

LETTERS/OPINIONS

SOCCER

from page 4

Nation... Swapo!-Vryheid, “ announcing the meeting that was to take place.

Well, it was the first time to hear these words (vryheidsvegters) and I was wondering what was going on. We were carrying some huge posters announcing one Saturday as the date of meeting. Then Ou Gold Namubeb (BMC), Archi Namuseb and late Daniel Danger /Useb (both from Orlando Tigers) let it be known that no soccer matches are to take place and that henceforth, all soccer players were invited to support Lazarus Guitieb which was to be the main speaker and his comrades of consisting of Outa Ipinge, Jakobus Haipare (Only local black taxi owner and businessman), Outa Shaduka and others! I was flabbergasted! Why should there be no soccer? I wanted to know!

That day at the spot where the Paresis Secondary School is built today, people from all walks of life, from all tribes and races except the whites came. I observed that many of the township street footballers were there as well as players from BMC, Orlando Tigers, Silent Killers and African Lions! Shortly after Guitieb has taken that stage, speaking clearly in English and the first time I and many of us heard a black man speaking the language of true education, another group of young men from what was said to “Voice of the People” (a clique of young blacks) arrived. Then Guitieb said... “/Na-a- Ariguge” (There are the puppets) and his words caused all hell to break loose as stones started to rain on the roof of their Kombi.

The “puppets” retreated hastily,

nearly bumping into the huge crowd and drove off quickly. For me, the soldiers of the people was created and as I would understand it later, revolution was introduced in Otjiwarongo, and also all over the country. Yes, the comrades led by Dan Tjongarero, Lazarus Guitieb and Alfeus !Naruseb and other fearless comrades from Otjiwarongo, joined by the soccer community in Outjo, break down the brutal white folks from Outjo and the surrounding farming communities!

Shortly after this mind-boggling event, Guitieb and Archi Namaseb, Alfeus !Naruseb and Bernard Esau the most disciplined young turks of Swapo at the time, encouraged soccer leadership to allow a time from the Campong Hostel dwellers to play soccer with the teams of the location. This was done, and one could experience the power of football in uniting and bringing together the oppressed masses of Africans! Yes, my old man’s vision that some good may come from the game was correct! Soccer has played it part in the struggle. However, that effort (forming a team from of the Hostel dwellers) did not last very long as many a hostel dweller joined plan in exile. When they returned Guitieb and other Soccer leadership was there to receive them to find their way around the security forces.

My old man was there with his narrative. He opened up his brains and start telling me about the fight of people in /Ae-//gams to regain their freedom. It was from him that I learnt about Hara Gawanab, Lot !Owos-Oab of the “Doe ta tite Does ge” movement of the Windhoek Old Location. (This is the trek I will not make).

The old man did not mention dates by talked about the #Nu-khoe and Nama people together with

some of their Herero neighbours who were forced and moved to other areas such as /A-#Gomes, Sorri-Sorris and other inhospitable areas! He remembered Ou Haro as a Soccer Player and there was another one, he said, known as Fritz Gariseb who led a group of Damara women into the first ever known case of demonstration, according to him, triggered of a provocation which resounded all over the country as whites, resorted to brutal killing of innocent people of the Old Location!

Of course, the involvement of soccer stars, as talented, well dressed and well behaved chaps to whom most people look up to, did not involve only one tribe or group. The football club of Tigers and its members were followed around by shadowy members of Bureau of State Security and Intelligence, especially after Dr. Nujoma left the country to establish the liberation movement outside the country. With formation of Black Africa with its first president, Mihe /Goagoseb, he and his colleagues, late Adam Lambert and late Ben !Gonteb Albert Tsuob and others were summoned to the police station to answer questions as to what kind of a ‘political organization’ they have started ‘now’.

