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Taxi boss assassinated three days after celebrating three years of peace

Everson Luhanga



On Wednesday 28 April, Peter Mothabe addressed a gathering of his fellow taxi bosses who were toasting their association's 60th anniversary.

They were also celebrating [three years of no taxi killings](#) in the Greater Alberton Taxi Association at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

Mothabe, the chair of Sedibeng region, urged other taxi groups in South Africa to “stop [killing] and start counting money in boardrooms and not bodies in mortuaries”.

On Friday 30th, he was gunned down.

Brenda Tshabalala, a colleague, said assassins driving a Mercedes Benz carried out the drive by shooting at a busy taxi rank in Vereeniging. “I am shattered. Some people in this industry are just too ruthless,” she said.

Emmanuel Maleka, national spokesperson of Top Six Taxi Industry, confirmed to ScrollAfrica that Mothabe was shot dead in a suspected hit.

Mothabe joined the taxi industry in 1979 and survived several assassination attempts. In one instance, while fleeing would-be assassins, he was involved in a head-on collision that left a permanent mark on his forehead.

Tshabalala said she had known Mothabe since 1989 when he was still with the South African National Taxi Council (Santaco). “He spent many years at Santaco before joining the national top six where he served until the time of his death.

“He was a happy man in great spirits on Wednesday when we celebrated the great milestones of no taxi related killings. Not knowing that he would be next and the first in three years,” she said.

Photo: Peter Mothabe at the Birchwood Hotel

SAFA to push for Benni McCarthy

Dylan Bettencourt



The South African Football Association (SAFA) has yet to announce their new manager following the sacking of Molefi Nketsi.

Benni McCarthy is the man SAFA wants, but they need to strike a deal with his current club AmaZulu.

SAFA warned of a delay in announcing the new coach because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. This led to speculation that the former Bafana manager Carlos Queiroz was going to reign once again, but reports suggest the Portuguese manager rejected the job, leaving SAFA scrambling.

McCarthy was one of the early favourites to land the job, given his excellent performance with Durban outfit AmaZulu – who find themselves a point behind leaders Mamelodi Sundowns having played two games more than the Brazilians.

It was reported that in order for SAFA to get their man, they would need R2 million to compensate Usuthu. Given the failed appointment of Queiroz, reports suggest SAFA have once again turned their eyes to their former striker McCarthy.

SAFA will have to provide Usuthu with a substantial offer to prize away their manager if they have any chance of announcing McCarthy in the coming days.

With the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers kicking off in June, SAFA will hope they can bring in their new manager sooner rather than later.

Picture source: @TheSouthAfrican

Supra not going down without a fight

Lungani Zungu

Supra Mahumapelo is certainly not going down without a fight - but will his last-ditch bid to overturn the suspension succeed?



He told Scrolla.Africa this week that he appealed the five-year suspension of his ANC membership with the ANC national disciplinary committee on Wednesday.

He will also not go to former president Thabo Mbeki for mentorship as recommended by the committee.

“There’s no reason to go to Comrade Thabo Mbeki. This recommendation smacks of disrespect towards the former president and myself. I will not go to him,” he said.

His suspension comes ahead of the highly anticipated party elective conference set for next December.

Mahumapelo is a close ally of former president Jacob Zuma and Ace Magashule.

Mahumapelo’s name is already being mentioned in Magashule’s slate as the secretary-general, should Magashule run for the position of president next year.

Both these leaders have not said whether they would run for election.

He addressed ANC branches in the North West yesterday, a province he once led as premier and ANC chairperson. His supporters referred to him as the incoming secretary-general of the ANC.

“This is not the time to be speaking about the positions ahead of the conference. Let’s wait until the party opens the nomination process,” he said.

If the national disciplinary committee crushed his appeal, Mahumapelo would have to wait for five years to be an active member of the ruling party again.

“If this is not a deliberate ploy by others to eliminate their internal enemies, then I don’t know what it is,” he said.

He wouldn’t say who were the people who wanted to throw him into the political wilderness.

He said he will stay on as ANC Member of Parliament until the national disciplinary committee made a ruling.

Mahumapelo was suspended along with the acting ANC provincial Women’s League secretary Bitsa Lenkopane.

They faced charges of misconduct after being accused of running a parallel event during the campaigns for by-elections in North West last year.

This question will be answered in the coming days, weeks or months.

