

# Namibia Today Sport

## Triple WBO Africa defence titles on tonight

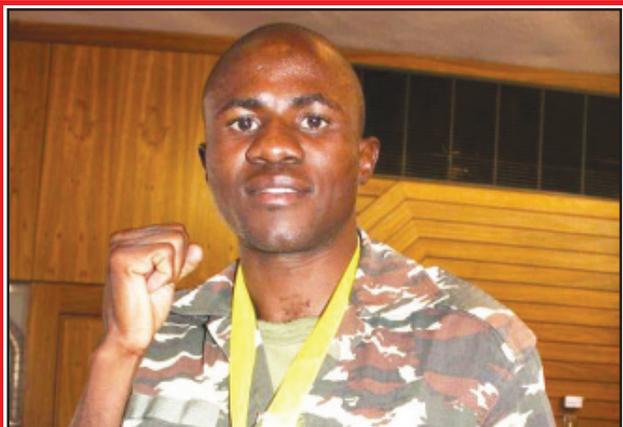
By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - The long-awaited triple WBO Africa defence championship will propel convulsion as many will kiss the canvas. All three encounters go for 12 rounds.

The main bout of the night will feature the reigning champion Paulus Ali "Silent Assassin" Nuumbembe

who will defend his WBO Africa welterweight title against Jerry Nekhubve from neighbouring South Africa.

"Nekhubve is rated highly by WBO and it will be good for Ali to prove his worth", quipped the champion's promoter "Smiling Danger" as Nestor Tobias was recently baptized by the eloquent director of ceremonies Joe



Japhet Utoni is one of Namibia's veteran fighters who have made his country happy over the years. He has a good record: in 2005 he won a gold medal at Zone VI in South Africa; 2006 - gold at Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia; 2007 - bronze at Zone VI in Botswana. 2008 - Gold at the Olympics qualifications in Algeria but bowed out at the quarterfinals in China; 2010 silver at Zone VI at Vereeniging, South Africa. The latter competition Utoni who usually fights in the light flyweight (48kg) category was a bit overweight. To avoid disqualification he had to "risk" to fight in flyweight (51kg) division but managed to take home a silver medal.

## FIFA Grassroots Football Festival

By Kayele M. Kambombo

The Namibia Football Association (NFA) will launch the FIFA grassroots football festival at Khomasdal Stadium next Sunday (May 7) in Windhoek.

All schools are invited to join the festival of football fun. According to the NFA, Grassroots means children at the age of six to 12 years.

Schools are requested to bring along as many as possible 5-a-side teams of boys and girls aged 6-9. The 7-a-side teams of both boys and girls at the age of 10-12 are also invited.

The day will consist of short small sided games for the children with breaks for different activities and

games in between.

Invitations will be sent out to prominent Grassroots coaches and teachers to attend a FIFA seminar on grassroots coaching starts on May 3-6 at Safari Court in Windhoek.

Those who are willing to be part of the festival can contact Jakes Amaning (061-265691) or Jacky Gertze (061-265693) by April 30 to reserve a place for their schools.

## No Leo/NFA Cup tickets sale at stadium

The NFA has put measures in place in conformity with ticket sales for African Stars/Sport Klub Windhoek match tonight that ticket sales will be from 08h00 to 15h00 today at the Soccer House.

The NFA believes that the gesture is taken to avoid crowd inconveniences at the Khomasdal Stadium, particularly for the match between African Stars and SKW scheduled at 19h00. Gates in Windhoek will open from 17h00.

"It is by now common knowledge that NFA and Leo have done all efforts to organize matches of the Leo NFA Cup at the Sam Nujoma Stadium but the City of Windhoek has not been cooperative in creating the necessary conditions for the matches of the Leo NFA Cup to take place at that venue," said Barry Rukoro, NFA Secretary General.

"You will be aware that we have organized the matches of the round of last sixteen at the same venue. If you were present you will have appreciated that the atmosphere was not conducive for a competition of that magnitude.

"It is against that background that the Sponsors and the NFA decided to not use the facility under the circumstances. While we appreciate your concern we hope that you also understand that NFA has a responsibility to organize this competition and will rely on your support to do so successfully.

"The total absence of the spon-

"Umkhonto Wezizwe" Kaperu.

A man of few words and experienced pugilist, Ali will always tell the media that "I will do the talking in the ring".

Ali has a record of 27f22w 4L 1d while Nekhubve has managed to exchange blows in 17 fights with 15 wins and two losses. Indeed it will be a blow to blow event tonight.

The undefeated (10:10) soldier and WBO Africa bantamweight holder, Paulus "The Rock" Ambunda has pulverized Sithembele Kibiti, a South African challenger with a second round KO in his last fight during Namibia's 20<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebration International boxing Bonanza at the same venue.