Later on in the mid 1960’s, the Easter Tsumeb tournament popped up, established mainly by Herbert Conradi of Etosha Lions and Oscar Norich! Young teachers like excellent soccer players like Engelhard Lani Gariseb, Stone Huiseb and others finished school and played a role into the formation of this tournament. He later, in due time became the district organizer of the Liberation Movement, created branches and

recruiting people for the cause. By 1969, as Chippa Chippa Moloji visited Tsumeb, the Easter Tournament was a big hit... a tournament with a purpose for bringing people together and passionately fighting the enemy until final victory was achieved on 21 March 1990! Soccer-players will be remembered for their humble contribution.

Of course, the young and exiting Pele Blascke emerged as a top player through this tournament. If truth is to be told, Pele Blascke was possibly the best player of his generation throughout most of the 1970’s, playing for Kaiser Chiefs as the first black #Nu-khoe speaking player and the only one from this country to have made it into the list of 60-best ever player who played for Kaiser Chiefs among this soil. He then become the first international player in the United States of America in early 1970’s. He and Ismael ‘Lemmy’ /Narib and uncle Tommy Ushona possessed phenomenal speed, power and shooting abilities second to none. Yes, Lemmy was such an influential player that many players, from different tribal backgrounds, called themselves “Lemmy”! Those were the days soccer reigned supreme as the no. 1 and only sport for black people!

According to the late Lani and Five Hochobeb, it was a meeting place of all and sundry, the internal leadership of the Liberation Movement met on the side-lines, at Bazaars (Cuca Shops and Shebeens were still unknown). In other words, it was like a ‘big open conference and those in the know have said that even the newly arriving plan fighters would find their way to that tournament and from there moved into their areas



Spain's Carles Puyol (top R) scores a goal during the 2010 World Cup semi-final match against Germany in Durban, South Africa, July 7, 2010. Spain won 1-0.

of operation, undetected. This was the humble role soccer played for the formerly oppressed and the oppressor and their children to unite in spirit as the World Cup 2010 has come to Africa.

There was another momentous moment in the history of struggle in which young players, infact student soccer players and the most disciplined youth of the day, engaged, the November 1976 uprising! This is the event that is not talk about too often in Namibia today!

Yes! The world and Africa celebrate every year the ‘The Day of the African Child’ in honour of those who defied the odds in South Africa as children, during June 1976, stood shoulder to shoulder and said... No to Afrikaans, No more Oppression and above all, No to Bantu education... This was the turning point as the coward White Afrikaans speaking police shoot to kill children!

As the massacre become known, Namibian students and soccer players such as Bennie Petrus, August !Gaeb, Bernard !Gaeb, Ghenno Himmara, Jeremias Tjizo, Rusten Mogane, Wilfried Emvula (now an Ambassador) Johannes Mungunda, Kapok Isaacs, ‘Geiheimsinnige Jones’ (Johannes Boois) and others, in solidarity, burn down the Augustineum Training School one early November 1976-Monday morning (It was the first week of November 1976 to be exact). We were awoken by the screaming voices from girls hostel. The initially reaction was that the cause was electricity problem But it became apparent by the day that the senior, soccer playing students have taken a stance of solidarity with their brothers in South Africa.

As the day progress, Alfons Thaniseb was arrested at school premises and beaten to a pulp. When this news reach the students at Augustineum, there was total pandemonium as everyone was now engaged. The youthful student Soccer players who play mostly for Orlando Pirates in Katutura, Ramblers (Katutura) and Black Africa were now the leading protesters, joined by the rest!

There were scenes reminiscent of running battles between students and police or security forces who were using teargas. News later reach as that the students at Petrus Ganeb Secondary School and Cornelius Goreseb High School, Martin Luther High School and Dobra joined the burning of schools in solidarity with those at Augustineum and in Soweto in South Africa. Namibian students had played its part!

Shortly after these riots, many ringleaders led by Bennie Petrus left for exile, never to return. As they were leaving, many soccer teams experience a huge generation gap. Some teams like Ramblers Katutura simply collapse when the influential Jafet Isaaks, now an Ambassador, left for exile. Our Friends at Uis and Khorixas left the country in droves joining the struggle in exile and many of them never returned. They have given their lives for the

freedom struggle of all of us, enjoyed even by the whites through the process of National Reconciliation. Its so correct Axali Doeseb wrote “Their blood waters our freedom” and are all able to watch and enjoy the World Cup in South Africa for the whole of Africa who stood with us in solidarity during the dark days of oppression and the hell of Apartheid!