Magashule gets a stay of execution for a week

Lungani Zungu



ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule has dodged the party's step aside bullet - for now - but his excitement could be short-lived.

Magashule was among the ANC leaders who were given 30 days to step aside - a deadline which fell due on Friday.

But the ANC has pushed the deadline to next weekend when the National Executive Committee (NEC) meets.

Magashule might come out of that crucial NEC meeting an ordinary member of the ANC, if the NEC votes to suspend him and other members facing charges.

ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe said the party was now waiting for the NEC, the party's top decision-making body, to give direction on what should happen with members facing charges.

He wouldn't be drawn into commenting further.

The NEC decided that all members facing corruption, fraud and other serious crimes should step aside until cleared by courts.

President Cyril Ramaphosa was stern last month, saying the affected members should step aside or they would be suspended.

But Magashule still occupies his high office at Luthuli House, the ANC headquarters in Joburg.

He has repeatedly said that he would not step aside, saying it was only the branches that could instruct him to step down.

When asked earlier this week if he had started clearing his office, he laughed and said no.

Magashule faced corruption and fraud charges emanating from the R255 million asbestos tender issued during his tenure as Free State premier.

Among the prominent party leaders who also survived the chop today is former eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede, now a member of the KZN provincial legislature.

Both Gumede and Magashule declined to speak to Scrolla.Africa on Friday.

E Cape township runs out of space for the dead

Joseph Chirume



People visit the graves of their elders to ask for guidance, and to seek comfort, peace and protection from evil spirits.

That's why graveyards are supposed to be located close to communities so people can visit easily.

But for residents in Colchester, north of Gqeberha, this isn't possible as the local graveyard has no more space.

Residents are being separated from their deceased relatives after the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality ordered them to bury instead in Motherwell - 30 kilometres away.

Esther Jantjies, who recently buried her cousin at the Motherwell cemetery, told Scrolla.Africa they have raised the issue about their graveyard on several occasions.

"Grieving families have to pay a lot of money to travel to the Motherwell cemetery because the local one is full to capacity and the municipality has done nothing about it," she said.

The graveyard is located behind houses and shares a perimeter boundary with the Addo National Park.

A resident said the dead are angry.

He said: "How can we progress when our dead are lying packed in like sardines? The municipality should buy land from the Addo Elephant Park to extend our graveyard."

Municipality spokesperson Mamela Ndamase said the Colchester graveyard was previously privately owned. "The area is not completely full, but space for graves is running out," said Ndamase.

"It was agreed with residents that as an alternative, they must use the Motherwell cemetery while the City is engaged in talks with the residents and community leaders to find alternative land."

Richards Bay look to maintain their lead at the top of the GladAfrica Championship

Dylan Bettencourt



Richards Bay FC will hope that their two-point lead at the top of the GladAfrica Championship is intact after this weekend's game.

The Durban based club comes up against Pretoria University on Sunday and coach Simo Dladla will expect nothing less than maximum points as second place rivals Royal AM aim to keep the pressure on their city rivals.

Heading into the final five games of the season, Richards Bay and Royal AM are set to fight it out until the final matchday to secure automatic promotion to the DStv Premiership with the

second placed side having to compete in a play-off in order to gain promotion.

Richards Bay have only won two of their last five fixtures and will hope this form improves in the final stretch this season. Royal AM have also only claimed all three points on two occasions in their last five encounters which needs to be improved if they are to overtake their city rivals in that top spot.

This weekend in the GladAfrica Championship kicks off with Cape United taking on JDR Stars. Saturday's action will see Polokwane City play Cape Town Spurs, and Steenberg United play high-flying Royal AM. Jomo Cosmos will face Bizana Pondo Chiefs and Sekhukhune United face Utongathi FC.

Sunday's fixtures include leaders Richards Bay facing Pretoria University. Pretoria Callies will play Cape Town All Stars and lastly Free State Stars play TS Sporting.

Picture source: @SoccerLaduma

THE MURDER OF AN EAST RAND TAXI BOSS SHOWS I SPOKE TOO SOON

Everson Luhanga



On Wednesday, I attended a heart-warming event in which the Greater Alberton Taxi Association (GATA) celebrated 60 years of its existence. The taxi operators were especially proud that they had gone three years without a killing.

One of the senior members I spoke to was Peter Mothabe, chairperson of the Sedibeng region and a member of the national top six. He was a bright and happy man who had joined the industry in 1979.

