NEXT STOP: THE EFC HEXAGON

Zimbabwe's Boyka Botha balances running an electronics business at a train station with his MMA ambitions as he prepares to face professional debutant Mutabi Shindano on 3 December.



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By day, Boyka Botha repairs and sells electronics at Mabopane Train Station in Soshanguve. On Thursday, 3 December, the Zimbabwean athlete will exchange his workbench for the EFC Hexagon when he faces professional debutant Mutabi Shindano at EFC 140.

For Boyka, the journey to professional MMA began long before he arrived in South Africa.

Growing up in rural Zimbabwe, he experienced considerable hardship, losing both parents while still in primary school. Martial arts became an important part of his life from the age of six, when he began training in Kyokushin karate.

By 12, he was competing, and in 2011 he claimed gold at his first tournament in Cape Town.

Years later, Boyka continues to balance the demands of running his own business with the commitment required to compete professionally.

His most recent appearance at EFC 137 saw him secure a unanimous decision victory over Rigo Ntumba, demonstrating his development over three rounds and giving him valuable momentum heading into the organisation's final event of 2026.

But the man standing opposite him on 3 December is no ordinary newcomer.

Mutabi Shindano arrives with an impressive amateur background and the guidance of former UFC athlete Don Madge, one of South Africa's most recognisable MMA exports.

With a foundation in Muay Thai and wrestling, Shindano has developed a reputation for powerful striking and an ability to compete across different aspects of mixed martial arts.

His approach to the sport also extends beyond competition. Shindano regards martial arts as a means of developing discipline, confronting personal challenges and continually improving himself.

Unlike athletes who enjoy sharing every detail of their lives, Shindano prefers to keep much of his personal journey private, allowing his performances to speak for themselves.

His professional debut at EFC 140 will provide the first opportunity to do exactly that on Africa's most watched MMA stage.

For Boyka, the contest offers a chance to follow up his EFC 137 success with another victory. For Shindano, it is the beginning of a new chapter after years spent developing his skills in amateur competition.

The two will meet in the welterweight division at 170 pounds.

EFC 140 will be headlined by the Flyweight Championship showdown between reigning champion Tumelo “Mellow” Manyamala and challenger Brandon Santos.

EFC 140 is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 3 December at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa. Tickets and broadcast information are available at: https://efcworldwide.com.

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