ABU ASVAT MEMORIAL
JUNIOR CRICKET TOURNAMENT
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10th Edition

ABU ASVAT INSTITUTE
for Nation Building
Twenty-four years and eight months ago on a hot January afternoon, crowds of mourners stretching more than a kilometre walked from Impala Crescent in Lenasia to the Avalon cemetery across the Moroka Bypass separating the former Indian group area from Soweto.

Young men journeyed in cars and buses but many, including older folk, insisted on walking the full gruelling four kilometres.

“To honour him, was what one old woman said at the time. So they walked when they could have rode in comfortable buses. It took a full hour for them to reach the cemetery. Some had travelled in buses all night from faraway places with names that are hard to remember and now mostly forgotten.

All of them had known him as friend, or patient or political ally; some knew him as Hurley, others as Abu and many as Dr Asvat. The Lenasia doctor’s Rockville, Soweto, surgery had become a place of refuge. The surgery was the only hope for a mother who needed medicine for her children and herself; it was the place you would go to when you were broke - or just broken.

That surgery was also the place of death. It was where two assassins, one with a gun, shot the doctor twice late in the afternoon on 27 January 1989. He died trying to fight off the hired guns. The assassins were convicted and given long sentences. One died recently and the other walks the streets having paid his debt to society.

The court found that robbery was the motive for the murder. At the time rumours abounded that Dr Asvat had come into dangerous knowledge about murderers parading as freedom fighters.

Dr Asvat was a Muslim so custom dictates that they should have buried him that night. The doctor’s family acceded to requests to postpone the burial to the next day because so many friends, patients, and comrades wanted to pay their last respects, and they lived far away. It is a tribute to the organisers that they were able to arrange fleets of buses to ferry passengers from around the country in time for the funeral the next day.

Dr Asvat had travelled widely around the Highveld with his mobile clinic and band of dedicated volunteer nurses, students, doctors and activists. He took medicine and he recorded the devastation wreaked by a criminal government. To this day, no one knows the regular source of his abundant supplies of food, tents, clothing and medicine.
In one village - at an asbestos mine - fathers and sons died young. Dr Asvat and a group of activists helped to record the extent of the problem. It is comforting to know that the new democratic government banned asbestos mining in the country in 1998. It is nevertheless disquieting to hear that no one is taking responsibility to clean up the asbestos that lies around in plain sight, slowly poisoning the men, women and children.

Holding fort at the surgery was the energetic president of the United Democratic Front, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, who regarded the doctor as “my son”. The doctor was the national health secretary of Azapo and an ardent black consciousness supporter; Mrs Sisulu, like her legendary husband Walter, was an ANC stalwart.

Dr Asvat also worked closely with Mrs Winnie Madikizela Mandela for more than 10 years. Every project that he worked on had as its objective a public good.

And for that security policemen beat him up, they threatened to hurt his family, they fire-bombed his house, detained him regularly for interrogations, his old surgery opposite a shack settlement that housed many of his patients was gutted - but he continued to speak often and loudly about abuses against black people. It was that stubborn ethical streak that always brought trouble to his door and infuriated friend and foe.

A passionate cricketer he led his club and the province to assist in isolating the apartheid government internationally.

A generation has grown up since his assassination. They need to know that they can be proud of the many, many people in our country who chose a road that brought neither fame nor fortune; that our history is rich with idealists and visionaries and, curiously, men and women who believed – and still do - that giving, not receiving, makes you wealthy.

He was the recipient of The Star newspaper’s community award and in 1988 the anti-apartheid newspaper The Indicator honoured him with the Human Rights Award. At the ceremony he urged for closer links between Soweto and Lenasia and he spoke movingly about homeless people living in limbo.

Disturbing questions continue to hang over the assassination of one of the country's passionate human rights activists. A second police investigation in the 1990s into Dr Asvat’s death yielded no results. The hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee raised more questions and still no answers. His wife Zohra Asvat and children Akiel, Haseena and Suliman deserve to know.
The Institute is a non-profit NGO that was founded in 2004 by friends of the late activist Dr Abubaker Hurley Asvat. The Institute is dedicated to the promotion of Nation Building on the basis of a set of values that embody the thinking and practice of the late Dr. Asvat.

