

Mr Luis Batista Salas, Esq

The Chairperson

WBO Championship Committee

WBO Head Office

12th July 2020

Re: Jeremiah Nakathila Mandatory Status WBO Jr Lightweight Division

Dear Mr Luis Batista Salas, Esq

Greetings from the MTC Nestor Sunshine Promotions.

We are happy to see that boxing is slowly coming back even though we can still not do fights in Namibia. We are hopeful that this situation will change in the next 2 months.

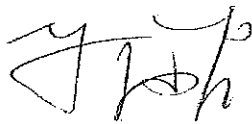
We have taken note of Shakur Stevenson moving up to the Jr Lightweight division and now being considered for mandatory position because he is a champion. While we fully understand and appreciate the rules, we wish to draw the WBO to how long Jeremiah Nakathila has waited for an opportunity to fight the champion. Nakathila had to respect the rules and be demoted from the rankings and gave up his mandatory position when Oscar Valdez moved up, he is now doing the same after 2 years of waiting and literally doing so. Should another champion move up he would have to stand down again and this can be extremely demoralizing for a boxer of his calibre seeing that his opportunity will never come.

In instances like this, we implore the WBO Championship Committee to become creative to ensure that its contenders don't become demoralized by the system and surely an elimination between Nakathila vs Stevenson would be in order to ensure that both boxers deserve to fight the champion.

We wish to re-emphasize that we understand the rules, but we also implore that the WBO considers the impact and the situation on Nakathila especially who has been a great champion and fighting quality opponents. We don't want to send the wrong message to him that he is not worthy of a title fight.

We would like to thank you in advance for considering our request and ensuring that Nakathila finally gets his championship opportunity because he deserves it.

Yours in Boxing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nestor Tobias', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nestor Tobias

Cc: Francisco Valcarcel (WBO President)

Cc: Diana Melendez (NABO/Intercontinental/ Executive Director)



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Francisco Valcárcel, Esq.
President

July 14, 2020

VIA EMAIL: nestorsunshine@yahoo.com

Mr. Nestor Tobias
MTC Sunshine Production
Private Bag 24506, Windhoek
Namibia, Africa

Re: Mandatory Status - WBO Jr. Lightweight Participant – Mr. Jeremiah Nakathila

Dear Nestor:

I refer to your letter dated July 12, 2020, indicating that Shakur Stevenson moves up to the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division and being considered for designation of the mandatory challenger in light of his professional accomplishments. Your communication also refers to Nakathila being demoted when Oscar Valdez moved from Featherweight to Jr. Lightweight Division. Lastly, you request the WBO World Championship Committee to order an elimination bout between Nakathila/Stevenson to designate the mandatory challenger in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

As you correctly stated in your letter, the WBO's policy has been consistent on instances when former WBO World Champions and WBO Champions granted Super Champion designation, request ranking consideration, and mandatory designation upon moving to a specific weight division. Current and former WBO World Champions such as Oleksandr Usyk, Canelo Alvarez, Jaime Munguía, Vasiliy Lomachenko, Oscar Valdez, Kosei Tanaka, and many others. Furthermore, beyond their championship recognition, the Committee considers each fighter's professional record, level of activity, level of opposition, ranked opposition, amateur track record, etc.

Regarding Shakur Stevenson, he is a silver-gold medalist from the 2016 Rio Olympics and former WBO World Featherweight Champion with a perfect professional record consisting of 14-0-0 with 8 of said wins by way of KO. His total combined record consists of 169 wins with only 25 losses and nine draws. Moreover, Stevenson has fought former WBO World Ranked contenders and world title challengers such as Christopher Diaz and Joet Gonzalez. The same comparison can be said of WBO Jr. Lightweight Contender Mr. Oscar Valdez who is a former standout Olympian, former WBO World Featherweight Champion with 6 consecutive successful title defenses at the Featherweight division before transitioning to the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

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The aforementioned circumstances certainly are considered by the correspondent Committees. Whereas Jeremiah Nakathila's last world ranked opposition was against Zoltan Kovacs (23-6-1) on April 20 2019. Nonetheless, we acknowledge Nakathila as a proud WBO Global Jr. Lightweight Champion and his continued support representing the WBO; however, our position remains consistent with the WBO policy and regrettably, we cannot grant your request.

