

AFRICA TO THE WORLD

Diop heads to Vegas as HHH Power and The Mountain prepare to fight for the vacant throne at EFC 138



Johannesburg, South Africa - 25 August 2026

From the streets and gyms of Africa to the bright lights of Las Vegas, another EFC champion is heading for the UFC Octagon.

EFC heavyweight champion Adama Diop will relinquish his title as the Senegalese powerhouse prepares to compete on Dana White's Contender Series in Las Vegas, opening another chapter in a proud history of EFC heavyweights carrying African MMA onto the world's biggest stage.

Diop captured the championship at EFC 132, stopping Matunga "HHH Power" Djikasa in the second round and taking the heavyweight crown to Senegal.

His next challenger was already waiting.

South Africa's undefeated Terrence "The Mountain" Born had emerged as the number one contender, earning his opportunity with four stoppage victories from four professional fights. Diop and Born had already faced off, setting the stage for the champion's first defence.

Instead, Diop's journey now takes him west.

From Senegal to Johannesburg and now Las Vegas, the EFC champion follows a road travelled by some of the most significant heavyweights in the promotion's history.

Former EFC heavyweight champions Ruan Potts and France's Cyril Asker both went from EFC gold to competing in the UFC heavyweight division. Jared Vanderaa followed the same path, while former EFC heavyweight and light heavyweight champion Dalcha Lungiambula carried EFC gold into the UFC and won on his Octagon debut.

Different countries. Different generations. The same proving ground.

Now Diop carries Senegal and EFC with him as he attempts to earn his UFC contract.

But when one African champion leaves for the world, another must rise at home.

With Diop relinquishing the championship, EFC 138 will crown a new heavyweight king.

Born retains the title opportunity he earned, but instead of facing Diop, The Mountain will face the man who held the championship immediately before him: two-time EFC heavyweight champion Matunga "HHH Power" Djikasa of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For Djikasa, the road back to gold could hardly be more direct.

He first captured the EFC heavyweight championship by stopping Vandam Mbuyi at EFC 98, and returned to the summit in 2025 when he defeated Elvis Moyo to become champion again. His second reign ended only when Diop defeated him at EFC 132.

Now the man who took his belt is leaving EFC to chase a UFC contract, and Djikasa has been given the opportunity to reclaim what he lost.

Born represents the future standing directly in his way.

Undefeated at 4-0, the South African has finished every professional opponent placed before him. His rise from professional debutant to number one contender has been rapid, and on 1 October he gets the opportunity to turn that perfect record into EFC heavyweight gold.

For Born, this is no replacement opponent.

It is arguably an even greater examination of whether The Mountain is ready to become champion: a man who has never lost as a professional against a man who has already climbed to the top of the EFC heavyweight division twice.

Djikasa knows exactly what that championship represents.

And as the former champion prepares to fight for it again, he had words for the man taking the belt from Africa to Las Vegas:

"I wish my former counterpart Adama Diop all the best. You are representing us in the UFC. You are a formidable African champion. Until we meet again!"

There is something fitting about the moment.

Diop leaves Senegal, having become champion in Johannesburg, to test himself in Las Vegas.

Djikasa carries the fighting pride of the DRC back into another championship battle.

Born represents South Africa, undefeated, standing at the gates of his first title.

And behind them will come another generation.

Africa has produced the champions. EFC has provided the Hexagon. The world is increasingly becoming their next destination.

The heavyweight throne may be vacant, but it will not remain empty for long.

At EFC 138, HHH Power and The Mountain fight for the right to become the next EFC heavyweight champion.

And in Las Vegas, Adama Diop fights to show the world what Africa already knows.

The African takeover continues.

EFC 138 is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 1 October at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa. Tickets and broadcast information are available at: <https://efcworldwide.com>

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