

## Zambian Report (7) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

As many of you know by now I am a student of history. I love reading up on the various histories of countries that I visit and of course seeing the museums and documentaries peculiar to a country. One of the things that many South Africans seem to have forgotten is the role that Zambia played in the struggle to free South Africa from the yoke of oppression and apartheid. For many years Zambia was the home of the African National Congress and provided a base for fighters of the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

My alma mater the University of the Western Cape a few years ago organised the Albie Sachs in the Great Hall Lecture Room one. The late president of Chess South Africa, Eldo Smart, who was also a graduate of the university and I, attended that night. Judge Albie Sachs who had recently retired from the Constitutional Court was delivering the keynote address. He wrote about it recently in the Mail and Guardian (May 19 to 25 - 2017).

Judge Sachs recounted a speech that OR Tambo had made in London when he said that the Albert Luthuli Detachment has recently crossed the Zambezi River on its way to launch an armed struggle in South Africa. The MK soldiers had engaged with Ian Smith's Rhodesian troops on the way to South Africa.

Judge Sachs goes onto recall that he was once called to Lusaka to speak to OR Tambo when he was a law lecturer in Maputo. Mr. Tambo then requested Judge Sachs to draft a code of conduct for captives. The code would be presented at the Consultative Conference in Kabwe in 1985. Judge Sachs noted that, surrounded by large numbers of Zambian troops to protect the delegates from possible commando raids from South Africa, the Code of Conduct were passed in Kabwe.

Judge Sachs stated that for him Lusaka means many things to different people. At its best, in his memory it represents a Tambo- inspired style of democracy that created real voluntary cohesion among comrades from the widest backgrounds, performing the most varied tasks in the most difficult of circumstances.

So Zambia you have a special place in the hearts of South Africans. During my high school when someone was called to Lusaka you knew he went to the ANC which was banned at the time. We don't often reflect on how important that Frontline States were. The Livingstone museum has a special section in which it chronicles its supports for the various liberation struggles across the continent. Dr Kenneth Kaunda plays a seminal role in assisting these liberation movements from different countries. In 1977 when Steve Biko was killed in police detention the Anglican Church organised a mass to celebrate Steve Biko's life which was attended by OR Tambo. The Zambian people can be justly proud of the role it played in the liberation movements across the continent. Thank you Zambia.

Ah by now you want to know how the chess went!!

On the top board GM Kenny found himself in a spot of bother time wise against the dangerous Andrew Kayonde. Kayonde nearly obtained his grandmaster title in a Uganda last year but he

unfortunately lost in the final round. They played a Maroczy Bind.

SA champion Daniel Cawdery beat his Zimbabwean opponent and has set up a match against Kayonde. IM Daniel Jere beat IM Daniel Chumfwa.

Matt Pon drew whilst Lyndon and Roland lost two tough games.



In the women's section Aleida de Bruyn is sensationally leading the event with 4.5/6. She is leading Tsepisa Lopang who has 4. WFM Aleida beat 2015 Zonal Champion WIM Mudongo from Botswana who is very experienced. Michelle Fisher won a nice game and Dantelle claimed a draw. WIM Laubscher drew and has 3.5.



So the scene is set for some climatic matches as the business end of the event has been reached.

So enjoy the day and we reconvene at three pm tomorrow.

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah

Reporting live from Livingstone, Zambia