

# Namibia Today Sport

## Smokey ready to make 2010 memorable boxing year

Kaye M. Kambombo

**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 Sngaliso Mandolesa 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 Nangolo of Kinda Promotion and sanctioned by Namibia Professional Boxing and Wrestling Control Board.

Hilongwa, also known as 'Smokey Joe' is the current national flyweight champion. He was about to fight on November 8 last year for a vacant World Boxing Foundation (WBF) Flyweight title against Herman Marquez, who hails from Mexico. The fight was organized by Dolph Shilunga of Dolph No Limit Promotion but it did not materialize due to inadequate funds.

"I have been training persistently since the announcement of the vacant WBF title till to date," adding that "I am ready for any fight that comes my way".

Hilongwa's record stands at 8 fight 7 wins while Mandolesa was defeated once and won four of his five fights.



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 buoyant 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 Hambodi and Henock Nantanga.

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

According to Nangolo, 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.

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: Jatileni Jatileni

will take on Sam Kambonde in the welterweight category, followed by Edison Kandukwa vs Mandume Pohamba (welterweight), Tommy Nakashimba vs Daniel Hausiku (super bantamweight), Albinus Felesianu vs Philip Swartbooi (super featherweight), Peter Malakia vs Samuel Kapapu (lightweight). Gottlieb Ndokosho's opponent for super featherweight is still to be sought after.

All these boxers are from Tiger Cage Boxing Club and Warren Nashilongo Boxing stable.

## Cameroon scraped through to the quarter-finals

Cameroon 2-2 Tunisia

By Stephen Fottrell

**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.**

Armine Chermiti put Tunisia ahead inside a minute when he caught out the Cameroonian defence to head home.

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

Landry N'Guemo slammed home Cameroon's second equaliser to see them through.



Ghana's Andre Ayew, number 13, celebrates his goal. Ghana overcame an array of demons, including an injury to Michael Essien, to beat Burkina Faso in Luanda. Inset: Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon

## Tico Tico retires from international football

Mozambique striker Tico Tico has called time on his international career following his team's elimination from the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

The Black Mamba's captain had announced that this would be his last tournament with the team.

The 36-year-old, whose real name is Manuel Bucuane, will continue to play his club football with Jomo Cosmos in the South African Premier League.

Mozambique were beaten in their final group game against Nigeria in Lubango.

After the game Tico Tico, who is his country's most capped player, said he felt sad that his international career has ended with a defeat.

"For me it's a farewell," he said.

"It didn't end the way I hoped it would end, nevertheless I'm happy with all I've done for the national team," he added.

Tico Tico began his international career 18 years ago play-



Tico Tico against Nigeria in his final game for the Black Mambas

ing over 80 times and is also Mozambique's leading goal scorer.

He says he will look back at his international career with pride.

"I've really enjoyed myself," he told the BBC.

"I've played in three Nations Cup tournaments, we haven't achieved much as a team but personally I think that's an achievement.

"I just wish all the best for the up and coming [players]. They must work hard and try to do better next time."

## NPL FIXTURES, ROUND 13

FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY 2010

Black Africa vs. African Stars 20h00 Windhoek Sam Nujoma Stadium

SATURDAY, 23 JANUARY 2010

United Stars vs. Hotspurs 16h00 Grootfontein Omulunga Stadium

Eleven Arrows vs. Orlando Pirates 16h00 Walvis Bay Kuisebmond Stadium

FNB Oshakati City vs. Cymot SKW 16h00 Emandu Uukwangula Stadium

Oshikandela Ramblers vs. Blue Waters 16h00 Windhoek Ramblers Stadium

## As I see it

By Kaye M. Kambombo

### 2010 AFCON under microscope

This is our first issue for 2010 after a long holiday. We wish the readership of *Namibia Today Sport* a Prosperous New Year. Your unflinching support throughout 2009 was highly valued. Keep up the same spirit.

The New Year has started with the 27<sup>th</sup> AFCON edition that started with the wrong footing as the entire continent mourned the death of two members of the Togolese team and a bus driver who were attacked by the rebellion group of Cabinda, just two days before the start of the African football fiesta.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) condemned the barbarous attack against the innocent Togolese delegation convoy heading to Cabinda from Congo. President Do Santos of Angola and President Hifikepunye Pohamba (who was attending the AFCON opening ceremony) were terribly saddened by this events and expressed their total support as well as sympathy to the entire Togolese delegation. The Angolan authority deployed immediately a team down there to assess the exact situation. This heinous and cowardly attack on innocent people was also condemned worldwide. Here is *Namibia Today Sport* belated condolences to the bereaved families and the entire people of Togo.

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 crème de la crème.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 countries 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.