

African Junior; who is the best of them all?

The Africa junior event is the springboard for aspiring and budding players of the continent to reach for the top. It was the path that Bassem charted to get to where he is, winning the event twice. While he was visiting word came that the event has been shifted away from the North to the South Africa. The Angolan delegation was at hand and needed my Academy's assistance as usual. They also needed yours truly to prepare the juniors for the event.



Realistically, our Academy approach works best when there is a training relationship with the student. In the case of the Angolans delegation only Erickson Soares Roberto has been training with our Academy and using the www.chessok.com programs. A prep tactical plan was put on an overdrive to simply win the event. Before long we found out that he prevailed and he was the newest IM from our region. We snapped exclusive pictures where the reigning African chess champion standing with the junior!



(Africa Chess Champion meets newly Crowned Africa Junior Champion!)

More Pics....





(Pictures described top to bottom clockwise: 1. Congratulations from the big brother to the small brother Champions 2. Mr. Jackie joins the pack 3. Mr. Abraao do Reis: Secretary General FAX gets in focus 4. Ladies' man! Bassem with Angola love smitten junior girls 5. Mr. Haleluja President of the Namibia Chess Province in Angola)

Living in the city

GM. Bassem stayed in a privately arranged luxury apartment. In raising the sponsorship in kind to bring the Grand master over, many hotels in Johannesburg offered complimentary accommodation. He wisely however opted for the apartment set-up. Personally I was worried because I imagined how he could up-keep the dwelling, given the fact that the planned schedule I had for him was grueling. I was pleasantly surprised that the young man is schooled well by his mom on domestic chores. He acquired the skills because as he put it, the family consists of only him and his elder brother. This means they had to take turns to do the domestic chores. Here is the GM checkmating dirty dishes!



Then relaxing watching his favorite TV channel on soccer!



Here is Bassem with his apartment sponsor; we thank him because it gave the GM the freedom to stay the way he pleased!



The Grandmaster made many friends young and old; some with four legs. Here he had to baby-sit my youngest daughter (Una) and her poodle.



So, it turns out it was not such a lot of hard work anyway! It was part work and part relaxation! Well after all this, the Grandmaster jetted to Cape Town for a secret holiday!

Cape Town like you never saw it before

Wait a minute!!! The next pictures are of Bassem & Melisa!



I know what you are thinking! So, Bassem went to Cape Town to get married secretly? WRONG!!!



He was invited for a prom evening by a "close" friend! Close? Yes because they stand close to each other in the pictures!

Folks! This is where I rest my pen, I have a feeling these last pictures are going break hearts!

I take this opportunity to thank those who made Bassem's trip to RSA a great success it has become. We the people of South Africa thank the Africa Champion for this goodwill tour! Ooh, GM. Bassem I am sorry to reveal the last pictures my man, I just loved them! So what's good is a beautiful thing if it remains hidden! Ohh... one more matter before I end; Melisa, our beloved WGM, you look stunning, if he proposes I stand ready negotiate the LOBOLA! (lobola is a thank you grant by the groom to the bride usually in cattle form- nit a bribe!)