Again, we strongly advise keeping Nakathila active in competition and complying with the WBO and ABC Ratings criteria for professional boxing. Thank you for your continued support.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paco", written in a cursive style.

Paco

Cc: Luis Batista Salas, Esq./Chairman Championship Committee

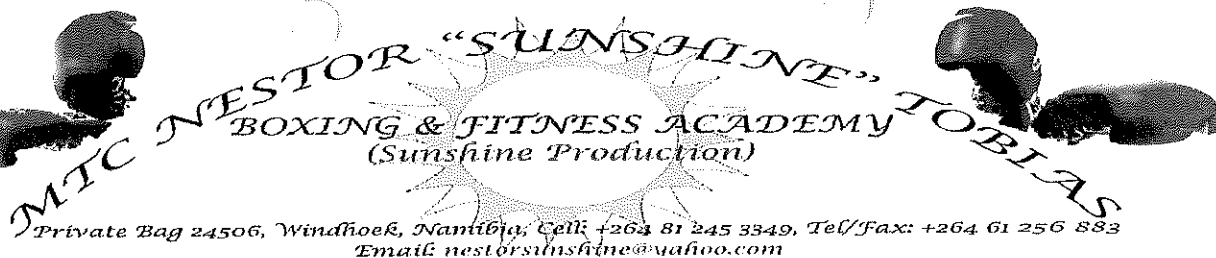
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Mr Luis Batista Salas, Esq

The Chairperson

WBO Championship Committee

WBO Head Office

14th July 2020

Re: Mandatory Status-WBO Jr Lightweight Participant-Jeremiah Nakathila

Dear Mr Luis Batista Salas, Esq

I refer to your reply to my letter on the above subject. Let me firstly thank you for responding to my letter promptly.

I am not sure if you fully appreciate the spirit in which our letter was written, and our acknowledgement that we understand the WBO rules and regulations. Nowhere in our letter did we say that Stevenson does not deserve his status. We are well aware of his record just as we are aware of our fighters record, we can thus not understand why you had to justify and lecture us about his record because that was never in dispute or in question.

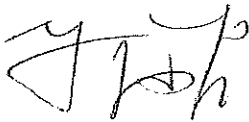
We simply asked you and the Committee to consider the circumstances that Nakathila finds himself in. We do not need to remind you that the WBO needs to be mindful about the opportunities that African fighters have versus those in Europe and the USA. The challenges that Promoters in Africa face are very different from those in Europe and the USA who have the backing of TV rights revenues which is not the case in Africa. We have to dig deep in our own pockets to fight world rated opponents and Nakathila has done that and fought a WBO Africa champion. It is easy for the WNO to say keep your fighter busy with quality fights. We cannot be oblivious to the fact that Promoters cannot be swept with the same broom knowing that their financial circumstances are different.

It is against this background that we made this request since Nakathila has proven himself over and over again but his opportunity keeps being postponed. We have never said that Stevenson does not deserve his status, we have simply asked that the WBO leadership considers his circumstances and accommodate him which is a request you have not addressed in your reply.

It is not the first time that we request for mandatory status from the WBO for Nakathila. In the past we were told that the WBO cannot declare a mandatory once the champion has not fought yet, but here we have the WBO declaring Stevenson a mandatory.

We will continue to keep our fighters busy but we cannot always get the same message when deserving fighters are denied opportunities to fight for the title. The very same Nakathila was supposed to be mandatory and the next minute we saw Lamont Roach coming out of nowhere and took his spot and he fought for the title. Then he had to stand down for Valdez and now for Stevenson. Why is not possible for Nakathila and Stevenson to fight an eliminator or for the interim title now that Herring's fight is delayed? That was our request and the gist of our letter.

Yours in Boxing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nestor Tobias', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nestor Tobias

Cc: Francisco Valcarcel (WBO President)

Cc: Diana Melendez (NABO/Intercontinental/ Executive Director)



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Francisco Valcárcel, Esq.
President

July 20, 2020

VIA EMAIL: nestorsunshine@yahoo.com

Mr. Nestor Tobias
MTC Sunshine Production
Private Bag 24506, Windhoek
Namibia, Africa

Re: Mandatory Status - WBO Jr. Lightweight Participant – Mr. Jeremiah Nakathila

Dear Nestor:

I refer to your letter dated July 14, 2020, whereby you point out (1) that Shakur Stevenson has been declared WBO Mandatory in the Jr. Lightweight Division (2) Lamont Roach fought for the WBO Jr. Lightweight Championship instead of Jeremiah Nakathila, and (3) Order an elimination bout between Stevenson/Nakathila to designate the mandatory challenger in the referenced division.

