



Ceylon Boxing Federation

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Press Release

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Sri Lanka's Boxing Legends to Be Honoured at Special Felicitation Ceremony.

The Ceylon Boxing Federation (CBF) will host a special felicitation ceremony to honour and recognize Sri Lanka's veteran boxers who have made outstanding contributions to the development and success of boxing in the country over several decades.

The event will take place on Saturday, 21 March, at Arawwala, Pannipitiya, commencing at 5.30 p.m. The ceremony aims to celebrate the proud legacy of Sri Lankan boxing and acknowledge the dedication of athletes who have represented the nation with distinction.

The Ceylon Boxing Federation (CBF) was established a few years ago under the initiative and vision of its President, former Thurstan College pugilist Mr. Dushantha Kiriella. With a strong passion for reviving and strengthening the sport, he brought together many of Sri Lanka's past boxing champions, coaches, and officials, inspiring them to join hands in building and developing the federation.

The Ceylon Boxing Federation has rendered yeoman service in improving the living standards of past boxing champions and plans to introduce additional welfare programmes in the future. A key pillar of strength of the CBF is its Secretary, Major (Retd.) Mahinda Hettiarachchi, himself a champion boxer during his competitive days and also a proud product of Thurstan College.

The Executive Committee of the federation includes several distinguished personalities from the boxing fraternity. Retired SSP Rohana Ajith Gunarathne, a former St. Sylvester's College boxer, serves as the First Vice President, while former Nalanda College and Sri Lankan boxer Nalin Jayasinghe holds the position of Treasurer.

The committee also comprises a number of accomplished champion boxers, including W. M. Chithrananda, Jagath Neththikumara, and K. A. D. Luxman. Former St. Mary's College boxers Angelo Jesudasan and Stanley Sirimanne are also members of the CBF Executive Committee and organizing team, and are actively working towards the successful conduct of this event.

The Ceylon Boxing Federation is further strengthened by a strong Advisory Committee consisting of former Trinity College boxing captain and Stubbs Shield Best Boxer, Lion Ikram Odayar, along with Mr. Marshad Barry and Mr. Nalaka Wakkumbura, who continue to provide valuable guidance and support to the federation.

" A champion is someone who gets up when he can't "

The occasion will be graced by Her Excellency Mrs. Patricia Lazara Pego Guerra, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Sri Lanka, as the Chief Guest. Cuba is internationally renowned for its rich boxing tradition and remarkable Olympic success, making her presence particularly significant for this special celebration of the sport.

Joining the event as the Guest of Honour will be Mr. Vinod Kalarickal Sukumaran, World Boxing Council (WBC) CARE Middleweight Champion and WBC CARE Ambassador for Australia and Dubai. Known for his dedication, discipline, and passion for boxing, he has earned international recognition within the global boxing community.

Beyond his achievements in the ring, Mr. Sukumaran has been actively involved in promoting the values of boxing, inspiring young athletes, and supporting the development of the sport at both grassroots and professional levels. Through his role with the WBC CARE initiative, he continues to contribute to charitable and community-focused efforts linked to boxing. His presence at the event is expected to inspire aspiring fighters and sports enthusiasts alike, reflecting the spirit of perseverance, sportsmanship, and excellence that defines the sport.

The organizers are also honoured to welcome General Jagath Jayasuriya (Retd.), the 19th Commander of the Sri Lanka Army and a former Royal College boxer who won the prestigious Stubbs Shield Best Boxer title, who is expected to attend the ceremony as a distinguished guest.

Among the prominent personalities to be honoured at the ceremony is DIG (Retd.) Sumith Liyanage, Sri Lanka's oldest living Olympian, who proudly represented the country in boxing at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. His remarkable contribution remains an inspiring chapter in Sri Lanka's sporting history.

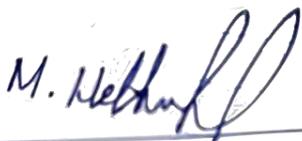
The federation will also recognize former national boxer L. V. Douglas for his long-standing service and dedication to the sport. In addition, T. J. Ismail, widely regarded as one of the finest pugilists produced by Sri Lanka, will be felicitated for his achievements and lasting influence on Sri Lankan boxing.

As part of the ceremony, the Ceylon Boxing Federation will also confer Honorary Memberships on several veteran boxing personalities in appreciation of their immense and lifelong contributions to the growth and promotion of the sport in Sri Lanka.

A special posthumous award will be presented in memory of Allam Ousman, a former Royal College boxer and respected veteran sports journalist, in recognition of his lasting contribution to the promotion of sports and boxing in Sri Lanka.

The Ceylon Boxing Federation kindly requests media institutions to publish and share this announcement through their newspapers, television, radio, and digital media platforms in order to celebrate and honour the achievements of Sri Lanka's boxing legends.

Yours sincerely,



Major (Rtd) Mahinda Hettiarachchi
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Ceylon Boxing Federation
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