These values include:

- The promotion of self-reliance and community service.
- The promotion of practicality and activism in our community activities.
- Justice, integrity and respect for all.
- The promotion of anti-racism, anti-sexism and non-sectarianism

The Abu Asvat Institute consists of individuals from all walks of life, who found inspiration in the life of Dr. Abu Baker Asvat, and felt that to further these values would be the greatest tribute that we could pay to a remarkable human being. With the realities of poverty among the masses of our people, the lack of essential amenities and a dependency complex, the founding of an Institute based on volunteerism and selflessness engaging with resources of willing individuals as well as organisations, be prepared to initiate projects to overcome these challenges. The Institute operates on an associative basis by initiating projects in the community with like-minded organisations adopting an all-inclusive approach that engenders a practical impact on the community. The projects cover many spheres of human activity such as health, education, sport and other areas benefitting the community. The commitment of the Institute is to establish solid projects that are sustainable which will ultimately draw in the community itself for continuity.

The aims of the institute are:

- To promote activities aimed at inculcating self-reliance in our communities, with particular emphasis on the less fortunate of South Africa.
- To promote activities supporting health programmes in our communities, with particular emphasis on the disadvantaged.
- To promote broad participation in social, political, economic and sporting development programmes to enrich the lives of individuals and community collectives.
- To promote activities aimed at countering discrimination based on race, sex, religion and ethnicity.
- To promote programs aimed at the generation of a collective national consciousness in South Africa.
- To encourage the participation of youth in all of the above.

A major legacy project is the naming of the road linking Lenasia to Soweto after Abu as a fitting tribute to him. One of his credos is the promotion of solidarity between the two communities. Abu worked ceaselessly to break down artificial barriers – the establishment of Lenasia and Soweto is a relic of the Group Areas Act of the Apartheid Government. Naming this link after Abu is important in breaking the chains of our psychological separation, even now, two decades after Hurley’s tragic death.

Other projects include, the Abu Asvat Memorial Junior Cricket Tournament, which will be celebrating its 10th edition on the 7th and 8th Sept 2013. This tournament has become a key event in the promotion of sporting and social development for young cricketers from the Gauteng area, with specific focus on the disadvantaged communities.

The Institute has also begun running youth workshops with an emphasis on anti-racism and community service.

The Abu Asvat Memorial Lecture this year focussed on education, with specific reference to how community organisations can play a role in positively intervening in our school education.

All these projects are carried out by volunteers who are motivated by the legacy of Dr. Asvat. The Institute calls on like-minded organisations and individuals to partner with us in ensuring that this legacy endures.
The tenth Abu Asvat Tournament is a demonstration of a free people's commitment to restore human dignity to one another as well as to all the marginalised, promote community service and nation building. Supporters and participants reminded that the end of apartheid rule has continued to challenge South Africans to work, live and play together with dignity arising from mutual recognition.

Further, the tournament bears testimony that the war for freedom and democracy was advanced through many means possible against change resisters at various fronts and platforms. Change in this country was brought about by change agents in sports, politics, the economy, and other social spheres of life.

The tenth edition of the tournament is constant reminder and celebration of the short yet meaningful life and worthy contribution of Dr Abu Asvat. His was a life that was inspired by love and a higher purpose for this great country and its diverse population.

Our attention is drawn to the fact that the lifespan of nation builders cannot be measured by the number of years. Theirs appreciates with time. Their fundamental values, their revolution-ary spirit and their convictions are incorruptible.

Over the years the tournaments were, and remain, the celebration of compassion, ubuntu, moral principles and hope that transcend South Africa's counter-productive historical, ideological, racial and economic divisions, intolerance and conflicts.

The tournament is a means to develop collective responsibility for our past as well as the desired future. We free our people from all irresponsible notions of service delivery. True delivery is to stand as one nation and free people and work, live and play as co-creators of the future. Ours is to reach out to one another and give hope and pride to our country. We pray and labour that South Africa must not forget our Asvats, their lofty humane ideals. Going forward we do not forget where we come from. Can we forget those that have made it possible for South Africa to escape its diabolical and perilous past?
In all communities, there are many unsung heroes and heroines. Lenasia in particular has a plethora of community organisations serving in most instances indigent persons in and around the Lenasia area.

Unsung heroes and heroines are that for many reasons, but especially because many of them choose to stay away from the ‘bright lights of the media’. They are the ‘broiler room’ of community organisations, by giving unselfishly of their time and energy, and many instances their earnings. We tend to unfortunately, if we do at all, celebrate these persons, usually after their deaths.

On the afternoon of the 14th march 2012 a bullet from an armed robber, robbed the Abu Asvat Institute, Lenasia and the country of one such hero. Mohammed Ismail Jinnah, affectionately known as Jinnah.