Please allow me to clarify Nakathila's WBO Rating track record. On August 6, 2016, Nakathila won the WBO Interim Africa Jr. Lightweight Championship by defeating Jasper Seroka via TKO in round 8; bout held at the Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia. Consequently, during said month, Nakathila entered the WBO World Jr. Lightweight Rankings at the number 15th position. In September, Nakathila moved up one spot at the 14th position due to then ranked number 7th, Gervonta Davis, pursuing a WBA Jr. Lightweight Championship Bout against Jason Sosa scheduled for October 22, 2016.

The following month (October), Nakathila again moved up one spot at the 13th position due to then ranked at the number 2nd position Orlando "Siri" Salido and ranked number 5th position, Takashi Mura, fighting for the WBC Interim Jr. Lightweight Championship. However, by November of 2016, Nakathila moved up two spots at the 11th position in light of the exclusion from then ranked number 9th position Takashi Uchiyama on pursuing a WBA World Title bout on December 31, 2016.

Conversely, on Friday, November 18, 2016, Nakathila fought for the Vacant WBO Jr. Lightweight Intercontinental Championship against then ranked at the number 2 position Evgeny Chuprakov, losing by Majority Decision (MD); bout held at DIVS, Ekaterinburg, Russia. Consequently, excluded from the WBO World Jr. Lightweight Ratings for December 2016, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, and August 2017, respectively.

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During this time, Nakathila had only fought on 1 occasion against unranked Vadre Ndayambekwa (3-4-0), whose last three (3) outings suffered consecutive losses. This bout was held on Saturday, April 1, 2017, at the Ramatex Factory, Windhoek, Namibia.

Whereas, on Saturday, September 9, 2017, Nakathila won the WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight Championship title by defeating unranked Said Chino (13-5-2) by TKO in round 3; bout held at the Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia. After that, Nakathila's Promoter requested ranking consideration, and upon publication of the September WBO World Ratings, Nakathila occupied the 9th position in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division. After that, said fighter remained in the above-referenced position until December 2017. Afterward, Nakathila successfully defended the WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight Championship Title against unranked Subusiso Zingange (11-2-1) by TKO in round 6, bout held at the Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia, and moved up to the 6th position.

In January 2018, Nakathila remained in the 6th position, but on the following month (February), he moved up one position at number 5 due to the exclusion of Miguel Roman, then rated at number 3 after pursuing fighting WBC Jr. Lightweight World Champion Miguel Berchelt on Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the Don Haskins Center, El Paso, Texas, USA. Nakathila remained at the number 5 position during February, March, April, May, June, and July, although he successfully defended his WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight Championship on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, against unranked Patrick Okine (19-3-1) via TKO in round 4; bout held at the Ramatex Hall, Windhoek, Namibia.

By August 2018, Nakathila moved up to the 3rd position in light of former WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion Vasilij Lomachenko's title relinquishment. Consequently, the vacancy was filled by at the time number 1 ranked contender and NABO Jr. Lightweight Champion Christopher "Pitufo" Diaz (23-0-0), and number 2 ranked contender and Asia Pacific Jr. Lightweight Champion Masayuki Ito (23-1-1). At the time of the Diaz/Ito bout on July 28, 2018, by default, Evgeny Chuprakov occupied the number 1 position, Francisco "El Bandido" Vargas held the 2nd spot, and Nakathila the 3rd position, accordingly. During said month, Nakathila successfully defended his WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight title against unranked Wilson Masamba (29-10-1) on Friday, August 3, 2018, via TKO in round 4; bout held at The Dome, Swakopmund, Namibia. From August through November 2018, Nakathila remained in the 3rd position at the Jr. Lightweight Division. However, the following month (December) Nakathila was moved down to the 5th position in light of then ranked at number 4 position undefeated NABO Jr. Lightweight Champion Ryan Garcia's (17-0-0) KO victory over Braulio Rodriguez (19-3-0) in round 5, and then ranked at the 5th position, undefeated WBO International Jr. Lightweight Champion Lamont Roach's win against Alberto Mercado (15-1-1).

