



CLUBE NAVAL DE MAPUTO



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SÉRGIO VEIGA LAUNCHED HIS NEW BOOK



Sérgio Veiga
"I'm a storyteller"

SÉRGIO VEIGA LAUNCHED HIS BOOK "O VELHO E O MATO"

Sérgio Veiga launched his book "O Velho e o Mato" on September 10, at Clube Naval in Maputo.

- **Sérgio, congratulations on the success of your book. "O Velho e o Mato" (The Old Man and the Bush) is a novel for anyone who carries Africa in their heart. The first time I saw the title of this book, it reminded me of the "The Old man and the Sea"...**

- Thank you. It's true. [The book] was dedicated to Ernest Hemingway. I dedicated this book not only to Hemingway but also to the father of a friend of mine nicknamed Zé Pescador [Zé Fisherman]. When I went to Portugal to launch the novel, he called me and told me: "Sérgio, I have a book that I take with me everywhere I go, which is a bible for me, called 'The Old man and the Sea,' because my son is a fisherman too. Now I have two bibles, because I loved your book. You know, Sérgio, you were the ideal man to write 'The Old Man and the Bush' because you are a fisherman but also a hunter."

- I had many adventures as a hunter. One was when a couple of lions in Cabo Delgado killed six people. I formed a team and managed to hunt these lions. So I wrote the book based on this story. Everything in this book is based on true events despite being a fictional story.

- Hemingway inspired me a lot, both in literature and as a man. His book was the first book I read in my life. He also had my vices, which are the sea and the bush.

- **What's the story of this book?**

-This book tells the story of an old hunter who witnessed the independence of Mozambique. This old man was forced to go from the bush to the city. During the period of independence, his children left him. He went to find another life; they did not want to stay in Mozambique, but he stays in Mozambique with his wife.

- Later, due to a lack of hope, the woman dies. At that point he calls his children and says to them: "Children, the life of a man is made of many small lives; mine is too. I died today as a married man, and I want to announce that I also want to die as your father. I want to say goodbye to you now, I want you to remember me as what I am; I don't want you to see me grow old to a point that makes me unrecognisable."

- The old man goes away, gets a house in Cabo Delgado, hunting and fishing to survive. He was a man who liked to kill animals. In later life, he thought maybe it was time to die and not continue to take lives to sustain himself. He had reached the stage of life where he did not want to kill or hunt more. At that time, there is a kid that helps him pass this moment, but a couple of lions end up killing a child's mother. He also knows that from that moment the lions have become man-eaters, and will never stop killing human beings. The child, knowing that he was a hunter, urges him to kill the lions that killed his mother. This story is the latest adventure of him hunting the lions.

• **Besides being a writer, you are also a painter?**

- I consider myself a Mozambican artist. I am not a writer. I am a storyteller. I have lived many stories. I have had an adventurous life, so it's easy for me to tell a story.

• **When, in your opinion, was the birth of Mozambican literature?**

- I think it was shortly after independence. In that period, fabulous writers were born, because from that moment we had an identity. Born under independence -- for example, Eduardo White, and Mia Couto, for example. He is a writer who shares my stories because we lived them together.

• **Really? Tell us more.**

- Of course. The story of Mia Couto is funny. When I was hunting lions, he was there working as a biologist. One day I called him and told him: "Look Mia, now I may be able to kill the lion because I know where his victim is. I will get him today. I will wait and I will kill him."

- He told me to be careful. I told him it was best to call the lion and tell him to be careful cause I was the one who was going hunt him. Mia Couto wrote "A Confissão da Leoa" [The Confession of the Lioness] based on my history.

• **Mia Couto is a writer who inspires you?**

- Yes. A friend who I greatly admire. Recently I painted a picture which I called 'A Confissão da Leoa.' I was inspired by his book.

• **Does Mozambican literature has characteristics that distinguishes it from other Lusophone literature?**

- I think so. Maybe it mixes with other literatures. There are branches that arose from a tree that is Portugal and begin to have their own expression. We still have a virgin area to explore.

• **As part of Mozambican history, and as a writer and a prominent artist, what do you think are the challenges facing Mozambique as a country?**

- It's a complex question. I think the first goal is achieved, which is the fact that we have peace again. And then we have to eradicate absolute poverty. I think these are the biggest challenges.

NUNO LAUREANO IS WARNING US ABOUT THE POOR STATE OF THE WALL



Nuno Laureano

In order to provide better information to members of Clube Naval in case of the maintenance of the Clube, an analysis of the structures of Clube Naval is in course, specifically with regards to its foundations. The foundations of the Clube, the wall and its embankment with its retaining wall which underpin our infrastructure have never benefited from intervention since its construction (a fact which can be confirmed by the older club members), except for some spot repairs. Now, following the construction going on along the Marginal, we have been alerted to the possibility of our club also being covered by this improvement. We investigated further with the Municipal Council to see whether the Clube would

benefit from rehabilitation and it was confirmed that the Clube is not included in these coastal protection works.

If ever it was is another question... So, we were told that the "forgotten" section would eventually (my word choice) benefit in a second phase, that would be completed if there is funds. So, dear members, there is no money and no improvement to be made to our foundations in the near future. It's sad but true. In this context, and enjoying my favorite hobby (spearfishing), danger was found (checked while hunting the garopinhas and lobsters that hide on our grounds); i.e., there are indeed some gaps at the base of the wall. It deserves our attention; mainly because the Clube is currently the weakest link of the bay (I'm exaggerating; now, the Maritimo is in the same situation in terms of not having any protection). There are now plans for a photographic survey and video of the entire perimeter of the wall (700m).

We are in talks with the City Council to learn more about phase II coastal protection. We have also started discussing the costs of potential action at an internal level; this will be phased and will not include with money from the municipality. Finally, I want to say that we have had the Clube for over 100 years and that any contribution of our partners in this direction is welcome. I'm not referring to budget or materials (not yet having completed the budget phase of the rehabilitation), but any other support on a technical level or ideas and opinions are valuable and desirable.

Regards,

Nuno Laureano

JOÃO CARDOSO: 35 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY



The exhibition entitled "João Cardoso, 35 years of photography" opened Saturday, October 4, in the Main Hall of the Clube Naval. The exhibition will end on 11 October.



João Cardoso, the man behind the camera

ZUMBA CLASS

A date will shortly be decided on which Clube Naval will shake with a zumba class, which that will be given by Cláudia Pereira in the Clube lobby at the end of October.

Zumba is a mix of aerobic dances designed for fitness and exercise. Addictive and fun, this activity is popular throughout the world and has 14 million weekly participants around the world. It is a workout which makes people lose calories without realizing it.

A single hour of instruction can lose 800 calories. Zumba works the entire body. All Clube members and interested people are invited to participate!



INFORMATION

Dear members,

This is to inform you that this will be the last issue of the newsletter published by AVRIL Consulting for the Clube Naval. Note that from the 9th of October, we will not be longer in charge of the update of Clube Naval website.

We hope to have satisfied you during the past two years and we wish you all the best.

AVRIL Consulting team