

AB37

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Lenasia Youth League

YOUTH FESTIVAL



THE FESTIVAL IDEA

It has often been said that it would be so exciting if we could have some sort of activity in the school holidays, when everybody could be together and just enjoy themselves. Furthermore, it would also be so good if such a thing took place so that people's talents could come out more clearly, and they would at least have an opportunity to develop themselves. It was with this view in mind that the LENASIA YOUTH LEAGUE decided to embark on a major YOUTH FESTIVAL wherein people of various talents could be allowed to express themselves. The YOUTH FESTIVAL offers us an unusual opportunity to get both youth and parents participating together on a common project. It is also a chance for us to create a spirit of trust and friendship in our community and to get to know more people. Thus, the YOUTH FESTIVAL idea is at once an exciting and important.

THE THEME

In keeping with the festival idea itself, it was necessary for us to choose a THEME that would best capture the spirit of the Festival. We have thus chosen "EXPRESSION, PARTICIPATION & UNITY" as the theme for the FESTIVAL.

EXPRESSION because it is an opportunity for people of various interests to develop and expose their talents by expressing it, in whichever field they are inclined; whether it be sporting, cultural, musical, artistic or whatever. If people then express themselves in these fields offered to them, then their PARTICIPATION becomes real and active. The two go hand in hand. With such a show of talent and skill being

expressed by various participants, surely we would stand in great UNITY and be able to, with pride and mutual harmony, be firm in this unity. The THEME, thus is in keeping with our set intentions and is consistent with the aims of the LENASIA YOUTH LEAGUE.

AN APPEAL

Nevertheless, all of this may sound good but it demands that people in the community and from other areas see themselves as contributing to the success of the Festival. We, thus urge all people to actively participate in the Festival and support us whenever or wherever they can. The Festival is for you and the success of it should come from you.

THE PROGRAMME

The programme is planned to run for a week - between the 9th -- 15th December 1982. It is designed to incorporate as many fields of expression as is possible, so as to ensure as broad a participation as possible. In short then be prepared for the following :

- 9 December 1982 - Thurs. - ROLLERSKATING at the Apsara Car Park - 1-30 p.m.
- 10 December 1982 - Fri. - Film Festival at the Jiswa Centre - 7-30 p.m.
- 10 December 1982 - Fri. - Art Exhibition also at Jiswa Centre - 10-00 a.m. onwards till 7-00 p.m. This will last till the 13 Dec. '82.
- 11 December 1982 - Sat. - WATERPOLO TOURNAMENT at the Swimming Pool - 10H00
- 12 December 1982 - Sun. - MARATHON (7km & 17km) - starts at the Lenasia Stadium at 12-30 p.m.
- 13 December 1982 - Mon. - Ending of Film and Art Festival.
- 14 December 1982 - Tues. - Variety Concert at the Partidar Hall - 7-30 p.m.
- 15 December 1982 - Wed. - Musical Concert at the Civic Centre - 8-00 p.m.

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Although fighting is prohibited, it is not abolished altogether. If freedom is at stake and justice is a mockery and the oppressor maintain the seat of oppression, one must fight.

The love of Allah is with those

- Who believe in Him
- Who fight for Truth
- Who fight for Justice
- Who fight for Freedom
- Who fight the oppressors

sports comment

Once again a rebel cricket team (Sri Lankan) has ignored the boycott call and has come to play in South Africa. Most White South Africans and their sports organisations are excited about this breakthrough. In fact large sums of money has been paid to bring the cricketers to S.A. and all of them argue that politics should not be mixed with sports. At the same time there has been an international outcry against the tour. At home, almost all black sportspersons have condemned the tour. At a recent meeting organised by the Federation of Residents Associations (Lenasia), the following resolution was adopted: "We condemn the tour. White sportsmen are trying to get back to international sports by soliciting the support of the oppressed. We believe that a sports and cultural boycott is an effective means of struggle to further our aims towards a non-racial democracy." The resolution also called upon school principals to deny the Sri Lankans access to school children during the tour. The most important question that arises is why do people call for a boycott of such tours.

MULTI-RACIAL or NON-RACIAL SPORT ? Many people do not see any difference between these two concepts, but there are important differences. Multi-nationalism sees S.A. as comprised of various nations (whites, coloureds, etc) which should play sport separately. Most white sports associations accept multi-racial sports. On the other hand those who believe in non-racial sports argue that sports is an important human activity that has nothing to do with the colour of one's skin. Each individual should feel free to join any team purely on the basis of merit and not skin colour, and share the same facilities.

POLITICS AND SPORTS ? Very often one hears people shouting, "Don't mix politics with sports!" People who believe in non-racial sport assert that in S.A. sports and politics are closely linked. In Lenasia, for eg., we have inferior and inadequate sports facilities compared to other white areas. At most, schools just have a soccer field. There are no other sports facilities. We don't have swimming pools, tennis courts, gymnasium, athletics fields, and sufficient sporting equipment. Compare this to white schools. If scholars do not have equal facilities, how can they compete on an equal basis? And the only reason why we have inferior facilities is because the government spends less money on our education (and sports is part of education). Despite this many of us have trained hard and excelled on the field. Let us examine our community. We have a sports complex at the Tech. Grounds. This field was only turfed a few years back and throughout the year, it is used by soccerites, cricketers, golfers, schools, keep fit fans, ordinary people looking for a place to rest and even lovers. What a shame. We only have one flood lit field where all teams playing in the Lenasia Football Assoc. (± 80) together, with the professional teams are expected to train. We only have one swimming pool to cater for the needs of ± 80000 residents. We have inadequate facilities not because we want them but because we have been denied adequate and better facilities. Living with these conditions, together with poor housing, uncomfortable public transport, poor medical facilities etc we become inferior sportsmen and sportswomen.

DOUBLE-STANDARDS: The double-standards resolution states: "Any person, whether he/she is a player, administrator or spectator, committed to the non-racial principle in sport, shall not participate in nor be associated with any other code of sport which practices or condones racialism or multi-nationalism." This resolution aims to make people aware of the racial problem in S.A. sport. It points to the fact that sports must not and cannot be separated from other aspects of one's life. It exposes those who support racial discrimination, which affects all aspects of our lives, and claim that this has no bearing on sports.

It is because of the above arguments that sportspersons in S.A. and the rest of the world call for a cutting off of sporting links with S.A. Those who agree to play with SA sportsmen are in fact accepting in principle racial discrimination, giving credibility to it and denying that many people are weaker sportspersons because of it.

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