial help," said Zantsi. 

4. THE RISE OF WOMEN IN BOXING STAYS IN EASTERN CAPE FOR SERIES SEVEN

The Rise of Women in Boxing will stay a little longer in the coastal city when East London host the 7th Series on the 2nd of December 2023.

The glittering 100% female event has rolled out the red carpet – successfully so, in six provinces, starting from KwaZulu-Natal. Before they hand the baton to Eastern Cape, in Gqeberha last weekend – BSA saw a successful show in Mpumalanga by Infinity Boxing Promotion.

The bar has been raised since the first showcase and this time Monica Goci who will host Series Seven said she is looking forward to her turn.

"We already have the venue for the bouts and we are ready for our turn. The boxers are on the right track with preparations. It will be my first time hosting it, but I am looking forward to it," Goci told BSA.

This mouth-watering event will be taking place at Scenery Park, East London. 



5. BSA UPCOMING EVENTS

25 NOVEMBER 2023 @19H00 EMPERORS PALACE

MAIN BOUT

WBC INTERIM BRIDGERWEIGHT WORLD TITLE – 12 ROUNDS

Kevin Lerena (Peter Smith) VS Senad Gashi

JNR. MIDDLEWEIGHT INTERNATIONAL BOUT – 8 ROUNDS

Shervantaigh Koopman (Vusi) VS
Christian Ndombassy (Emile Brice)

LIGHTWEIGHT BOUT – 8 ROUNDS

Lusanda Komanisi (Vusi) VS Kaine Fourie (Gert Strydom)

JNR. MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT – 6 ROUNDS

Darrin Rossouw (Vusi) VS Jami Webb (Leroy Williams)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT – 4 ROUNDS

Michael Head (Vusi) VS
Bonginkosi Nhlapo (Steven Pieterse)

FEATHER WEIGHT BOUT 4 ROUNDS (SWINGER BOUT)

Carl Van Blerk (Vusi) VS Justin Mostert (Harold Volbrecht)

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