

# Namibia Today Sport

## Brave Warriors ready to scalp Sihlangu

... as the Brave Warriors Supporters Club will stand 120% behind the sons of the soil ...

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** – Namibia's national football team, cognomen the Brave Warriors will engage Sihlangu of Swaziland in the FIFA sanctioned international friendly here tomorrow.

The match is penciled for 16h00 at the Sam Nujoma Stadium.

In a bid to defend his home record, Brave Warriors' coach Tom Saintfiet has reinforced his troops with the acquisition of midfielder-cum-striker, Collin Benjamin and Razundara Tjikuzu who ply their football trades for Hamburg SV in Germany and Trabzonspor, Turkey respectively.

Both Benjamin and Tjikuzu were not part of the team that annihilated the Democratic Republic of Congo by 4-0 in Windhoek in June this year.

The gifted midfielder who used to thrill crowds with his great and deft skills both at team and national level, Quinton Jacobs captained the Warriors during their 4-0 onslaught, but will not be part of the squad as he and his teammate Jerome Louis are on trials in Lebanon. For the past two seasons

Louis was the top goalscorer. They will be sorely missed.

The Namibian squad is injury free except for Ivan Namaseb and George Hummel who picked up some injuries. The Warriors' team medical practitioner Dr Gerson Kandjii will give a final health report to the coach today to enable the technical staff to select the final 18-man squad that would scalp Sihlangu tomorrow.

News from Mbabane have it that Sihlangu coach, Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba, a disciplinarian in his own right, has dropped four players from his squad to face Namibia on Saturday in Windhoek. They include Swazi internationals in Jomo Cosmos Mpendulo 'Baiano' Kunene and Orlando Pirates' Dennis 'Yuki' Masina respectively.

They were dropped when they failed to report for camp ahead of

the match despite being seen around Mbabane. Jomo Cosmos' experienced striker Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini will lead the striking force of the Swazi. Mashaba had to travel with the 17 players who reported for camp, one short of the initial 18 who were set to travel.

These players now face the wrath of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) which, according to top officials at the local football mother body, could face a ban from for a certain period.

Namibia might have a large land mass but it has a small and disparate population, and as a result the Warriors achievements have sometimes surpassed the reality of their resources. Their future ambitions, though, stretch to encompass regularly being amongst the African superpow-



Part of the Brave Warriors squad at training at the Sam Nujoma Stadium in the heart of Katutura. They are rearing to go. The Brave Warriors Supporters Club will stand 120% behind the team as usual.

ers and contenders for all tournaments.

Their next target will be qualification for the 2012 CAF African Cup of Nations, to be co-hosted by Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. However, those preliminaries do not begin until one year from now, which means that between their elimination from the South Africa 2010 qualifiers and the start of the 2012 African Cup of Nations preliminaries, there is a 24-month hiatus. Namibia are determined to use the time productively, to forge a side that can be more competitive in the future. To this end, they have turned

to the unheralded Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet, whose tenure began last year and who has since amassed a record of four wins, four draws and a lone defeat in nine matches in charge.

Saintfiet, also known as the Saint has made a road map, based a little on what Guus Hiddink put together for the Koreans before they hosted the 2002 World Cup, and they had to play a lot of friendly matches to get ready for the tournament.

In accordance to the FIFA World rankings updated on September 2 Namibia has moved two points up

from 103 to 101 in the world and 28 to 26 in Africa. Swaziland went three points down from 153 to 156 in the world and currently positioned at 42 in Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire are on the summit of the African rankings and 20<sup>th</sup> in the world, followed by Cameroon in the second position and 29<sup>th</sup> in the world. The rest of the rankings in Africa and the world are as follows: 3 Egypt (32), 4 Ghana (32), 5 Nigeria (34), 6 Gabon (35), 7 Algeria (44), 8 Tunisia (50), 9 Burkina Faso (52), 10 Mali (53).

GO WARRIORS GO! The nation is behind you as usual.

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**OKAPYA** – Paulus "Hitman" Moses, WBA Lightweight champion punched goodbye to the life as a bachelor as he says "I do" to his beautiful wife, Smiley Moses last weekend at Endola Church in Ohangwena Region.

This year alone Hitman made three knockout moves. First he dethroned the Japanese Yusuke Kabori, the then WBA Lightweight champion through a unanimous decision over 12 rounds in his backyard.

His next step was to fight against another Japanese title challenger Takehiro Shimada for his first defensive title in Windhoek where he repeated the same feat by defeating the Samurai.

Hitman's third accomplishment was to tie the knot with his tree-year fiancé Smiley.

The bride and groom exchanged vows at the Endola church before they headed to for the first reception at the groom's homestead on August 28. The celebration continued the next day at the bride's village.

This was regal and formal in accordance to Oshiwambo culture and tradition where both newly wedded couple originates. Hitman and Smiley had to follow the pattern and protocol.

All and sundry attended Hitman and Smiley's wedding ceremonies that were celebrated at Endola and Okapya villages over two days of wining and dining. The couple has invited, to both occasions, a throng of 720 people from Namibia's poli-

## HITMAN SAYS "I DO"



Paulus "Hitman" Moses, Current WBA Lightweight champion tied the knot with Smiley (Photos by Kayele M. Kambombo).

ticians, other celebrities to an ordinary man on street. The couple was attended to by 25 bridesmaids, 17 best men and 10 flower boys and girls.

Officials from the Namibia Boxing and Control Board and fellow boxers from Hitman's stable also graced the occasion. Hitman's personal medical doctor Bernard Haufiku, his mentor-cum-promoter and manager, the legendary Nestor 'Sunshine' Tobias and Ambrosius Kandjii were some of the most visible figures there.

Music gigs by Gazza and D-Naff, who were also part of Hitman's best men, made the evening more pleasurable as guests danced to the tunes of the alluring beats of the two mu-

sicians.

The couple looked breathtaking. Hitman was clad in white state-of-the-art suit complete with intricate white shirt and gold tie that perfectly matched his golden tooth.

Smiley with her mesmerizing smile looked equally stunning and radiant in a well designed white wedding gown designed by Zeborah Gowases of sexy.com.

The Hitman's other name is Ndapanda (meaning *I am proud*) while Smiley's real name is Elise Pomwenepawa (better place is near the Lord).

Namibia Today Sport wishes you (Hitman and Smiley) a marriage without regrets, and lives happily ever after with a lot of children.

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** – In partnership with MTC, NPL under the capable leadership of Johnny Johnson Doeseb (JJD) as its chairperson launched the MTC Premiership for the 2009/10 season with aplomb on Wednesday.

The "MTC Premiership" will officially kick off on September 12.

Said Doeseb: "We have to honour our commitment to MTC by demonstrating the improvement their resources have brought about thus far".

JJD said that to "enhance the effective management of the clubs, we are proud to announce that the clubs will receive N\$ 300 000 each". That amount is a 100% increase from last year and the total investment of N\$ 6.7m. These monies are for clubs to build and maintain their operations.

The price monies will increase from N\$820 00.00 to 1.5m for the current season. This represents an 83% increment on the allocation. This season all 12 NPL clubs will receive money in accordance to their respective positions on the log at the end of the season.

The winners will become N\$600 000 richer with the runners up pocketing N\$400 000, while the 3rd placed club will walk away with N\$200 000, 4th place N\$100 000; 5th place N\$65 000; 6th place N\$40 000; 7th place N\$30 000; 8th place N\$20 000; 9th place N\$15 000; 10th place N\$13 000; 11th place N\$10 000; 12th place N\$7 000.

The main sponsor for the MTC Premiership was represented by **Albertus Aochamub, General Manager:** Corporate Affairs of MTC.

To ensure players and spectators safety, minimum standards for match venues have been introduced leading to the disqualification of Khomasdal Stadium, Kuisebmond Stadium, Oshakati Independence Stadium and Rundu Sport Complex. "Safety is of paramount importance thus it cannot be compromised", emphasized Doeseb.

However, Doeseb strike a chord

## JJD resuscitates NPL vision



Clinging in a symbol of unity in purpose are (l-r): Albertus Aochamub, General Manager: Corporate Affairs of MTC, Johnny Johnson Doeseb NPL Chairman and Mabos Vries NPL Management Committee Chairman.

for the public of his excitement with the support received from the South African Premier Soccer League and their broadcast partners.

"We have prioritise the marketing and promotion of the NPL with undergoing discussions as well as our SMS line 675, the charity cup as well as an introduction of a league cup during this season", Doeseb quipped.

Speaking at the same occasion Aochamub, said "as the sole sponsors of the league, we can clearly testify to the progress we have made to-date since the advent of the last season". The sponsors are mainly proud of the step taken by the league in occupying a Head Office, recruitment of a CEO, and the efforts of running a professional league.

"Our commitment to the development of football is unfettered and we view the relationship with the NPL as that of equals. We will never shy away from speaking loudly and honestly when little progress is being shown by those we are supporting as partners. That behaviour will be tantamount to ir-

responsibility on our part since the objective is to build mutually beneficial engagements over the long term. It is not for short-term PR gain" said Aochamub.

MTC confirmed the consideration as per NPL request in possibility of sponsoring the Charity Cup, Transport needs, Broadcast Rights exploitation, Media presence, Logistics support.

Clubs can now enjoy the usage of MTC aired times on all broadcasting media houses to market themselves and promote their clubs and thus attract more crowds to their matches.

Mabos Vries, NPL Management Committee Chairman reminded the clubs to adhere to the rules of the game. "There is a standard contract which will be shared with all the clubs and the public to follow to avoid some of these things from happening or continuing".

NPL Media Officer, Meke Namindo announced that NPL League Administrator, Tovey Hoebeeb and League Secretary, Lorraine Gowases who were previously employed by NFA are now permanent employers of NPL.

## Namibia Today Sport on line

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - Namibia Today Sport is on line. You are just a button away to get the news right under your nose to get informed.

It's long overdue that Namibia Today Sport comes into par with the

rest of world in as far as Information Communication Technology (ICT) is concerned.

In July this year, the SWAPO Party Secretary General comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana has launched the ruling party's website.

Namibia Today Sport is now just

a button away. You can get it (news) if you really want it, isn't that nice?

Now anyone can browse Namibia Today front and back pages news through internet, wherever you are and whenever you want it.

You can find Namibia Today Sport at [www.swapoparty.org](http://www.swapoparty.org) and search for Namibia Today (newspaper).