

By NEVILLE KHOZA

AmaZulu chairman Sandile Zungu has reserved high praise for coach Arthur Zwane and confirmed he will continue to lead the team next season.

Zwane, who initially shared the dugout with Vusumuzi Vilakazi after their joint appointment in October, took full charge in February after Vilakazi's exit.

Since then, he has guided Usuthu to sixth place in the Premiership table with 34 points from 27 matches, a respectable position considering where the team was when he and Vilakazi took over.

Speaking during the unveiling of Primo as their new technical sponsor from next season after signing a three-year partnership, Zungu said he was satisfied with the work Zwane has done since he took over, taking the club to the top eight.

"I can confirm that Arthur Zwane is going to be with AmaZulu beyond the season. That decision is taken, we believe he has done an awesome job," Zungu said.

"In giving character to the team, we think he needs to be rewarded with greater loyalty by us as a team as well. And that decision has been communicated not only to him but also to the players and the rest of the technical team."

With one match remaining against Orlando Pirates on May 24 and sitting in sixth place, Usuthu can still finish in the top eight should they win that match and

ZWANE GETS GREEN LIGHT TO LEAD AMAZULU AGAIN NEXT SEASON

● The coach has done an awesome job – chairman Zungu



hope other teams below them don't get results. They lead eighth-placed Chippa United, who have played 25 games, by four points. Zungu is also pleased with the new partnership with Primo, which replaces Umbro.

"This partnership means our supporters come first, it means accessibility for our fans nationwide. It means AmaZulu is well on its way to becoming the lifestyle brand it aspires to be," he said. "It's exciting that the gear is locally ideated, conceived and crafted, reflecting our ethos and culture."

"Some of the financial benefits are more than beyond the obvious, we want a relationship that will benefit us, the supporters and help us retain them."

AmaZulu coach Arthur Zwane has guided Usuthu to sixth place in the Premiership table with 34 points from 27 matches, and should stay on for another season. / Shaun Roy/Gallo Images

Bridgerweight a blessing for smaller SA heavyweight boxers

Opinion

by Bongani Magasela

The WBC's bridgerweight division, its 18th weight class, has come as a blessing to SA fighters, especially those who have been campaigning in the heavyweight division.

Established by WBC president Mauricio Sulaimán in 2020, the division sits between the cruiserweight and heavy-weight divisions. It caters for small heavyweight fighters. The weight limit is 106kg. Former IBO cruiserweight champ, Kevin Lerena, rules the division with an iron fist after his stunning defeat of Ukrainian Serhiy Radchenko on Thursday.

Current SA heavyweight titlist Shaun Potgieter, and former national heavy-weight champions Chris Thompson and Keaton Gomes, are also rated in that weight class. Gomes won his debut match in the division in the WBC Grand Prix Series in Saudi Arabia last month.

Former Gauteng and WBA Pan African cruiserweight champ Akani Phuzi won his first fight in that weight class last weekend. His trainer/manager, Damien Durandt, said: "The plan is to campaign at international level."

SA has always struggled to produce fully fledged heavyweight boxers, except for Gerrie Coetzee, whose weight was about 115kg. Coetzee's size made it possible for him to stand and trade blows with the likes of John Tate, Mike Weaver, Greg Page, Michael Dokes and Frank

Bruno, though most of these Americans stopped him within scheduled distances.

Corrie Sanders was a small heavyweight at 109kg. He defeated fringe opponents en route to winning the WBU belt, which he defended successfully three times against average opponents.

The moment he met a credible and fully fledged heavyweight contender in Hasim Rahman, who weighed 129kg, Sanders's size was exposed.

He just could not hurt the American, who stopped him in round seven in 2000.

Sanders's hand speed was his best weapon, and it helped him win the WBO title in 2003 via a second-round stoppage of Wladimir Klitschko. Sanders's reign was short-lived. Klitschko's brother, Vitali Klitschko, stopped him in eight rounds the following year.

Pierre Coetzer and Francois Botha were like Sanders, with Coetzer reigning supreme as the national heavyweight champ. But he was knocked out in round one by American Bernard Benton – a full-blown former WBC and The Ring cruiserweight champion – who made his debut in the heavyweight division against Coetzer at Standard Bank Arena on September 28 1987. Coetzer made the biggest mistake of his life in facing George Foreman, who severely punished him, ultimately winning by a technical knockout in the eighth round.

Sanders and Coetzer, on reflection, would have done well in the bridgerweight division.



Kevin Lerena celebrates his win after knocking out Ukraine's Serhiy Radchenko during their WBC bridgerweight world title fight in Pretoria.

/Thapelo Morebudi



ERRATUM

Notice is hereby given that the tender description for the **Construction of access road from Brooklyn to Makoshala LIM473/BROOKLYN-MAKOSHALA/24/25/057, and Construction of Madibong internal road LIM473/MADIBONG-INTERNAL/24/25/032** is changed from 90/10 to 80/ 20 preferential point system, and the closing dates has been moved from 09 May 2025 to 20 May 2025 @12H00.

Supply Chain Unit: Mr Mothapo KJ - 013 265 8607
Infrastructure services: Ms. Lubisi NB- 013 265 8640