An unassuming but completely dedicated community worker, Jinnah was active in both the administration and playing of cricket. As an adherent of non-racialism and later anti-racism, his commitment to the promotion of human rights was firmly embedded in his nature and character. This commitment to fighting injustice and poverty in all its forms, found practical expression in the values and norms advocated by the Abu Asvat Institute.

Jinnah, who became the backbone of the Abu Asvat Tournament, worked tirelessly to make available the playing of cricket to all children, especially those located in the townships and informal settlements. Although he was instrumental in managing the logistics of the tournament, which was his passion, he became an irreplaceable member of the executive of the Institute, serving as Treasurer at the time of his death. Those who worked with him remember ‘don’t worry, its under control, taken care off’. That was Jinnah, willing to do all that needed to be done, especially the ‘nitty gritty’ work. This willingness to serve was evident in his active organising role of all the projects of the Institute.

Although, he didn’t have a strong liberation party political affiliation, he worked closely with black consciousness adherents in the Institute. Jinnah was simply a human rights activist, whose vision was towards nation building on solid principles of honesty, integrity and accountability, based on the public good, without any individual aggrandisement or enrichment. He taught many of us the virtue of simplicity. We will miss his humour and also miss teasing him and be teased by him.

The merciless robbers had robbed the Abu Asvat Institute of a deeply committed activist and nation builder with skills that would have continued to benefit our community. Farida and their children Tahir, Talha, Rokeya, Dawood have lost a loving husband and father. Alli Osmany lost a closest friend, confidante and brother.

And the 10th Edition of our tournament will have to continue without the benefit of his hard work, and in memory of our ‘backbone’, Jinnah. He will be sorely missed.

May your soul rest in peace.
In recent weeks, the issue of transformation in sports has again been debated and headlined in the press. This has been an ongoing issue, for as long as we have had our first democratic election, and prior to that. There are periodic calls, especially in cricket and rugby for transformation. To date there has, it seems, been very little achieved in the transformation of many codes of sport.

Although there has been a sprinkling of Black faces in the top structure and echelons, is that sufficient to regard as transformation? What is transformation and when can we regard transformation as actually happening effectively?

To begin to answer this question, we need to locate it and admit that this issue was sacrificed initially at the altar of political compromise that characterised the political settlement in our country.

During the period of the Kempton Park agreements and in fact prior to that, many people from the disadvantaged or disenfranchised groups, were given top management positions in sports administration, and the burning question remains as to what has been done since then, to the present, to effect genuine transformation.

The reason as to why today, there are still calls for transformation to take place, obviously means that the management changes were in fact just part of a smokescreen to claim that transformation was taking place, whereas effectively, the lot of the disadvantaged sportsperson had not changed for the better.

After the so called unification in sport process, many of the grassroots structures and sports administrators within the disadvantaged communities, that were set up to promote sport as well as to fight apartheid, were left in cold, and eventually disintegrated. This “unity” merely saw the previously white structures, with a handful of Black administrators, strengthen their positions and open the doors to international participation, after the period of isolation.

We need to accept that we will not achieve effective sports transformation if it is only understood as the changing of the complexion of top sports management. While this is important, we at the Abu Asvat Institute are very clear, that in our understanding, effective transformation has to be implemented at a grassroots level.

There has to be access to resources and facilities for the organisation of active sports structures at the grassroots level to provide effective sports programmes to our communities. The base for the inclusion into sports participation at higher level, will only broaden, if these programmes are effectively administered and implemented at a community level. At present, there is an very small number of Black sportspersons, who either come from well-to-do families or are carted to the suburbs for training and competitions that are filtered to the top. The vast, significant majority are left behind, and will continue to be left behind.

Until we organise and deliver effective, mass-based sports programmes and structures, through sound administration and management in our communities. Then only would the process of effective transformation begin to take root.

The institute has, as one of its intended outcomes from the provision of this tournament, to harness our people in the disadvantaged communities to begin this process. So far this has not yet been realised. In order to achieve this, we need the participating teams to commit to the achievement of this process, and we do not require big money or salaries to get there, what we do need is a firm commitment and a will to make small sacrifices, and a willingness to create a spirit of volunteerism.

We also need to pressurise local government structures to put in place appropriate sporting facilities in our areas, as well as maintain those facilities. This is our right as communities.
The fact that there are successful athletes of colour in sport does not hide the huge difficulties they actually face or have faced throughout their careers. Most of the time being black means to be born and raised in slums or needy communities, without access to the same social benefits that other members of society have.

This is the first violence of racism. You see yourself at a disadvantage in society. But when you start overcoming barriers, others appear. You always have to be the best, because they will always pick another man instead of you.