By 1979, we have created at Augustineum what was known as Raad Van 50. Henceforth, 50 most prominent students would convene meetings and decide on the course of action, especially to protest against the presence of soldiers at school and convince young men outside school not to conscript into the South African Defense Force! We, Myself, Seth Basson, Eddy !Goraseb, Johannes Muschindi, Hafeni Haimann (They all left and only Eddy returned from exile) Joe Haradoeb, Kahivere (later to become a referee), Reinhold Geikhoebeb toured central Namibia during School holidays to share information against army conscription! All of us were involved in soccer, one way of another! When we finished school, Enos Petrus and Imms Namaseb took over Raad Van 50. They were student footballers.

And yes, When AG 9 was introduction by AG Steyn, our National Leaders like Dan Tjongarero simply shrugged it off. He was also with Black Africa and advised the National Soccer leadership. AG-9, among other things, prevented more than two or three people from meeting. It failed to address the question of people assembling at soccer grounds. Thus, once again, soccer provided useful opportunities for people and leaders to come and meet as much as they want and as long as they want! But it is worth Mentioning that August !Gaeb, Comrade Muatara, Axel Johannes, Lani Gariseb and of course late Chief Hendrick Witbooi Dan Tjongarero and many others nevertheless suffered gross injustice and physical harm as a result of AG-8 and AG-9! But They stood firm!

Again, accept for African Stars, when the Apartheid South African supported ‘Government of National Unity was to be sworn in, Five Hochobeb, Eliot Hiskia and Dios Engelbreach from the top three soccer teams of Katutura announced that no Soccer is to take place for people and their families to join the protesting parties of Swapo, UDF and the radical wing of Swanu. After the protest meeting, the people had a street battle with the Koevoet.

The action of Koevoet indicated in no uncertain terms that the Apartheid South African rule has failed. When the former soccer player, now educated academic and national leader, Dr. Hage Geingob lead other National Leaders back home to Namibia, Soccer has truly triumph! That’s why Namibians of all walks of life, black and white, are enjoying the world cup! Aluta Continua towards land repossession and economic liberation struggle!

CITY OF WINDHOEK



To enhance the quality of life of all our people.

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AUCTION FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The City of Windhoek is having an auction of 201 unimproved “residential” zoned erven in Auasblick, Dorado Park, Kleine Kuppe and 3 improved properties in Windhoek and Rocky Crest. A variety of sizes have been created to suit each individual’s need. The prices for the unimproved erven range between N\$92,089.00 and N\$300,000.00. The auction will be conducted by Pro-Ex Auctioneers

AUCTION INFORMATION:

The Auction will be held on **23 July 2010 at 08:30** at the SKW Sport Club, Sean MacBride Street. **Registration** is compulsory and required for all prospective purchasers or interested bidders and can be done as from **2 July 2010 until 16 July 2010** at the Customer Care Centre, Reverend Michael Scott Street. A registration fee of N\$550.00 is payable in **CASH** in respect of each intended erf purchase. N\$500.00 of the registration fees is refundable to *unsuccessful purchasers*. Refunds shall, upon written application and submission of the verification confirmation, be made by cheque within 14 days of the date of application. This auction is open for everyone. Payments will be by cash or bank guarantee (reservation for 60 days for a bank loan to be approved).

AUCTION DOCUMENTS

Maps with lists of the properties, Conditions of Auction and Draft Deed of Sale are available free of charge at the Customer Care Centre, Reverend Michael Scott Street.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO REGISTER

Identification, Marriage Certificate, Proof of financial status (letter from bank with loan amount – letter from bank with amount available for cash payment) Founding statement and/or company’s registration

ENQUIRIES TECHNICAL

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