On Thursday morning Scrolla prominently published my story under the headline: “Taxi Association celebrates three years of no assassination.” It felt great to write a good news story for a change, and we remarked that there are few countries in the world where going three years without a killing would be so remarkable that it would be a major story.

Alas, we spoke too soon.

On Friday afternoon, I received a WhatsApp text from another one of the top six members who was at the event. The message read: “Hello, baba Mr. Peter Mothabe is no more the one you were interviewing  .

My heart sank. For those few minutes that I met and spoke to him last Wednesday, I sensed that he was a great man who loved and treated people with respect.

When he came down from the auditorium to sit with me he was limping. When I took a closer look, I saw he had scars on his body.

The most visible scar was on his forehead. I was curious to know the origin of the scars.

I gathered some courage and put the question to him. He answered that they came from past encounters where he had survived assassinations attempts.

He remembered a horrific incident that nearly took his life. “My son, I was speeding, trying to escape from the assassins only to be involved in a head-on collision that nearly took my life.”

He said that was neither the first nor the last incident he experienced in this industry. Mothabe invited me to his home on Monday in Vereeniging to sit with him so he could tell me about his life in the taxi industry.

I was excited. I looked forward to being with the veteran taxi boss in the comfort of his home.

His sudden death did not sit well with me.

But then, I remembered the words of Brenda Tshabalala, the Chairperson of the top six task team, who said, “When you leave your house as a taxi boss, it is not always that you will return to it.”

That’s what happened to Mothabe, who left home a happy soul and never returned.

Mothabe told me that the taxi industry was more dangerous in the old days, when people were killed simply because they were selected for leadership positions. He explained, “It hasn’t been dangerous recently.

“People have evolved and now concentrate on making money,” he told me.

But it looks, after his passing, that the old ways have not disappeared. Violent assassinations and death still stalk the taxi routes of the Greater Alberton Taxi Association.

The life of the zama zama part one: grim struggle to survive while searching for gold

Everson Luhanga

Soon after he arrived in Jozi in 2008, Zimbabwean Bongani Sibanda realised that his dreams of a better life was a search for fools' gold. In South Africa, he faced even more hardships.



Without work, food or money for his family, Bongani had a tough decision to make.

“I realised that my friends were making money from illegal mining. I joined them,” he said.

He immediately started making money, but it was just a matter of time before disaster stepped in.

“The gang attacked me and my friends at gunpoint,” he said.

“They took the production we had worked for underground for three days.”

Bongani stopped being a zama zama for about two years but soon the harsh realities of his life forced him underground into the dangerous shafts of Crown Mines near Soweto.

“I had no choice,” he said.

From gang wars to rock falls, Bongani has seen it all.

“One day, I saw seven people slaughtered by a rival gang fighting over territory.

“The image of those dead bodies will stay with me forever. I know that could happen to me anytime,” he said.

“But I have no other means of making money. I’d rather die fighting for my survival and to provide for my family here in South Africa.”

Zama zama, Vusimusi Mashego, tells a similar story.

“I have no education. When I go to look for a job they ask me about my age and if I have a matric certificate,” said the 49-year-old Vusimusi.

“Three years ago, I became a zama zama in order to survive.”

River of shit puts man out of business

Kabelo Tlhabanelo



Kabelo Tshwelesa was doing great business at his spaza shop in phase 5 in Mangaung, but a river of poo has caused him to close his doors permanently.

Three years ago a contractor installed a storm water drain but left the pipe leaking and Kabelo can't get the pipe repaired.

Kabelo said he has tried all possible avenues to make sure their street gets the look it did years ago but to no avail.

“After the spillage of sewage, customers started staying away from my shop,” he told Scrolla.Africa.

“The sewage covered almost the entire street and even the grass started growing. My customers could not access my shop and no one wanted to risk falling into the stinking water.”

He said the ward councillor has known about the problem but that doesn't make any difference.

“He calls the workers but just when they leave, the spillage starts again. Even police vehicles and ambulances can't get through.”

Another resident, Dan Mosole said he had to use a wheelbarrow to take his sick cousin to an ambulance waiting nearby.

“I don't blame the paramedics that they didn't want to come closer,” he said.

Residents said the biggest challenge is the kids can get sick because of trying to play in the sewage.

“We have to guard them,” said Puseletso Maine.

Mangaung Metro Municipality spokesperson Qondile Khedama said they were not aware of the matter.