Distrust is another big problem. They usually don’t believe that a person of colour, coming from the poorest class of society, can have the same moral and ethical values of the whole civilization.

That’s why they tend to behave fatherly, to treat you like a child who does not know what he is doing, or like the ever guilty fellow.

Racial prejudice is violence. There is no good reason for people to be discriminated against because of colour. The fact that I am a famous sportsman makes these problems a little less common for me. Being famous, it is clearly easier.

But I am conscious that this is not what regularly happens to most people of colour.

Today with the great breakthroughs of science have proved that everyone is genetically equal. There is no reasonable motive for racism. Racism is cowardice, and every cowardice comes from fear. A fear of difference. Therefore, we must not only conquer people’s minds against racism, but also their hearts. Through these means we can remove fear and build new human relationships, regardless of racial differences.

Text from “Let’s Kick Racism out of Football”

On behalf of Orange Farm cricket club I would like to thank the Abu Asvat institute for the support and opportunity that you have given our area development teams over the year your support has helped us to be where we are today, in terms of cricket development, being part of your tournaments has helped us in progressing and establishing the now cricket team that plays under Gauteng cricket Board sunday leagues.

Yours sincerely
Teboho Ntsukunyane
Secretary
Some hacks didn’t know who Russell Domingo was when he walked into the room with Donald and Kirsten.

Among the more interesting aspects of being white in SA is that some of the other pale people assume you are as racist as they are until you give them reason to assume otherwise. Doing so can lead to awkward silences around the braai fires in the fortified suburbs where whites tend to gather to pretend they live in the real world.

But, if you are willing to nod and smile when the hairs on the back of your neck are all but audibly urging you to spit and swear, you will learn plenty.

One of the lessons to be had from unreconstructed whites is that rugby and cricket belong to them, and that football belongs to blacks.

South African football, of course — the real stuff is played in England and Europe.

Another tenet of the faith is that blacks who play rugby or cricket for SA are almost always "political" selections. As a mate of mine said the other night: "It is assumed that black players who are chosen are not good enough, just as it is assumed that white players who are chosen are good enough."

It follows that black players have to work much harder to earn the white public’s approval.

They are also more likely to be dropped at the first sign of poor form.

Anyone who disputes these truths does not live in the same country as I do.

Now the uncomforning fact is emerging that each of SA’s six cricket franchises will have a white coach at the helm this season. Russell Domingo’s elevation from the Warriors to the Proteas as Gary Kirsten’s assistant last month drained the last drop of colour from their ranks.

The less critical among us might wonder why this matters.

Shouldn’t we be encouraged by Domingo’s promotion to the highest level? Isn’t the number of black players in the national team more significant? The answers to those questions are more grey than black or white.

There can be little doubt that Domingo has earned his opportunity.

The Warriors have won the Standard Bank Pro20 and the MTN40 under his guidance, he is the most senior coach on the franchise circuit, and he has served as coach for the SA "A" team at home and away.

Yet, when Domingo walked into the room along with Kirsten and Allan Donald to be presented as part of the Proteas’ new coaching regime, people who should have known better asked out loud who he was.

So much for the perks of making it to the top.

Black cricketers enjoy no such anonymity. If they succeed, the praise is muted. If they fail, the criticism blares.

These issues will only be resolved when big cricket takes itself out of the suburbs and inspires more black youngsters to take it seriously as a truly national game.

Why is it that, 20 years after unity in cricket and 17 years after we voted in our first general elections worthy of the name, we have yet to see a Test, a one-day international or a Twenty20 international involving the Proteas played in a township?

Rugby has managed to break its duck on this front, but cricket continues to refuse to take the highest level of the game to the people.

As long as they are the people who slip behind the protection of electrified fences to mutter conspiratorially around braai fires, you won’t hear many complaints.

You see, cloistering the Proteas in stadiums like the Wanderers and Newlands cultivates a certain bearable whiteness of being in the crowd.

That is the heart of this darkness.
The walkers at the Road Naming Gathering on Human Rights Day 2013, twenty four years after the killing of Dr Abu Asvat in his Soweto surgery, happily followed the way from Nirvana Drive in Lenasia to join Chris Hani Drive in Soweto. The road to be walked is the Abubaker Asvat Drive and the walkers were responding to the voice of the life of Abu Asvat, a resounding clarion call to our nation, offering direction to young and old to reflect urgently and deeply to find a right way.

