

# Namibia Today Sport

## Merero stops Otieno in round 11

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - The 20<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary boxing extravaganza saw two champions be-

ing crowned and produced three knockouts.

The son of the soil, Vikapita Merero, made Namibians from all walks of life extremely proud on



Merero was crowned the new WBO Africa Lightweight champion.

the eve of the celebration of the two decades of Namibia's Independence Anniversary, after he dispatched Douglas Otieno from Kenya with the 11<sup>th</sup> round stoppage.

Paulus Ambunda alias The Rock and Emmanuel "The Prince" Naindjala accomplished stunning performances by knocking out their opponents from South Africa in Sithembile Kibeti and Mxolisi Nombewu in first rounds respectively.

True to his words, Merero cognomen the "Beast Master", emphatically told the sports journalists at the media conference, two days before the fight that he will win Otieno with a knockout.

Merero was crowned the new WBO Africa Lightweight champion.

Merero was supposed to knockout his opponent in the earlier rounds but Otieno frustrated him as he (Otieno) threw only a couple of missing punches and relied heavily on holding.

Otieno's record was dented by Merero to 25 fights 21 wins and four loses, three of which are knockouts (KOs).

The worse of the matter is that Otieno has accumulated his record by fighting some of the not-so-credible pugilists from his motherland.

## Warriors must win encounter



Brave Warriors Supporters Club lead fans and sympathisers to cheer on the Brave Warriors at Dr Hage Geingob Stadium.

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - Namibia's Brave Warriors will have to take sweet revenge against Seychelles at the second leg of the preliminary round of the African Championship of Nations (CHAN) after bowing down to 1-0 defeat at the hand of the Islanders.

This match will be played in Windhoek at the Sam Nujoma Stadium. Kickoff time is 16h00 and N\$20 entrance fee per head.

The stadium is expected to be packed to its capacity as football aficionados from all walks of life will be there to give their unflinching support to the Warriors.

CHAN is played between national teams, but only players who

are based in their home country's domestic league will be eligible.

Stars playing in Europe and even those who have moved to other African leagues will not be allowed to take part.

This game will be a must win for Namibia. The Warriors must win with a clear 2-0 margin and not allow the visitors to score any goal. That will be the only option to enable them to advance to the next round.

Alternatively the Warriors should win 1-0 and go for penalties but triumph. There is no other way round.

The neighbouring Botswana and Namibia's national football teams locked horns in an international friendly match in celebration of Namibia's 20<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary last weekend but played to a nil-all stalemate. That match served both sides as part of preparations for the second leg of the qualifiers of CHAN.

He only lost once at the hand of fellow countryman in his third professional fight. The other two fights he lost against non-Kenyans, with the current lost inflicted by Merero. All three losses were KOs.

Otieno was as tough as a nit. His aim was to avoid a knockout at all cost and to eventually finish all twelve rounds.

From the seventh to the eleventh rounds, Merero was aggressively advancing sending fierce jabs and straight punches to the head of the visitor.

Ultimately, the Kenyan pugilist was brought to his knees and could not beat the eighth count, as the referee ended the fight in the 11<sup>th</sup> round stoppage.

Ndokosho is new national Champion

Gottlieb "The Bite" Ndokosho

took ascendancy over his plausible fellow citizen Abraham "Energy" Ndaendapo.

Ndokosho and Ndaendapo tussled for the then vacant Junior Lightweight National title over 12 rounds, which the former won on unanimous decision.

This was one of the most entertaining bouts where mouthwatering left and right combinations, uppercuts, jabs and straight blows were the order of the day.

Izinyoka, the Snake

Despite sustaining a dislocation in his left shoulder in the second round Shikukutu fought unabatedly only with his right hand until to the last sixth round and eventually won the fight by unanimous decision. What a gallant fighter.

Should truth be said, this cour-

age came from Paulus "The Hitman" Moses who suffered a broken bone on his right hand while he was fighting against Yusuke Kobori in Japan but managed to grab the WBA lightweight title from the Japanese in his own backyard.

It goes without saying that heroes are born and not made.

Victory for Peter Malakia

His record says it all: 11 fights 5 wins 6 losses. After a string of losses Peter Malakia seemed to have had enough of losing.

Malakia who works at a butchery in Southern Industrial Area made mince meat of his fellow citizen Samuel "The Hammer" Kapapu (9f 6w 3L).

Malakia knocked down Kapapu in the second round but managed to beat the eighth count, with the latter winning on unanimous decision.

## Tyson retains WBO Africa titles

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - The WBO Africa Welterweight Champion, Bethuel "Tyson" Uushona has defended his belt with aplomb against his compatriot Tommy "The Lion" Hango much to the aspiration of his fans and sympathizers.

This was indeed a ferocious fight that looks like a blow by

blow fight between arch enemies.

A certain boxing fanatic who wanted to remain anonymous described the fight as a "hell of a good fight", adding that these boxers should not be given a rematch again, "as they might end up killing each other with their fists in the ring".

Speaking truth to power, he went on to delineate that "they are all good calibers and might bring more individual honours to the

Land of the braves if they could challenge boxers in the same division from other countries".

He suggested that their respective promoters should challenge other plausible fighters at different divisions to move forward.

"We need more world champions rather national one", he says.

However, he applauded both boxers for the courage and agility they have shown throughout the joyous 12 round bouts.



WBO Africa Welterweight Champion, Bethuel "Tyson" Uushona

## Sunshine stages amateur boxing at Shipena

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - Namibia's successful boxing manager, promoter and trainer Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias will host tonight's amateur boxing development competition at A Shipena Secondary School.

The boxing competition will kickoff at 18h00 until late. Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias Boxing & Fitness Academy will promote the event sanctioned by Namibia Amateur Boxing Federation.

"All Khomas Regional clubs, including Namibia Defence Force and Namibia Police Force will participate", says Tobias.

He has also invited other regions to join the boxing family development initiative.

The competition will be free of charge.

"Please come one, come all and enjoy the Friday Night punch for punch competition", quips Tobias.

Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias Boxing & Fitness Academy is not only promoting professional boxers but has a vision to look into the development of amateur boxers and encourage them to become future prospects, says Tobias.



Warriors supporter: Latoya and Jenny Kambirongo