

The Sur 'prizes' Of Sports

Has the spirit of competition been sullied by the lure of money?

Let's go to the Taj and have a brunch with the whole team. I was little surprised by this suggestion from the youth after they won our local basketball tournament. I didn't know much about the award culture in Bhutan, but for me it sounded a bit of a luxury to go there, but they were serious. It was my first experience. That is why it surprised me.

A year later, we had another small three-a-side basketball tournament at the old parking lot in Changjiji. It was a great day, with eleven teams participating, and there were tournaments for both male and female. There was a wonderful atmosphere, and we enjoyed a real street basketball performance. As a small incentive, the winners were given basketballs, and the runners-up received caps.

Our youth centre team decided that basketballs would be the best prize, because there is a shortage of basketballs in Changjiji, and the youth can actually use them in the neighbourhood. In this way, they would raise the profile of the sport. It was a practical and simple gesture on behalf of the tournament organisers.

After the tournament, the youth expressed enthusiasm about the events held in their neighbourhood and requested to make them a more regular feature. There was only one complaint - the poor prizes. Again, I was surprised and discussed the matter with my fellow organisers. I was perplexed why the kids had such high expectations about awards. Surely, team spirit and the joy of playing should be the driving force of engaging in a tournament.

A few weeks later, we participated in the street football tournament. When I heard

about the money that was available for the winners and runners-up, I was stunned. In fact, I thought the kids were joking. During that time I joined the biking race and again there was a lot of high financial awards for the winners.

In addition, I discovered that the entry fees for certain sport events are also pretty high, especially for youth who don't have a job. After paying this money, you may find that you are eliminated after only one or two games. This seems contrary to the aims of encouraging youth to get out of bars and snooker halls and to engage in physical activities.

Many questions came to my mind: Is it really necessary to attract participants? Is it about status? Is it culture? Of course culture is involved, but do we want to promote a culture of money? What is the goal for these events? Are they about competition? Do you only want the best players and teams to participate or you want to promote sports among youth and focus on participation?

Personally, I think that it would be wise to think about these questions while organising sports tournaments and competitions. If the goal is to engage as many youth as



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possible, then the entry fee and prize money should be lowered. The money saved by offering less financial incentives could instead be used to fund other events and increase their frequency. In my opinion, it is not necessary to attract participants. The bike race attracted a lot of youth, but they were not there because of the prizes. They were there because they wanted to participate, have fun, do some exercise and meet other people. All the things that make sports so interesting and valuable in several ways. Maybe, a few were attracted by the lucrative prizes, but that would be limited to those, who felt they had a chance of winning. Such people are already heav-

ily involved in the sport.

I know that, sometimes, there are other interests involved, for example, the wishes of a sponsor, the cultural and historical aspect or the fact that an event is there especially for the excellent players. I think all the Bhutanese sports organisations are doing an excellent job, and I hope they will continue their work. However, I think that perhaps now is the time to also realise that there are many ways to promote sports - not only through high prize money.

In Changjiji, we will continue our work organising many small events. I am sure the youth will come, because it is about participating and

not about the prizes. Generally, just refreshments and a good atmosphere are enough to attract many participants.

**Contributed by
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VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Human Resource Service, Thimphu

MoEA/HRD-45/2011/566

Ministry of Economic Affairs would like to re-announce the following vacancies:

Sl. #	Position title	Position level	No. of slots	Qualification required	Place of posting
1	Asst. Estate Manager II	SI A	1	Bachelors	IIDD, DoI
2	Asst. Admin. Officer II	SI A	1	-do-	AFD
3	Driver III	O4 A	1	Class VIII with certificate in driving	DoI

Interested candidates can apply to the CHRO, HRD, MoEA on or before **27th May, 2011** with the following documents.

1. RCSC Employment form
2. Resume
3. Attested copy of academic transcript
4. Copy of eligibility certificate (for the graduates)
5. CID copy
6. Security clearance certificate
7. Medical fitness certificate
8. NOC if employed

Names of short listed applicants will be announced on Ministry's website www.moea.gov.bt on **31st May, 2011**. For queries please contact **336748/333761**.

Chief HR Officer