He asked Scrolla.Africa to send details and they will follow up on it.

Khedama said: “We will send this to Councillor Ramabodu and those departments that will assist.”

Gun battle erupts as thugs nabbed while drilling tunnel into spaza shop

Everson Luhanga



It was like a scene straight from a Hollywood action movie!

The thugs drilled a hole through the wall of the spaza shop, but they were discovered while inside the shop.

The men had jumped the fence, into Sizakele Mthembu's yard and worked from there to tunnel into the next door spaza shop.

But Sizakele saw the men and called an off-duty officer who lives a few houses away.

“I was scared the bullets would come through into my house and hit me or my children,” said Sizakele.

Then off-duty cop, Sergeant Antony Radebe, arrived and the thugs started shooting. Radebe returned fire and a gun battle ensued.

“As I got to the hole I saw a man trying to come out,” Radebe told Scrolla.Africa.

“I shouted, telling them to stay where they are and put down their guns but then a bullet came through the hole and I returned fire.”

Radebe said he was alone while another woman went down the street, blowing a whistle to wake up the neighbours.

Sergeant Radebe said the shooting continued and he shot one thug in the leg. “While we exchanged fire, one of them shot his friend in the arm,” he said.

In the meantime, community members, armed with pick handles, sjamboks, stones, hammers and any other weapons they could lay their hands on arrived.

“They surrounded the shop. Back-up arrived from Dobsonville police station,” said Radebe.

Inside the shop, a desperate hand-to-hand battle was going on between the shopkeeper and the thugs.

“I was using bottles of cold drinks as weapons,” said the shopkeeper, Brihanu Malito.

“The suspects were also swinging at me with anything they could find in the shop like bottles, bars of soap and bags of maize meal.”

But then the tide turned against the thugs when a community member passed a pick handle to the shopkeeper who hit one of the thugs on the head.

In a statement, police confirmed that seven suspects were arrested and one of them was rushed to hospital after sustaining injuries.

Zulu royal house squabbles over succession

Lungani Zungu

The once closely-guarded unity of the Zulu Royal Household is crumbling as royal family members square off over the rightful person to lead the family.



The death of King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu in March and his third wife, Regent Queen Mantfombi Shiyiwe Dlamini Zulu on Thursday has pitted members of the royal family against one another.

At stake is the R71,3 million yearly budget from the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government and the more than 3 million hectares of Ingonyama Trust land, which is valued at more than a trillion rand.

King Zwelithini was the sole trustee of the land, and whoever takes over will automatically become the sole trustee.

Poor succession planning has been blamed for the bickering at the Royal Household over who should take the royal seat.

The family has been rocked by a court interdict over who is the rightful wife of the late King Zwelithini.

When King Zwelithini died, Queen Mantfombi took over as a Regent to lead the Zulu nation for three months until a king was appointed.

Following her death, Queen Sibongile Dlamini (not related to Queen Mantfombi) filed urgent court papers at the Pietermaritzburg High Court, seeking to inherit 50% of late King Zwelithini's estate.

It was also reported that Princess Ntandoyenkosi and Princess Ntombizosuthu claimed that King Zwelithini's will in the royal family lawyer's possession could be fraudulent and want to interdict its execution until the document is confirmed.

Renowned cultural expert Zoza Shongwe told Scrolla.Africa that the eldest son of the first wife, who was born in the royal house, is always in line to be the next king.

In this case, Queen Mantfombi's son Prince MisuZulu should take over the seat of power in the Royal House, according to Shongwe.

However, he stressed that the Royal Household was free to deal with the succession the way it deemed fit.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala said he has submitted a request to President Cyril Ramaphosa to declare a state funeral for Queen Mantfombi.

Prince Mbonisi Zulu said the Royal family will update the Zulu nation about the details of the funeral when they are finalised.

First batch of Pfizer vaccines touch down in SA

Arthur Greene



The Ministry of Health has announced that 325,260 doses of the Pfizer vaccine will arrive in South Africa on Sunday night.

Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize said in a statement that the shipment will arrive at OR Tambo International Airport at 23:45.

From there, the statement read, “the entire batch will be transported initially to a central warehouse. Samples will be sent to the National Control Laboratory for quality assurance and, after release, will be distributed to the provinces.”

Following this batch, Mkhize continued, three more batches of approximately the same size will arrive weekly for a total of over 1.3 million doses by the end of May.

