

## **LOCAL SPORT**

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### **Top German trainer visits Nam**

By: STAFF REPORTER



**TOP German sport personality, Lothar Kannenberg recently visited Namibia to explore areas of youth development and talent identification.**

Kannenberg runs an academy for troubled youth in Diemelstadt near Kassel in his home country, where youngsters get involved in various sporting codes, including boxing, football, athletics, diving, tennis, angling among others, while he also advocates on how to curb racism in sport.

His mission was to open up discussions for cooperation in youth development with Buschschule Namibia, a well known welfare organisation in Namibia.

Kannenberg identified Buschschule as the ideal partner while in Germany, based on their rapport in the youth sport development sector in Namibia.

He donated 1 000 Euros to Buschschule towards their activities and also distributed T-shirts to boxers at the Nestor 'Sunshine' Tobias Boxing Academy and Fitness Academy.

Buschschule are also sponsors of the Namibian triple league champions Civics Football Club which currently has employment contracts with players who are also housed at various establishments of the club.

"I came here to see how we can form a partnership with Buschschule to get some of the young people exposed to better opportunities out there," he said.

"It is a great opportunity to also see if I could identify football players who could join several teams such as Hessen Kassel in Germany and many others," he said.

"The main idea is to give a chance to the ones who never had an opportunity and who are eager to grab it and make something out of it."

Meanwhile, Buschschule director, Helmuth Scharnowski said he appreciates that Kannenberg showed an interest in the Namibian youth. He added that his organisation will strive in realising all the efforts by the German national to give the marginalised and vulnerable locals a chance at life.

"I am optimistic that with a key contact such as Kannenberg in Germany, many doors can open for our young people who want to pursue professional careers in especially football and other sporting codes in Germany," said Scharnowski, who is also the owner of Civics Football Club.

Civics are currently the only club that is involved in the education of HIV/Aids for youngsters and have lined up an event in that regard, for early next year.

The team also plans to establish a state of the art sporting facility at Concordia College in the near future.

The German also had a chance to train with Namibian boxer Paulus 'Hitman' Moses, saying that he was a good fighter judging from his technique and prowess during their 10 minute training session.

Kannenberg then met with acclaimed Namibian boxing trainer and promoter, Nestor Tobias at his gym in Katutura. The pair discussed possibilities in forming alliances with regard to boxing development.

"If I find a talented boxer in my next visit here, I will connect him to international boxing stables in Germany or even elsewhere in Europe," said Kannenberg, a former cruiserweight, super heavy weight and heavyweight boxer who has landed a few titles during his boxing career.

Kannenberg believes that his organisation's relationship with Buschschule will culminate in more opportunities for young people who aim to improve their lives through sport.

He said he knows what it's like to come from difficult circumstances thus he decided to take sport seriously in

order to better his life.

“ I teach them about the positive aspects in life and how to make good use of the talents they have in them. Morale, ethics, discipline and positive behavior are some of the aspects I deal with when addressing the youth,” he said.