



BOXING SOUTH AFRICA

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Bring it home Smash!

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Boxing South Africa Headquarters, Hatfield, Pretoria - A sizeable crowd gathered at OR Tambo International on Sunday afternoon, 30 March 2025 to send off one of South Africa's favourite daughters, Smangele 'Smash' Hadebe who was jetting out of the country to Mexico to win WBC silver flyweight boxing belt from Gabriela Sanchez on Friday, 04 April 2025.

Female Boxer of the Year 2023, 'Smash' as Hadebe is affectionately known in the boxing circles will take on the Mexican at Olympic Stadium in Mexico City.

Born Simangele Johannah Hadebe (31) currently based in KwaThema, Springs, Gauteng originally comes from Limpopo and will be hoisting South African flag high in a country where Sivenathi 'Special One' Nontshinga achieved, the 'unthinkable' when he defeated Adrian Curiel to reclaim the IBF junior flyweight belt in Oaxaca which is 460km from Mexico City.

Nontshinga's triumph, will be one thing, but also 'Smash' heads to Mexico high in confidence with an impressive record of nine (9) straight wins. Her last defeat was in 2019 against Sophia Abraamyan, but that is long behind the dynamite, soft spoken boxer.

She would also be pumped up having received a warm send off at OR Tambo on Sunday afternoon. It was dance and song at OR Tambo boxing enthusiasts wishing their own all the best. They shouted, "Bring the belt home Smash," She will walk into the ring carrying the hopes of the sixty (60) million South Africans and those beyond our borders to bring the belt home to add to what has been a particularly good couple weeks for boxing in South Africa.

'Smash' was one of the boxers that recently attended Boxing Convention, organised by the Minister, Gayton McKenzie, who spoke passionately about taking boxing back to where it was and addressing some of the challenges that boxers, in particular female boxers have experienced over the years. The signs, since the Convention point to one direction, #BackToGlory.

Rated fifteen (15) by the Mexico based sanctioning body, Hadebe is a former SA champion and reigning ABU champion and is poised to return with the WBC silver flyweight belt and wrestle it away from Gabriela Sanchez affectionately known in Mexico as, 'Labonita.'

Boxing South Africa would like to wish Simangele Hadebe, her trainer Khangelani Jack, and whole team at McAusland Boxing Gym in Kibler Park, south of Johannesburg all the best come Friday, 4 April 2025.