“Thereafter the vaccine supply will increase to an average of 636,480 doses weekly from 31 May which will see us accumulating close to 4.5 million doses by the end of June.”

In the statement, Mkhize also addressed a batch of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines which currently awaits rollout in the Aspen Plant in Gqeberha.

Dispatch of the vaccines has been delayed until mid-May, he said, as “a precautionary measure following adverse findings” during inspection of a US facility, which is one of the manufacturing partners of J&J.

In the meantime, however, the country will continue the rollout of J&J vaccines to the country’s healthcare workers through the

Sisonke Protocol, alongside the incoming doses of Pfizer vaccine.

In a separate announcement on Saturday, Mkhize stated that 318,670 vaccines have so far been administered.

Picture source: @UNICEFInnocenti

Blind farmer feeds hundreds of families

Elmon Tshikhudo

An emotional Maanda Mafhege could not hide his excitement after receiving a certificate from the people of Dzingahe, Thohoyandou.



"Helping those in need has become a part of my life," said Mafhege who has been blind since he was in grade 9.

"I did not know my contribution would have such an impact and I would be rewarded in this way."

Farming has been in his blood since his primary school days when he did backyard farming at home.

Mafhege did not let his disability stand in his way. He became a full time farmer and in 2017 he inherited his parent's 4 hectare plot at Dzingahe where he grows vegetables and mielies.

Since then Mafhege has opened his heart and has helped hundreds of families, orphans and local creches with free vegetables.

His impact on the community was largely felt during the height of the pandemic.

A certificate was handed to him during a community meeting at the local chief's palace.

Local traditional leader Azwihangwisi Tshabuse said: "We are blessed to have Mafhege in our community. He is an asset. Many lives have been changed for the better. We pray that God helps him to achieve more."

Hero drivers who dodged death hailed on social media

Kamogelo Muvhenzhe



Social media users have hailed the driver of a courier van and his colleague who ducked bullets as heroes.

In a clip that was shot on a dash cam, two security guards are seen being targeted by thugs while driving on a freeway in Pretoria last week.

As the bullets were flying and the car was rammed a number of times, the driver remained calm throughout.

In the video, the driver and his colleague were driving in silence when he noticed something unusual in his rear view mirror.

Before they knew it, their bullet proof windows were shot at but the driver didn't budge.

He kept on driving and instructed his co--driver to call another colleague.

The driver's skills are credited to him having been a former SAPS Special Task Force member.

According to the original post, the Land Cruiser was carrying phones, which were the target of the attempted heist.

Neither guard was injured and no phones were stolen.

In March, a group of heavily-armed suspects attacked a DSTV courier van outside MTN's headquarters in Joburg. The gang opened fire on the escort car, wounding three guards.

The gang fled with boxes of handsets.

One viewer tweeted: "If I am going to get shot at with an AK I may as well be in Afghanistan or some such and get paid USD."

Another wrote, "Nerves of steel, well done driver! So ashamed that in SA you guys have to often put up with this type of criminality! God be with you as you do your daily work, thank you guys for your courage."

Video source: @julianrademeyer

DJ Cappuccino does it by degrees

Doreen Mokgolo

When it comes to DJs, you expect to hear about their flashy cars, their beautiful women or their bank balances. You don't often hear about their academic achievements.



But Tebogo Maswanganyi, DJ Cappuccino to his fans, is altogether a different prospect.

He recently received a second master's degree in Media studies from the University of Limpopo.

This is after he did his first master's degree in 2016. He is currently a PhD candidate in Climate Change Communications at the University of Limpopo.

He also holds a B. Tech in Chemical Engineering, BA Media Studies, BA Honours degree Media Studies, MA Media Studies, and Masters of Business Administration.

"None of this came easily. I had to make sacrifices and find different ways to fund my studies," he said.

He started a photographic business, organising the University's beauty, deejaying and fashion events to survive at university.

The funds he generated from these gigs later saw him helping other students.

"The thought of giving up was never an option. I grew up in a family that valued education. This motivated me to strive to be the best example in my community," he said.

He also started an initiative to raise funds for students through his scholarship DJ Cappuccino Higher Education Trust.

He said he has always had his nose buried in his books when he wasn't working and he uses deejaying as an escape from his studies to balance his social life.

"I have always wanted to be a doctor but I found myself studying towards a qualification in engineering after matric," he said.

"But one way or another, I will still write the title of Doctor before my name."