To wit, Ryan Garcia moved to number 3 and Lamont Roach to number 4 positions, respectively. Also, at the end of December, Nakathila successfully defended his WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight title against unranked Prince Dlomo (10-7-1) on Friday, December 28, 2018, via KO in round 9; bout held at Castle, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa.





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By January 2019, Ryan Garcia moved up to the number one 1 position as a result of then number 1 ranked contender Evgeny Chuprakov losing on Sunday, December 30, 2018, against then WBO World Jr. Lightweight Champion Masayuki Ito via TKO in round 7; bout held at the Ota-City General Gymnasium, Tokyo, Japan. Keep in mind that Ryan Garcia entered the WBO World Ratings after having won the NABO Championship by defeating former world title ranked contender Jayson Velez (26-4-1). Furthermore, Garcia maintained an undefeated professional record and consecutively fought ranked opposition in former WBO International Champion Jose Lopez (20-3-1), NABO Champion Romero Dunno (21-1-0) and WBO Latino and world title contender Francisco Fonseca (25-2-2).

As for Roach's January 2019 Rating, he moved up to the number 2 position due to Francisco "El Bandido" Vargas unavailability as he contested for the WBO Jr. Lightweight Championship Title on March 23, 2019. Therefore, Nakathila moved up to the 3rd position. Whereas Lamont Roach's level of opposition since entering the WBO World Jr. Lightweight Ratings in August 2018 includes facing and earning a controversial split draw (SD) against former world title challenger Orlando "Fenomeno" Cruz (25-6-1) on Saturday, April 19, 2018; bout held at the Coliseo Jose Miguel Agrelot, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Then, Roach won the WBO International Title by defeating Deivi Julio Bassa (20-4-0) and consecutively defending said title against Alberto Mercado (15-1-1).

Then, from January till March 2019, positions one (1) through three (3) remained the same, however by April, Lamont Roach moved up to the number one (1) position as Ryan Garcia moved to the Lightweight (135 lbs) division, and Nakathila moved up to the second (2) position accordingly. At this time, NABO Jr. Lightweight and former world title contender Jonathan Oquendo occupied the fourth (4) position. Whereas on April 20, 2019, Nakathila won the WBO Global Jr. Lightweight title by defeating then ranked fifteen (15), Zoltan Kovacs via TKO in round eight (8); bout held at the Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia.

The following month (May), number 1 ranked contender Lamont Roach unified the WBO International and NABO Jr. Lightweight Championships by defeating then number 4 world title challenger Jonathan Oquendo via Unanimous Decision (UD); bout held at the T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas, Nevada. Having the Committee considered the aforementioned unification bout between two WBO Regional Champions, world-ranked contenders, each with respectable professional records, level of opposition, and activity, the winner (Roach), was designated mandatory challenger in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Nakathila remained at the number 2 position through June and July of 2019.

However, on August 2, 2019, then WBO Featherweight (126 lbs) Champion Oscar Valdez (27-0-0), relinquished his title after 6 consecutive title defenses against highly competitive world-ranked opposition, world title challengers, and former world champions. Valdez's total combined pro record consists of four-hundred-thirty (430) wins, one-hundred-two (102) losses with only twenty (20) draws, and twenty-one (21) of said wins by way of KO.





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In consideration of said accomplishments, Valdez requested ranking at the number 1 position at the Jr. Lightweight position and the Committee granted his request per our institutional policy and compliance with WBO Rules and Regulations. Having Valdez rightfully earned the number 1 position, by default, Roach and Nakathila were lowered to the number 2 and 3 positions by default. Thereafter, during September and October, the positions 1 through 3 remained the same.

