



17 August 2020

DSACR PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN BOXING LEGEND – FEZILE MABUYA

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) dips its banner in honor of a veteran Boxing Promoter – Mr. Frederick Fezile Mabuya. His passing comes at a time when the Department is intensifying its efforts to revive and promote boxing in rural communities across our province. Mr. Mabuya started boxing as amateur and had only one professional fight. It is this background that spanned him to become a very active promoter. He staged most of his fights from the tiny size of his pocket. To him boxing was a vehicle that would change the lives of many people especially the disenfranchised. He became an institution for sport and social development of the Free State community. He was a committed, dedicated and very passionate about sport development especially boxing. He is the founder of Mabuya Boxing Promotions that has been hosting professional boxing tournaments for the past 30 years without fail. Even when boxing had lost its international spark, his love for the sport kept him resolute to not throwing in the towel on a game he could not live without.

To him boxing was a catalyst for discipline and respect in community building. He is an extinguished motivator that saw one of his sons Mxolisi Cassius Mabuya become a springbok amateur champion and the other one, Mzolisa Cyrus Mabuya being appointed the current manager of BSA for the Free State and Northern Cape provinces. During the Free State Sport Awards held in 2017, Mr. Mabuya was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award and recognized for his sterling contribution to the development of boxing which spans over four decades. At this award ceremony he was also nominated in the following Award for Excellence and Green Jacket Honor categories. He

sadly succumbed to death on 11 August 2020 at the Bongani Regional Hospital in Welkom.

Since assuming office, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa made a commitment to revive boxing in the province. Delivering her maiden Budget Vote Speech during the 2019/2020 financial year, MEC Mahasa stated that, "We will prioritize the revival of boxing in 2019/2020, but this will be done without dropping the bar of other Sport and Recreation programmes."

It is against this background that the Department has intensified its support for boxing development at grassroots level and hosted a Boxing Tournament in Rouxville as part of Mandela Month activities last year to honor the late Former President Nelson Mandela. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 global pandemic has altered these plans to stage major sport events this year.

Paying tribute to this boxing legend, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa said, "Mr. Mabuya promoted under the banner of Mabuya Boxing Promotion. He was a legend of boxing in the Free State from the 1980s until his passing, serving the sport and his province with diligence. A former amateur boxer, Mr. Mabuya went on to become an institution which produced many national champions – including the likes of Doctor Ntsele. May his soul rest in peace."

End.

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