Jake White is the man

Timmy T Maranda



Understandably, Jake White was satisfied with his team's performance.

The Vodacom Blue Bulls convincingly beat the Emirates Lions at Loftus Versveld by 24-9 in the opening match of the Rainbow Cup, but that's only part of the story.

The Bulls scored three tries without reply, and according to White, three tries were disallowed.

The Bulls have gone undefeated at Loftus Versfeld in all competitions since White took over the coaching reins and transformed the fortunes of the team.

Meanwhile, the Cell C Sharks snatched a dramatic three point victory over the DHL Stormers in a highly entertaining Rainbow Cup SA match, to kick-off their campaign on Saturday afternoon.

The KZN team prevailed 33-30 against the DHL Stormers courtesy of a tremendous fightback and determined defence in a match that had it all at Cape Town Stadium.

Cell C Sharks lock Reniel Hugo scored a hat trick of tries while the Stormers were down to 13 men due to two red cards.

In a South African Rugby Union (SARU) statement, Stormers coach John Dobson lamented the ill-discipline from his side.

"We were unlucky to lose. We know why it happened," said Dobson.

"It was very disappointing and entirely our own fault."

Sharks coach Sean Everitt was excited about the victory away from home but not satisfied with the performance of the team.

"We're obviously not happy with our performance but we will take the win. It's a sign of a good team if you don't play well and still get the result," Everitt said.

On Saturday the Lions face the Sharks at Kings Park in Durban while the Stormers host the Vodacom Bulls in Cape Town.

Picture source: @VodacomRugga

Pitso vs Sundowns: It's personal

Menzi Magubane



It's not quite a gunbattle with pistols at dawn - but it's pretty close!

Pitso Mosimane will finally play against his former club, Mamelodi Sundowns.

Mosimane's Al Ahly will host Downs in the first leg of the CAF Champions League quarter-finals with Mosimane returning to Tshwane for the first time since his shock resignation in September.

Mosimane humiliated Al Ahly in this competition back in 2019 beating them 5-0 in Tshwane. Now he returns in the same fixture but this time he will be seated in the opposite dugout.

Mosimane spent eight years at Downs and the following coaches, Manqoba Mngqithi, Rulani Mokwena and Steve Komphela, have not changed Downs' style of play much.

Mosimane said earlier that teams would want to avoid playing against his side in the knockout stage.

Mokwena, who isn't shy to voice his opinion, threw the challenge back to his former coach when he told the media: "If coach Pitso is really honest, I don't think he wants to play against Sundowns in the quarter-finals."

The quarter-finals draw was conducted on Friday afternoon where all three South African teams playing in their respective CAF competitions finally discovered their opponents. Quarter-final debutants Kaizer Chiefs were drawn with Simba of Tanzania with Amakhosi playing at home first.

The Champions League first-leg ties will be on 14 and 15 May with the return legs scheduled for 21 to 22 May.

Meanwhile, Orlando Pirates were given tough opponents the Moroccan giants Raja Casablanca in their Confederation Cup quarter-final. The Bucs will host the Moroccans on 16 May.

Full Champions League draw

MC Alger vs Wydad Casablanca, CR Belouizdad vs Esperance

Full Confed draw (first leg games on 16 May and second leg on 23 May)

CS Sfaxien vs JS Kabylie, Pyramids FC vs Enyimba FC, Cotonsport FC vs ASC Jaraaf

Picture source:@sabreakingnews

Mzansi's last world boxing champ bows out

Linda Ximba



Age may have finally caught up with Moruti Mthalane.

The loss suffered by the 38-year-old Mthalane in his IBF flyweight title defence to England's Sunny Edwards in London on Friday has left South Africa without a legitimate world champion.

He has been the sole champion owning a title from the IBF, WBC, WBA or WBO.

Talking to ScrollAfrica from England before coming home, Mthalane said: "He was the better boxer on the night. I tried but things didn't go my way."

The loss to Edwards brings to an end a 13-year winning streak.

The battle-scarred Mthalande has been to the wars with big names including the feared Nonito Donaire and has dazzled spectators in seven countries.

But he struggled with the slick and fast movements around the ring from the light-punching Edwards.

Mthalande's record now stands at 42 fights, 39 wins and three losses.

Mthalande thanked everyone who supported him.

"I have lost but I'm still proud to have had a long boxing career and being able to win three world titles," he said.

Picture source: boxingscene