

MEDIA RELEASE

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BCM to immortalize Mdantsane boxing legacy

The legacy of Mdantsane boxing – one of South Africa's biggest townships – is set to be immortalized for upcoming generations.

The Buffalo City Municipality is undertaking a massive project to develop a boxing museum in honour of all those who have ensured that through the sport, the City is on the map.

A Local Organizing Committee comprising of local legends that include former boxers and trainers has been set. BCM has received R20 million from the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant from National Treasury for the project.

The aim of the museum is to collect, document and conserve a collection of boxing material that makes the overall history of boxing in the Eastern Cape Province.

This knowledge will be communicated through education, exhibition and publication.

It will be situated within the sports precinct of the Mdantsane CBD.

Our plans are to resume with research, mobilization of stakeholders and finalization of designs in the 2010/11 financial year.

The construction of the structure is expected to commence by end of the 2010/11 financial year and due for completion in the 2011/12 financial year. A financial year in Municipal terms begins every 01 July.

Artifacts collected from the broader boxing fraternity in the Eastern Cape, in the form of boxing gear, photos, videos, magazines, will be exhibited. We are envisioning for the museum to also have a library facility and a lounge area.

The museum will also contribute to the revival of boxing in the township of Mdantsane which will help in reducing the large consumption of alcohol and drugs among young people.

A comprehensive operational plan will be developed to ensure that Mdantsane based boxers directly benefit from the museum in various ways. Other local boxing legends will be involved during the implementation of the project, as they will be the informants during the research phase as well as the operational phase.

Further, Mdantsane will be uplifted provincially, nationally and internationally as a Mecca of boxing in the BCM area.

The museum will bring economic opportunities for the local community by providing temporary and permanent jobs during the construction and operational phase respectively.

Editors notes:

About 880 000 people live in Buffalo City. A third of those live in Mdantsane, South Africa's second largest township. *Quality of Life survey*

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