Whereas in November 2019, Nakathila moved up to the 2nd position due to then number 2 Lamont Roach loss against current WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion Jamel Herring (21-2-0) via Unanimous Decision (UD); bout held on November 9, 2019, at the Chuckchansi Park, Fresno, California. Also, on November, Saturday, November 23, 2019, Nakathila defended his WBO Africa Jr. Lightweight title on against unranked Peter Pambeni (16-3-3) via TKO in round 8; bout held at the Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia. 7 days later, on Saturday, November 30 of said year, Valdez (26-0-0) defeated contender Adam Lopez (13-1-0) via TKO in round 7; bout held at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada. The following months of December 2019, January, February, and March 2020, Valdez and Nakathila retained their positions at number 1 and 2 in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division. As of November 23, 2019, Nakathila remains inactive in competition.

On the other hand, upon the Covid-19 pandemic, all boxing activity worldwide came to a halt, and therefore, the WBO World Ratings for the month of March 2020 remained in effect until further notice. Nevertheless, by June 9, 2020, closed-door boxing resume specifically in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, and consequently, WBO Featherweight Champion Shakur Stevenson (14-0-0) return to active competition in a non-title WBO Featherweight bout against Felix Caraballo (13-1-2) who had won his last 5 fights. Shakur won by way of KO in round 6. Even before the Stevenson/Caraballo bout, boxing news reported that Stevenson would be moving to the Jr. Lightweight Division (130 lbs) after outgrowing the Featherweight division and seeking to become a two-division world champion. Shakur officially relinquished his WBO Featherweight Championship Title on July 9, 2020, and moved to the Jr. Lightweight Division (130 lbs), and requested ranking consideration at the number 1 position.

Having the WBO Ratings Committee examined Stevenson's professional accomplishments, including a perfect professional record (14-0-0) with 8 KO's, having won the vacant NABO Featherweight Championship against then world title challenger Christopher "Pitufu" Diaz (24-1-0) via Unanimous Decision (UD), and successfully defending said title against Alberto Guevarra (27-4-0) by way of KO in round 3, and having won the Vacant WBO Featherweight Championship relinquished by Oscar Valdez, against former WBO Regional and world title challenger Joet Gonzalez (23-0-0) via Unanimous Decision (UD); bout held at Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nevada.

Furthermore, the Committee considered Stevenson's achievement as a 2016 Olympic Silver Medalist and his total combined record consisting of 169 wins with only 25 losses and 9 draws. In 2019, Stevenson fought on 4 occasions; three (3) out of four (4) opponents were world-ranked contenders and fought 5 times in 2018. That is to say, in two years, Shakur fought a total of 9 times.

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Whereas Nakathila's current professional record consists of 19 wins, 1 loss, and no draw. His total combined record sums 202 wins, 72 losses, and 14 draws. Since reentering the WBO Jr. Lightweight Ratings in 2017, Nakathila has only fought 6 times during 3 years, in which only 1 out of 5 fighters (Zoltan Kovacs) was ranked in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

Lastly, the WBO's policy and applicable rules have been consistently enforced on instances when former and/or current WBO World Champions, as well as those WBO Champions, granted "*Super Champion*" privileges, request ranking consideration and/or mandatory designation upon moving to a specific weight division. WBO World Champions such as Oleksandr Usyk, Canelo Alvarez, Jaime Munguia, Terence Crawford, Vasiliy Lomachenko, Kosei Tanaka, Oscar Valdez, Emmanuel Navarrete, and many others have benefitted from this policy and our rules. Moreover, beyond their championship recognition, the Committee considers each fighter's professional record, level of activity, quality of opposition, ranked opposition, amateur track record, and other criteria set forth in our WBO Rules and Regulations.

Although we acknowledge and appreciate Nakathila's loyalty and continued support of the WBO, the circumstances in both instances when Valdez and Shakur moved from Featherweight to Jr. Lightweight and granted ranking at the number one (1) position, the Committee ruled in accordance with WBO policy, rules, and considering each fighter's professional accomplishments. Therefore, in light of the facts stated herein, we reiterate our position, as stated in our letter dated July 14, 2020, and, regrettably, cannot grant your request.

We strongly advise keeping Nakathila active in competition and complying with the WBO and ABC rating criteria for professional boxing, because due to the constant uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, any fighter may be unavailable, restricted from travel, test positive or unwilling to participate due to other considerations, which could provide Nakathila an opportunity in the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

We thank you for your continued support in the World Boxing Organization.

Cordially,

Paco

Cc: Luis Batista Salas, Esq./Chairman Championship Committee

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