What Abu said in 1988 brought vividly to mind how he walked the talk:

“We have got to start now in practical terms. We can’t wait until liberation, because once liberation is upon us, it is not going to be easy to mend the injustice and oppression that this harsh system has done to the people of this country”.

In his life as husband, father, “the people’s doctor”, community activist and cricket enthusiast, Abu also made time to travel non-existent roads in the early hours of many mornings to squatter camps where police/army raids during the previous night left Imikhukhu demolished, food and blankets in the mud, and men taken to jail. There he located the names of the people arrested and phoned them through to community workers ‘the other side of town’ to make arrangements for pro bono lawyers to appear in de Deur and other Magistrates Courts at 8h00 to represent the accused, and for volunteers to go to the settlements. This was not once or twice, but many times over two years until finally a Deputy State attorney intervened to halt this oppression.

And then what happened? Well, over the next decade, the insistence of homeless people in illegal squatter camps brought about the building of one hundred thousand homes in legal informal settlements, realising their right to also make a better life in our city today – at KwaMaJasana (Weilers Farm), Orange Farm, Finetown, Vlakfontein, Lawley, Phola Park, Zonkisiswe, Doornkop, Ivory Park...... Ah yes, all is never done, but the start was made.

Abu was not one who ‘went the extra mile’. His vision of city-building and place-making drove him to respond to the many diverse and immediate situations where he would participate, initiate, support and lead towards change for the better. The leaders of the Abu Asvat Institute for Nation Building which steers this project quote Steve Biko -

“In time we shall be in a position to bestow upon South Africa the greatest gift possible – a more human face”
As we commemorate Dr. Abu Baker Asvat, on this befitting Heroes day, we look back at not only what he has achieved, but the impact he has had on Crescents Cricket Club, the community, and the people whom he strived so hard to fight for. He was called, the people's doctor: 'He struggled to liberate society from oppression. He gave his life so that others may have a better life. He was a true patriot as a man of unity in the struggle against apartheid. His sacrifices were not in vain as his principles, beliefs and action touched many communities and helped to restore the dignity of destitute people' (Prayer for Dr. Asvat, 2010) Source: SAHistory

Besides medicine, Dr. Asvat's other great passion in life was cricket. His skills as a sportsman earned him the nickname 'Hurley,' which friends and family called him both on and off the field. For almost his entire adult life, Hurley played for the Crescents Cricket Club, based here in Lenasia. His passion for cricket extended past the playing grounds and into the political realm; in fact, to him they were never separate. We are proud that this legend of a man forms part of our clubs rich history, and we are excited that today's march and the road naming is held in his name on this befitting Heroes day. He was, and always will be - a hero of the Crescents Cricket Club.

As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Annual Memorial Junior Cricket Tournament, we deem it relevant to outline the commitment and selflessness of an individual who has contributed to our success. We speak here of Sherina Desai who has not only been involved as an official of the GCB arranging teams and fixtures, but also assisting with logistics and other important aspects that go with arranging such a huge event. The institute has no hesitation in recognising her role as “Tournament Director” for her proactive role and her spirit of volunteerism. She is almost always the first to arrive and the last one to leave. We really value this unique commitment that exemplifies the principles of the Institute.

Alli Osmany
(Publicity Officer)
The Sisulu family congratulates the Abu Asvat Institute for a decade of dedication and commitment in hosting a successful tournament every year. Through your efforts, hundreds of young people have benefited and the precious memory of Abu has been kept alive in a way he would have liked best.

During the turbulent 1980s, Dr Abu Asvat and Albertina Sisulu forged a dynamic partnership providing healthcare for marginalised and materially deprived children in Soweto. They related to each other not only as employer and employee, but also as political comrades and as mother and son. Individually and collectively, they showed that true leaders are able to transcend political, racial, ethnic and class differences. MaSisulu was devastated when the life of the man she considered her son was tragically ended on 27 January 1989. She was happy to serve as patron of the Abu Asvat Institute because she believed that it was important for future generations that his legacy be kept alive. She also felt that he was an unsung hero who had not received the honours that he deserved, hence her support of the renaming of the link bridge between Lenasia and Soweto.

As we try to make sense of our current politics, when it is easy to lapse into despair and cynicism, it is important to constantly invoke the memory of leaders like Abu Asvat and Albertina Sisulu. They are our beacon and shining light. May their legacies firmly supporting their involvement and participation in the sport. I wish each one of you a tournament filled with enjoyment and good sportsmanship.

I am always happy to see this event on the Gauteng Cricket Calendar for many reasons. Not only does this give the youth the opportunity to play more cricket but also because it celebrates the game and the history in one event.

