



BOXING SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA RELEASE

BOXING SOUTH AFRICA BOARD MEETS MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE MR GAYTON MCKENZIE AND DEPUTY MINISTER PEACE MABE

Boxing South Africa (Boxing SA) Board, led by Chairman Sifiso Shongwe, met with Minister Gayton McKenzie and Deputy Minister Ms Peace Mabe in an introductory meeting on Monday night in Pretoria.

Boxing SA is encouraged by Minister McKenzie's commitment to see boxing taking an upward trajectory.

The Board Chairperson Shongwe said the meeting gave a broad overview to the Minister on the current state of Boxing in South Africa.

"It (the meeting) was very focused. Minister McKenzie was very clear, he has a fair understanding of where we have been as Boxing South Africa. The meeting was solution focused and this is what not only brought hope but a deep sense of appreciation from the Board. We have a Minister who is energetic and pragmatic. Currently we are focusing on stability of the organisation and improving its image. I appreciate the skills set in the board and I am convinced of the potential on this board", alluded Shongwe.

From onset the Minister displayed his passionate love for the sport of boxing and committed to support boxing all the way. "Boxing is one of the sport I love and I want to see boxing being one of the top sports in South Africa. There must be boxing activity and development throughout the country and boxing must be used as a tool to take the youth out of poverty and other social ills," McKenzie said.

He made it clear to his executive leadership that was in attendance that boxing must be supported and it must thrive during his tenure. He emphasized that he is new to the portfolio and the board is also new and there is no historical baggage, hence that must be used as an advantage to take boxing forward.

"There is definitely a lot of opportunity for change, the new board is promising and has right people at the helm. I do not want the previous board's posture of promising to fix boxing but do the opposite. I am well aware of what was happening in the past. I want this board to do a quick synopsis and provide me with immediate plans and clearly identify areas of support. At the end of my term, I want to brag about boxing," added McKenzie.

Boxing SA Board looks forward to future interaction with the Ministry to action several 'To Do List' discussed at the meeting.

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