



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

ADDRESS BY MEC AT THE LCBP -MEROPA CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 23 June 2023

**The MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism,
Honourable Rogers Monama
The Executive Mayor of the Capricorn District Municipality; Cllr Mamedupi Teffo
The Executive Mayor of Polokwane; the City of Stars; Cllr Makoro John Mpe
Boxing SA Board Chairperson- Luthando Jack
National Boxing Promoters Association Chairperson: Ayanda Matiti
CEO BSA; Erick Sithole
CEO of the Gambling Board Gregory Makoko-
CEO Tourism Limpopo ; Moses Ngobeni-
Chairperson of Tourism Board. Andrew Dipela-
Chairperson of Sports Confederation in Limpopo; Mr. Ali Pole- Chairperson of
Mokaba Foundation. Ms. Mapula Mokaba-
Chairperson of SAYC. Mr Mmangwato-
Our Boxing Legend; James Dynamite Mathato as well as Dingaan Thobela
Limpopo Championship Boxing Promotion; Champ; Dongolo Phathutshedzo
Vice Governor from Congo; Mr Michael Shabanz-**

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to acknowledge the scores of supporters of boxing bouts that are here tonight. They are here to make history.

I equally acknowledge the exhibition matches that we will be in the square ring tonight. This is part of efforts to ensure that the message to the public is clear, that this sport is very much alive and those leading in our society equally support it.

When this event was launched two weekends ago, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture shared its mandate on improving South Africa's international ranking in selected sports through a partnership with the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC).

Through that body, government intends to preserve, develop, protect and promote boxing and lead the province in nation-building and social cohesion through social transformation.

There are three main fights tonight. These are for the prestigious titles in their rights, and we are grateful to host such bouts here in the Province of the Baobab and the home of the Protea.

Campatriots,

Let us appreciate the beautiful work being done by the Limpopo Championship Boxing Promotion as an entity that develops and promotes boxing in South Africa based in our home province. You are really pulling all stops to make boxing once again fashionable to the youngsters. From celebrity bouts to comedy- there is really no reason that we should not see an increase in interest and possibly more viewers for the public broadcaster.

We are happy as government that we are in support of such a prestigious group. We equally understand that since 2013, the organisation has successfully hosted several international boxing tournaments in the province. The experience gathered by this organisation puts Limpopo Championship Boxing Promotion in a league of its own as far as planning, organising and execution a high standard of boxing tournaments. This is exactly what we are looking for. Working hand in hand towards social cohesion.

Let me remind you once more on our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan that positions Boxing SA in an ideal situation to continue building on the work which it has accomplished in the previous years and ensure that the growth and development trajectory of boxing remains positive. Emanating from BSA's engagement with the broader boxing fraternity, a clarion call has clearly been made for focus to be extended to also cover pertinent issues like assisting and mobilising resources for boxing facilities and amenities. The challenge of venues and boxing tournaments and boxing training in the form of gyms as well as administrative centres in the provinces have been made loud and clear. Government has heard you and the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Nakedi Kekana tells me that she has instructed the sporting unit led by Mr Kgomo to find ways to support the Limpopo Championship Boxing Promotion.

Let's equally thank the media. The role of media in society remains sacrosanct to the development and keeping of inherent human rights. The media is the champion for basic human rights and the right for children to choose the sporting of their choice. Through yourselves, members of the

fourth estate, the citizenry can make informed decisions about boxing as they will be exposed to it. These programmes are created to get youth off the streets and to channel their energy into something productive. This is a productive sport.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude, I reiterate that the long overdue need to focus on and ensure review of Boxing Regulations will need to be concluded without fail and urgently. The discourse within the broader boxing fraternity regarding the artificial divide between professional and amateur boxing will be among the main focus areas so that the two could be intertwined to have seamless transmission to the later, and produce champions of champions.

All the best to our fighters tonight.

I thank you