It gives me pleasure and great pride to congratulate the organising committee on their accomplishment of once again being able to pull the event together in such fashion. Your hard work, dedication and willingness to selflessly put your time into something you believe in, is what will ensure that cricket as a sport and industry continues to grow.

May each participant enjoy the event and know that there are individuals who are firmly supporting their involvement and participation in the sport.
It was mid-winter in July 2005 when I embarked on a short trip from Johannesburg to Potchefstroom, now known as Tlokwe. As I was driving on the N12 my cell phone rang and a total stranger introduced himself as Jerry Waja from the Abu Asvat Institute. I stopped my car next to the road to continue my telephone discussion with Mr Waja. As I was talking to him on the phone I was looking on my right across the N12 freeway at the vast expanse of housing and buildings of Soweto Township disappearing into the distance and on the left hand side of the road was another array of housing in the area known as Lenasia.

It was a very fascinating phone call because Jerry spoke eloquently and gave me a very interesting historical review about Dr Asvat, Soweto and Lenasia whilst my eyes were looking at both residential areas attempting to imagine what he was talking about. In closing Jerry said the Abu Asvat Institute people were a bunch of guys who had already organized 2 annual Abu Asvat junior cricket tournament but he was not sure if they knew what they were doing as far as cricket was concerned. Thus, he wanted Gauteng Cricket Board (the GCB) to get involved in the organizing of the cricket side of things.

My mind was racing as he was talking and I ended up agreeing to do my best to get the GCB Board to get involved. Thus began a long relationship with Jerry and all the guys at the Abu Asvat Institute. What started as a casual roadside phone discussion soon developed into presentations to the GCB Board, drawing GCB staffers to the organizing of the cricket tournament, attending a series of night long meetings at Impala School in Lenasia, people's homes, meetings in commercial business districts, company offices, Wanderers Stadium, meetings with sponsors at Sunday Times, Sportsman Warehouse and Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation and lots of cricket tournaments in between.

The often thankless tasks and hard work by all who were actively involved in organizing the tournaments behind the scenes was admirable. From Anver Randera and Jerry Waja at the helm of the organization to Alli Osmany tenaciously egging local government to carry out the maintenance of the Lenz Tech Grounds and his work with the volunteers and acting as Tournament Referee/Disciplinary Committee to the late legendary Jinnah with his various combined duties as the financess person plus food plus ice plus marquees plus trophies plus GCB Bakkie plus God knows what else! May his soul rest in peace!

My wonderful memories of my personal association with the Abu Asvat Cricket Tournament and the Institute range from being introduced to the magnificently dignified Asvat Family for the first time on Sunday 18 September 2005 when they came to watch the cricket matches, meeting various dignitaries and stalwarts associated with the Abu Asvat Institute, working with the Abu Asvat Institute people and forming new friendships that have lasted this long already.

The numerous children from the GCB Development Programme and also those from some of the affluent areas who participated in the Abu Asvat Junior Cricket Tournament over the years will attest to the fact that the Abu Asvat provided them with opportunities to excel in cricket. Congratulations on the 10 Annual Tournament. Long may it continue!
It is an extraordinary pleasure to be able to mark the tenth year of the hosting of the Abu Baker Asvat tournament, and I can’t think of a better place to do it, then here. A living memorial that reflects my father’s love of cricket. A recognition how sports can break divisions and foster lasting bonds.

The Abu Baker Asvat tournament is a living memorial that reflects the ideas that my father fought for. When a person passes away there is a urge to define their legacy. A way in which it will endure. In the case of my father. That’s not difficult to do. His legacy is written in the squatter camps and shanty towns in the areas that he served.

His legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of those who turned to him when they were forcefully removed from their homes. His legacy is written in the lives of children who found education and warm meals in the playgrounds of his medical practice. His legacy will continue in communities where his name and work are still spoken about with reverence. His legacy is spread over many spheres. Including his favourite past time, cricket.

It is fitting that the continued strength of this tournament reflects his legacy and continues to be a living memorial for my father.

He was a family man, a politician, a health worker, a Community Leader and a keen sportsman.

The Tournament has grown in leaps and bounds since its inception, thousands of young people who participated in it.

May the Tournament continue to encourage and inspire young people and, God willing, may it produce future Makhaya Ntini’s and Hashim Amla’s.

We are humbled to have been a small part of this programme.

