



20 January 2020

## **DSACR STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF BOXING LEGEND – PETER MATHEBULA**

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) joins millions of South Africans in mourning and commemorating the late Peter “Terror” Mathebula who died on 18 January 2020. Peter Mathebula was a South African boxing legend who became the first black South African to win a world title by unanimous decision when he defeated Tae Shik Kim of South Korea on points for the WBA Flyweight title in Los Angeles in 1980.

He was born on 3 July 1952, and grew up in Mohlakeng, near Randfontein. It was at the tender age of 9 that he began to show interest in boxing but his debut professional fight was at the age of 19 where he beat Sidwell Mhlongo on points in a four-round fight. In 1976 Peter Mathebula won the S.A. Flyweight title from his then rival Joe Ngidi. This was his first major title as a professional boxer. Another highlight for his career was winning the S.A. Bantamweight in 1979. Throughout his career he recorded 36 wins in 45 fights with just 9 losses.

Commenting about Peter Mathebula’s sport biography, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa stated that, “Peter Mathebula was a legend who chose to rise above the racial bar that was set for him and people of his race by the apartheid regime. He defied a system that was designed to limit his human potential and deprive him opportunities to hone his God-given talent. Like a flower which rose through the concrete, he remains a symbolic figure in the history of South African sport under the apartheid regime. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and the boxing fraternity as a whole”.

**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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