WINDHOEK - Namibia's flyweight champion Joseph Hilongwa will be privileged to open the 2010 boxing bonanza in the main nontitle bout against South Africa's Smapngaliso Mandolese in Windhoek.

The fight is slated for February 27 at a projected place yet to be identified. This will be the first fight for 2010 in Namibia.

This fight will be staged by Kinda Nagolo of Kinda Promotion and sanctioned by Namibia Professional Boxing and Wrestling Control Board.

Hilongwa, also known as "Smoke Joe" is the current national flyweight champion. He was about to fight on November 8 last year for a vacant World Boxing Federation (WBF) Flyweight title but it did not materialize due to inadequate funds, which was the reason why he could not WBF title till to date, adding since the announcement of the vacant title no one has come forward to fight on November 8 last year.

This fight will be the first big professional boxing event since the announcement of the WBF title, which was made public by Duran Nagolo.

According to Nagolo, this fight will cost his boxing promotion a whopping N$300 000 to make the international boxing event a reality. He called upon prospective business community to come on board to rescue the impending event.

Duran fights

Undercard fights

Hilongwa's record stands at 8 wins and no losses.

Cameroon scraped through to the quarter-finals

Cameroon 2-2 Tunisia

By Stephen Fotrell

Cameroon scraped through to the quarter-finals after a tight 2-2 draw with Tunisia in Lubango, which assured them passage to the last eight.

Amirme Chermiti put Tunisia ahead inside a minute when he caught Cameroon's defence by surprise.

Samuel Eto'o equalised at the beginning of the second half, before Cameroon defender Aurelien Chedjou's own goal put Tunisia ahead again.

Landy N'Guemo slammed home Cameroon's second equaliser to leave the scoreline level at 2-2.

Front (l-r) Duran Duran (trainer) Kinda Nagolo (Promoter) and Namibia's flyweight champion Joseph Hilongwa and the local pugilists of Tiger Cage Boxing Club at the back.

Hilongwa's trainer, Duran Duran, is busy about the fight. He said Smokey is ready for the fight and is fit as fiddle and will play first fiddle.

Duran manages and trains all pugilists at his stable called Tiger Cage Boxing Club. He is ably assisted by trainers such as Ludwig Hamobi and Henock Nantuva.

Currently the club consists of seven professional boxers, 11 amateurs including a lady boxer, Nathaly Stephanus.

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Undercard fights

On the same night the boxing fetish crowd will be entertained by six undercards featuring local pugilists. Their bouts will range from four to six rounds that will precede the main bout of eight rounds.

The following boxers will come to blow for the night: Juliana Jabiri will take on Sam Kambonde in the welterweight category, followed by Edison Kandukwa vs Mandume Pohamba (welterweight), Tommy Nakashima vs Daniel Hansiku (super bantamweight), Albinus Felesianu vs Philip Swarbrei (super featherweight), Peter Malakia vs Samuel Kapapa (lightweight).

Gottfried Noko's opponent for super featherweight is still to be sought after.

All these boxers are from Tiger Cage Boxing Club and Warplan Ladunholo Boxing stable.

The opening ceremony was majestic. It outlined the historical performances, demonstrating Angola from its 500 years of Portuguese colonial oppression, civil war, to the independence and the staging of the 27th AFCON.

When the tournament started, it has produced the oohs and aahs as the so-called minnows of African football took center stages. Playing to draw or win the ostensible giants of Africa and teams that are to represent Africa at the 2010 World Cup that is due in South Africa, penciled for June 11 to July 11.

The 2010 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) was like watching a horror movie or moving in a haunted house with many corridors, not knowing what actually to expect with your next move forward.

The entire Africa talks are on who will eventually be crowned the African football kings. Defending champions Egypt, Ivory Coast and the host Angola are currently tipped as favourites.

The tournament is tense as everyone who failed to make it for the trip to South Africa in June will be out to vent their frustrations. While those who qualified for the World Cup will be out to prove that they are the continent’s crime de le crime.

It has become increasingly difficult to talk about minnows and favourites at this tournament, as teams are constantly improving and the gap between the best and the chasing pack continues to diminish. Perhaps this is the year of the underdogs, and the neutral supporters will have a tournament to savour in Angola.

Mother luck has turned her back against some of the teams that has produced stunning performances throughout the tournament. The end result has turned into survival of the fittest. As it has been expected, the host country has qualified to the second knockout round. The like of the 6th time African champions, Pharaohs of Egypt have qualified for the second knockout canto. Others who made it to the next grade are Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Zambia and Cameroon.

Some teams (have) started at a snail or limp speed but struggled to reach the pinnacle, while others have tumbled.

Some teams played heroes and villains, mentors and mavericks alongside the so-called biggest football names in the continent. This is a fairy tale of hope to some, football triumph and the greatest football victory against the mightiest of odds. Only one team will emerge victorious, the rest will tumble.

To the one and only team that will take the trophy home, the attention will be mind-blowing. Players of that team will walk on the red carpet. That will be the beginning of fame. The flashing of cameras and interviewers, that team will receive standing ovations wherever players will be. May the best team wins.