KJ Dikobo, MP
President

The tenth edition of this tournament reflects the energy of youth. Providing a stepping stone in the dreams and aspirations of the participants. And more importantly bringing together competitors from different backgrounds onto a level playing field. A lifelong fight that my father fought. The Abu Baker Asvat tournament is less about fallen heroes and more about the living participants that come and compete.

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Abu Asvat Tournament, AZAPO congratulates the Abu Asvat Institute for the steadfastness in continuing to honour this gallant Son of the Soil.

Dr Abu Asvat was a down to earth person, a friend of ‘the ordinary person’. He was a part of the Community in the true sense of the word. He understood the pain and suffering of his people, and stood with them through thick and thin.

We remember Abu Baker Asvat as a doctor who pioneered social medicine, a sportsman and sports activist, a committed family man, a ‘humanitarian’ and political activist. We understand that he was all of the above (and much more) because he was a revolutionary who worked for social transformation.

Lybon Mabasa
President
Circled in this picture: Sherina Desai & Mohammed Ismael Jinnah (see articles)
A request was received by the Gauteng Cricket Board to make the Abu Asvat Memorial Cricket Tournament a permanent event in our annual calendar commencing in 2006. This request was unanimously accepted, and on behalf of the Board I wish to congratulate you on this bold and honourable initiative. I would like to state that it would a great honour for the Gauteng Cricket Board to be associated with the Abu Asvat Institute.

Dr Asvat's life, and what it meant, is well-known to many, particularly those who were the beneficiaries of his generous spirit. The circumstances around his death still grate rather unpleasantly in the memories of many of our people.

The question that is often asked is: how do we assess and judge the meaning of a person's life? I believe that the best judge of a life is not the community or the people among whom it is lived, but perhaps the sternest umpire of all, time. When a man's deeds speak long after he is gone.

Maybe Dr Asvat did not live for a very long time, but through his work he left an indelible footprint, a mark that would be visible for a long time. Because of the battles he fought, and the freedom he stood for, a vista of opportunities have now opened up before our generation. It is, therefore, a great privilege for our Board to be associated with an institute that wishes to keep alive the name of this great South African.

Our country has need of every willing hand that will raise itself against racism, poverty and illiteracy. Dr Asvat's life, and I am sure his entire range of thought had been devoted to the undoing and the annihilation of injustice.

He dared to stem the torrent of oppression, the grim ruins of which can still be distinctly seen today. I am sure that you will execute your duties well, for as you know your deeds will determine the monument you build in the name of Dr Asvat.

I congratulate you once again, and wish you the best in all your endeavours. God bless you.

**MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES**

The Sunday Times, through its sponsorship of the 2006 Abu Asvat annual junior cricket tournament, is pleased and honoured to be able to associate itself with the memory of a truly great South African.

Dr Asvat's life was snatched away prematurely, but the legacy he left behind through his work as a medical practitioner, community leader and humanitarian lives on. With this sponsorship, the Sunday Times dedicates its support for an event that admirably seeks to promote the values of justice, freedom, non-racism and nation-building embodied in Dr Asvat's work among the communities he served.

We recognise the vital need to promote these values, particularly amongst the youth, if our young democracy is to flourish and grow. We therefore hope our contribution to the success of the 2006 junior cricket tournament will go some way in assisting the Abu Asvat Institute to realise its objectives.

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**Message by Dikgang Moseneke, Deputy Chief Justice**

I consider it a rare privilege to be associated with an event named after a very special person. Dr Abu Asvat dedicated his life to ensuring a better life for others.

He unflaggingly rejected and opposed the unfairness and inequality and violence of apartheid and believed in the worth of every individual irrespective of their gender, race or class.

Therefore, the Abu Asvat Memorial Junior Cricket tournament is a befitting tribute to a special person and is a great service to our communities and to the game of cricket in general.
We have set out
on a quest for true humanity,
and somewhere on the distant
horizon we can see the glittering
prize. Let us march forth with
courage and determination, drawing
strength from our common plight and
our brotherhood.

In time we shall be in a position to bestow upon South
Africa the greatest gift possible – a more human face.  

Steve Biko
When the Abu Asvat Institute for Nation Building was formed in 2004, one of the first projects suggested was the memorial tournament, as a means of paying practical tribute to the legacy of Dr. Abu Asvat.