Tonight he will earnestly have to defend his title against yet another South African contender, Tendani Munayi who boasts 12f 11w 1 L.

Another cracker of a fight will see compatriots scuffling for a lightweight WBO Africa title between Jatoorora "The Sting" Tjingaveta who was dethroned by the current champion Martin "Tokolozzi" Haikali. This is a who's who and a 50/50 fight where the winner takes it all.

The return of smart fighter - Jason "Taks" Naule - who was



Richard Muriri (l), his trainer Wesley McDade and Peter Malakia.

once the welterweight champion, will be very attention-grabbing and keen to watch. He will take on a boxing guru from Zimbabwe, Modecai Donga, also a trainer and promoter. The two pugilist have records of 15f 12w 3L (10KOs) and 22f 14w 6L (11KOs) respectively.

Donga was boasting at the media conference that he is here to win. "I will send Naule to kiss the canvas for his fourth knockout".

In the bantamweight division,

Namibia's undefeated (3:3) in professional ranks, Immanuel "The Prince" Naindjala will take on Tapiwa Tembo (6f 3w 3L) from Zimbabwe. The Prince has won all his fights with KOs. He never reached the fourth round.

Peter Malakia just tested one of his victories just 39 day ago after defeated his compatriot Samuel Kapapu in a grueling brawl. Malakia has another chance to prove to his fans that his victory over Kapapu was no fluke.

Malakia (12f 6w 6L) will square up against a tough Rastafarian Richard Muriri (10f 8w 2L) from Zimbabwe.

The man who tested the waters for the Commonwealth title in the UK, Abmerk Shidjuu, but lost controversially with one point will now bring the experience he gained at the Windhoek country club tonight. He will let his opponent, Smangaliso Madonsela from South Africa, to eat leather. Both have 12f 7w 2L 3d and 7f 4w 1L 2d respectively.

trouncing Botswana and South Africa in the second and third places with 26 and 13 points respectively. Other participating countries were Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and Angola

The three Namibian gold medalist boxers are Lukas Sakaria, Mujandjae Kasuto and Elias Nashivela. Nathaniel Kamati and Japhet Utoni walked away with silver medal while Titus Iyambo brought home his only bronze.

Mika Shonena and Norbert Ashivudhi did not pass the scale test as they were disqualified for being overweight.

At the courtesy call to the Ministry responsible for sport, its Deputy Minister, Pohamba Shifeta heaped accolades to the Namibian fighters for their feat.

He urged them to collect more medals in the forthcoming African Cup of nations Boxing Championship to be held in Algeria's capital from June 27 to July 4 this year, adding that they should repeat the make the most of their aptitudes to bring more goodies home when they will participate at the 2010 Commonwealth Games to be hosted by India in New Delhi.



Namibia's gold medalists at Zone VI at the recent event held in Vereeniging, South Africa, sporting team Namibia's decorative memento of victory: (L-R) Sakaria Lukas, Mabuta Munihango, Mujandjae Kasuto and Elias Nashivela.

## Munihango decider for Nam victory

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Namibia's boxers remain Zone VI champions, thanks to Mabuta Munihango who was a decider of the event held in Vereeniging, South Africa from April 21-24.

Munihango who was the captain of team Namibia, is a Super

Heavyweight boxer in the 91kg category. He was a decider as he was the last boxer from Namibia to determine the overall winning slot for his country. At that time Botswana was leading on points.

Munihango, the sun of the soil from the Land of the Braves, as Namibia is affectionately known to its inhabitants, made mince meat of his opponent from South

Africa, Rowan Julius through a knockout (KO) in the second round to send his countrymen to cloud nine.

His clinical KO recorded the third consecutive triumph of Zone Six boxing tournament. Namibia won four gold, two silver and one bronze medal.

Namibia clinched the overall winner trophy with 27 points

sors branding at the venue created a flat atmosphere at the matches. The normal euphoria associated with this competition was totally absent. Continuing to play under those conditions will destroy this competition".

The NFA has consulted the City of Windhoek on the "allowed number of spectators" and will strictly sell only that number of tickets to the public.

Rukoro has called on the two clubs to alert their respective fans that "only those holding tickets will be allowed to approach the stadium."

The NFA has also decided that



Barry Rukoro, NFA Secretary General.

no alcoholic beverages will be sold at the venue" and that the

normal security measures will be strengthened.

## Leo NFA Cup Quarterfinals

Thursday, April 29, Khomasdal Stadium, Windhoek

19h00: Ramblers v Civics

Friday, April 30, Khomasdal Stadium, Windhoek

19h00: African Stars v SKW

Saturday, May 1, Mokati Stadium, Otjiwarongo

13h00: Mighty Gunners v Eleven Warriors

15h00: Eleven Arrows v Black Africa