**Namibia Today Sport**

**Boxers pay courtesy call to Dr Nujoma**

By Kayelle M. Kambombo

An entourage of professional boxers and world champions in different weight categories was led by Nestor “Sunshine” Tobias for a courtesy call to the office of the Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma on Wednesday.

The visit was in the spirit of the Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma to Soweto Boxing Club and Fitness Academy. This was an opportunity for world and national champions to engage the Founding Father on the sport that never failed Namibia. You have put Namibia and Africa on the world map as you have brought medals and bells from all over the world to Namibia”, Dr Nujoma encouraged the boxers to their utmost best in the ring. With merriment he concluded: “Aluta continua, a Vitoria e certa”.

This was indeed a joyful moment and the boxers were encouraged.

The Founding Father pressed that it is ‘fit, and will not disappoint the nation, particularly on “our independence day”. He eulogized the Founding Father for all that he has done in his power to bring independence and freedom to Namibia.

The main event will feature the former WBA world lightweight champion Paulo “The Hitman” Moses taking on Miguel Dario Lombardo from Argentina. Moses fought and knocked out Sergio Omar Piret also from Argentina in the fourth round last November in Windhoek at his comeback fight.

Moses sports a record of 27 fights, 26 wins with only one loss as compared to Lombardo who pride himself on a boxing record of 25 fights 15 wins and nine loses with a draw. The Moses-Lombardo non-title international lightweight fight over 12 rounds will be held tomorrow, a day before Namibia’s 21st Independence celebration. This fight will be a stepping stone for adding that “he played a mini football of four a side called ‘okudumne’ and mastered the game perfectly.”

Nashilongo thanked Inspector General of Police Sebastian Mushimba sponsored some pairs of gloves (carpet), Plascon (paint for the ship in terms of boxing equipment donated: “Aluta continua, a Vitoria e certa”).

The gloves of the main event, the Hitman and Lombardo will be auctioned and the proceeds will go to Bertolini. Similarly, two tables of 10 people will be arranged at the amount of N$10 000 to go to Bertolini.

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Nestor “Sunshine” Tobias, promoter of tomorrow’s fight and trainer of the Founding Father promised to donate 10% of the proceeds from the Independence Boxing Bonanza to the ten year old Aljino Bertolini.

Bertolini was diagnosed with an atypical liver illness that requires his parents to fork out N$1.2 million for a liver transplant in Germany or N$200 000 in South Africa.

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Tobias called on Namibians from all works of life to join hands to save the life of Bertolini.

Tickets cost N$200 per head.

UNDERCARDS: Nine undercards are set to take place on the night. The former African light-weight champion Jaooroo “The Sting” Tjagaveka will fight against his compatriot Goliath Ndkosho over six rounds. The fast, livid and finding them credible fights.

Other undercards include boxers: Immanuel: “The Prince” Ndajila versus Zimbabwian Ronald Tawani; Anthony Jaarman vs pro debutant Philemon (both Namibians); Abraham “Energy” Ndajala and Peter “The Butcher” Malakia (both Namibians); Manfred Haimbanga vs Costa Nino Frans (Namibians); Julius Indongo and Samuel Kapapu to tango in the ring for a national lightweight title scheduled for 10 rounds. Namibia’s Martin Haikali, the current WBA African light-weight champions will take on Zambia’s Misheck Kondwane in the six rounds non-title bout. Kondwane have been granted the boxing ring for sometimes.

**Nashilongo: resolute boxing trainer**

Since becoming a professional boxing coach nearly five years ago, following some couple of years as an amateur trainer, Tobias Nashilongo, also known as Cubedele or Shaya has produced two world champions in Bethuel “Tyson” Usomaha (WBA Africa welterweight), Martin Haikalai (WBO Africa lightweight) and Gottlieb Ndokosho (Lightweight national champion) He (Nashilongo) boasts with 30 boxers in his stable, 16 professionals and 14 amateurs. Namib Today Sport’s KAYELE M. KAMBOMBO paid a visit to SBCFA to get the lowdown on the gym and what it takes to run such a successful facility.

Nashilongo’s name is synonymous with the gym called Soweto Boxing Club and Fitness Academy (SBCFA) which, for the last couple of years, has been located in the heart of Katutura at the Multipurpose Youth Centre football stadium.

Nashilongo, a Warrant Officer in the Namibian Police Force is a disciplinarian in his own right. He has the characteristics that instill principles and order in his boxers, while he displays determination and purposefulness.

“...He concisely spoke about how he got involved in the bloody sport discipline called boxing, the history and the establishment of SBCFA that is flourishing, though its expertise of Danny Groves as a technical coach who is responsible for endurance exercises and conditioning, particularly pneumatics training, explosive power and lots of jumping exercises, football, hand speed and lots of other fitness exercises.

Groves is from the United Kingdom, has a work permit and assists for amateur boxers at Okondjima lodge in the vicinity of Ongwediva.

The day to day running of the gym is a headache. It is not just training them, but getting them fights, making sure they’re the right fights, making sure their medicals are all in order, making sure that their families are well; it goes a deeper than just being a trainer. All my fighters no matter that colour or creed become my kids”, Nashilongo quips.

He displays determination and purposefulness, discipline in a gym, everybody got to be disciplined, nobody can rule by an iron fist, and fighters have an input - we sit down and talk, and I think this is what makes a successful stable. You cannot rule by an iron fist, and although you have to have discipline in a gym, everybody got to have their input too”, Nashilongo speaks his mind.

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