However as none of us were “cricket people”, we consulted at the time with the Lenasia Cricket Club. Following a meeting with the Chairperson, Yusuf Dinath and his executive, the proposal to organise a junior cricket tournament was enthusiastically received. So the inaugural Abu Asvat Junior Memorial Tournament was hosted by the Institute and run by the LCC in 2004. This event saw us bringing together many of Abu’s friends and colleagues across the spectrum. People like Ish Mkhabela, Tom Manthata, the late Reg Feldman, Joe Veriava, Rasik Gopal, Juby Mayet, etc. The event was also significant in that it once again created awareness around the role that Asvat played in the struggle, and the values that drove many of his activities. We had widespread coverage of the event on television news as well as the print media. We also welcomed our other tournament director Zed Ndamane.

In 2005/6, Our veterans, those who played with Abu participated in a special event within the tournament.

Also significantly, in 2006, we began a relationship which endures, with our major sponsor Sunday Times.

Over the years we have had many milestones, both on and off the field. Off the field included the lunches which saw us hosting many dignitaries, like Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke, Rev. Paul Verryn, many officials from the cricketing and other sports fraternities, as well as government official, Abu’s comrades from AZAPO, family members, friends, etc.

On the field saw many success stories emerging from the tournament, including creating a platform for those young cricketers, who might not have had an access to showcase their talents. Katlego Molutsi, from Kagiso who was indentified at the event and then went on to tour India with the SA under 19 team, and all the others mentioned in this brochure.

The event has also brought in teams who were not organised as such and after playing went on to become organised teams, like the Orange Farm Cricket Club. The tournament has always included administrators from our township areas to form part of the organizing committee. We have seen many clubs gain experience through this exercise.

We had also been pioneering in having all girls teams participate in the event.

We have also afforded access to practical training for scorers and umpires as well as managers.

It has also been said that, thanks to our sponsors, like Opal Sports, the prizes on offer have been significant.

Most important though is the values that drive the tournament, which is reflected in the spirit in which the teams players and their managers participate as well as the many volunteers over the years who have shown that in a small way we can emulate people like AbuBaker Asvat and work towards making a difference in our communities.
## STAR PLAYERS WHO HAVE PLAYED AT THE ABU ASVAT TOURNAMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>K Molutsi (Kagiso)</td>
<td>Best Batsman</td>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>SA Under 19 Tour to Indian Subcontinent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Luciano Arendse</td>
<td>All Rounder</td>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>Head Coach at Waterstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Yaseer Cook</td>
<td>Best Batsman</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Plays for the Strikers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>David Rhoda</td>
<td>All Rounder</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Plays for the Strikers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ziyaad Asvat</td>
<td>Bowler</td>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>Plays for Wits Premier League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Shaylin Pillay</td>
<td>Best Batsman</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Captain SA Under 19 &amp; contracted to the Lions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>David Rhoda</td>
<td>Bowler</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Plays for the Strikers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Yaseer Cook</td>
<td>All Rounder</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Plays for the Strikers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Imraan Fredericks</td>
<td>Best Batsman</td>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>Plays for Wits Premier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Carla Strydom</td>
<td>Bowler</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Crizelda Britz</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Batting Coach for Gauteng Ladies Provincial Team</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### RESULTS 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Runners Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khosa Floating Trophy</td>
<td>Girls Floating Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batsman</td>
<td>Van Rensburg (Khosa)  &lt;br&gt; Bat /T Shirt &amp; Cap(Miniature trophy) 132 Runs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowler</td>
<td>Carla Strydom (Girls)  &lt;br&gt; 8 Wickets  &lt;br&gt; Bag Helmet &amp; Cap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Performance</td>
<td>Crizelda Britz (Girls)  &lt;br&gt; Bag Helmet &amp; Cap  &lt;br&gt; 111 Runs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 13</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Runners Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lenasia South Floating Trophy</td>
<td>Roshnee Floating Trophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Batsman</td>
<td>Nisaar Cook (Lenasia South)  &lt;br&gt; Bat /T Shirt &amp; Cap(Miniature trophy) 125 Runs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowler</td>
<td>Raees (Lenasia South)  &lt;br&gt; Bag Helmet &amp; Cap (Miniature trophy) 4/7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Outstanding Performance</td>
<td>Aston (Toekomsrus)  &lt;br&gt; Bag Helmet &amp; Cap  &lt;br&gt; 60 Runs 2 wickets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>MATCH</td>
<td>HOME TEAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 1</td>
<td>The Hill U15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 2</td>
<td>Lenasia South U15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 3</td>
<td>Marks Park U15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 4</td>
<td>Oranje Farm U15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 5</td>
<td>Randburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/09/07</td>
<td>Match 6</td>
<td>Losers Match 1</td>
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For the remaining dates and matches, please refer to the full schedule provided in the image.
Know what’s on the nation’s mind

Sunday Times
THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE