

## **Rise Women in Boxing Series kicks off in style in the Western Cape**

Jackie Brice Boxing Promotions, in proud partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape, kicked off Rise Women in Boxing Series with an exhilarating and groundbreaking event dedicated to celebrating and elevating female boxers. The showcase featured five captivating bouts that not only entertained but also solidified the bright future of women's boxing in the region.

The fight card was a testament to the depth of talent, featuring both rising prospects and seasoned champions. The night kicked off with a stunning performance by debutant Sanele Mbombo, who announced her arrival on the professional scene with a dominant TKO victory over Rethabile Tshepho.

In a display of pure skill, Sibulele Soboois, widely regarded as the most technically gifted female boxer in the country, demonstrated her superior ring intelligence in a one-sided victory over Zizo Sikoti.

The crowd was also treated to a thrilling contest between Likho Nxele and Noxolo Magagula, a hard-fought battle that ended in a draw, highlighting the incredible grit and determination of both fighters. Olwethu Makhathala from Stellenbosch secured her own impressive win against a courageous debutant, Emma Mahono, showcasing her skills as a bright prospect for the future.

The main event brought two experienced veterans to the ring, with reigning national featherweight champion Ntombokuqala Tolashe facing off against former multiple champion Mathsidiso Mokebesi. The eight-round bout was a tactical masterclass, a true display of cautious, high-level boxing from two of the sport's most experienced athletes.

Beyond the ring, the event also highlighted the dynamic possibilities for boxers. Simamkele Tutsheni, the current IBO Africa champion, embraced her role as a ring girl with aplomb, demonstrating that a boxer's career can extend to other ventures within the sport, such as modelling, opening new doors for professional growth.

The event was a powerful showcase of the strength, skill, and talent of female athletes. The success of the evening would not have been possible without the incredible support from key partners.

Summary of the bouts:

1. Sanele Mbombo vs Rethabile Tshepho (4 rounds Bantamweight)  
Sanele won TKO 2. Though she was making her debut fight, she proved herself to be one for the future. Tshepho was really a no match.

2. Sibulele Soboois (3 - 0) vs Zizo Sikoti (1 -3- 1) (6 rounds junior flyweight)

Soboois is currently the most skilful female boxer in the country. Her boxing IQ and skill are second to none. She won a one sided 6 round bout.

3. Likho Nxele (1- 0) vs Noxolo Magagula (0 - 2) (6 rounds Flyweight)

This bout ended as a draw.

4. Olwethu Makhathala (2 - 0) vs Emma Mahono (Debutant) (6 rounds minimumweight)

Olwethu, from Stellenbosch is slowly proving herself as a bright prospect. Emma came with a big heart and a will to win the fight, but Olwethu used all her skills to win the contest.

5. Ntombokuqala Tolashe ((7 - 5) vs Mathsidiso Mokebesi (18 - 15 -2) (8 rounds featherweight)

Tolashe is the reigning national featherweight champion and Mokebesi is the former multiple champion. This was their second contest as they both contested for the vacant title in Cape Town. The bout was a typical two experienced boxers, cautiously dishing out all they could in the opening of each round but defending as the round went by.

Over and above the scintillating bouts all Ring Officials were female coming from across the country to honour Boxing SA's intentional program of developing women.

Boxing South Africa would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the Department of Sports in the Western Cape for its invaluable partnership and commitment to the development of women's boxing. Special thank you to all our dedicated partners and sponsors for their unwavering support, which was instrumental in making this momentous event a reality.

**Issued by,**

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