

Translation: Burger article on Unathi and Zukile at the IFBB SA Championships in Pta 2 May 2009

Ex Gangster wants to keep community on straight and narrow path

In 1998 Mr. Mzwandile Peter Gayi (47) from Red Location outside PE got caught up in cross fire between the police and his gang and was wounded in his leg in the process..

He was arrested and paid an even dearer price when his leg was amputated.

Gayi was sentenced to 60 years jail time but thanks to extenuating circumstances served only 8 for armed robbery, possession of an illegal fire arm and attempted murder.

While in prison Gayi completed Grade 7 to 12 and started considering ways of improving his life.

The day he left prison he walked away from gangsters and the life of crime. Today he inspires his community to better their lives.

“When I was released in 2006 I had completed Grade 12 but finding employment was difficult. I had nothing constructive to do and this was the reason I became involved with gangs in the first place. I had to fight against returning to this life style.

There were no gymnasiums to work out to rid one of frustrations and Gayi decided to start his own boxing Club. He was met with a great deal of social prejudice which he found very difficult to deal with.

Gayi wants to entice students and unemployed people to spend their empty hours with constructive activity rather than giving in to the allurements of alcohol. The monthly membership fee at Gayi's gym is only R20 but he is very serious about getting people out of shabeens and into the gym and often waives the membership fee to unemployed people.

And this is how two body builders, Unathi Kawa (25) unemployed and Zukile Dyonahse (20), a student, found themselves at the gym.

After only 18 months of committed exercising in Peter's gym, they have already won prizes. Now Peter has a problem. Since these two lads did so incredibly well at the South African body building championships for beginners in Pretoria the gym has been inundated with youngsters wanting membership.

At the competition on 2 May Kawa achieved second place in the bantam-weight division and Dyonashe managed 5th place in the junior division.

Their achievement has inspired many people in the community and now we do not have enough equipment to cope with the demand. “But we should never quit, just stay on the straight and narrow, something positive and good may just be waiting for you”.