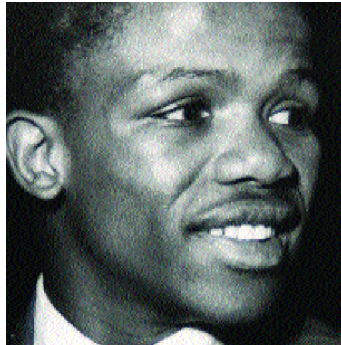


Jacob Ntuli (1931 – 1998)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER (POSTHUMOUS)

AWARDED TO
JACOB NTULI
FOR OUTSTANDING AND
PIONEERING ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE SPORT OF BOXING
AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTS
OF AN APARTHEID SOCIETY



At the age of 19, Jacob Ntuli turned professional boxer in 1950. In his eighth bout he captured the South African bantamweight title and later on, the flyweight title.

Ntuli became the first black South African to win an Empire championship (the forerunner to the Commonwealth title) in 1952. The success effectively made him one of the best two or three flyweights of his time, and his achievement was confirmed when *Ring* magazine selected him as the top-rated flyweight in its rankings.

In all, Ntuli had 11 fights in England. He concluded his career with a respectable 31-14-2 record.

Ntuli was the first black South African boxer to receive world acclaim. His achievements are particularly remarkable in that they came at a time when black boxers were severely restricted and had little hope of advancement in the sport. Black fighters at the time were not allowed to compete against white fighters, and were restricted to black promoters. Ironically, Ntuli became a favourite of the white boxing establishment.

Ntuli was one of South Africa's finest fighters who made his mark in the sport of boxing. He proved his ability against the very best of his era and in doing this, played a pioneering role that opened doors for other black sportspersons.

Jacob Ntuli is widely regarded as one of the 10 greatest South African boxers of all time.