



DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians



DID YOU KNOW?

Closing Of DSP In Zipline

At the closing, Zimpon Wom Sonam Thinley, Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Hon'ble Foreign Secretary Pema Choden, retired armed forces personnel, and senior officials from the Department of Forests and Park Services were present.

The DSP in zipline was initiated with the objective of equipping the De-suups with technical skills to construct zip-lines, operationalize, ensure and apply safety measures to be able to independently take up such endeavors in the future.

During the closing, the Chief Guest congratulated the De-suups for successfully completing the course and also for setting up a successful demonstration site. He advised the De-suups to keep learning and practicing this skill as they will require the confidence and experience to operationalize it before they embark on setting up their own zipline businesses.

Fourteen De-suups took the course, which was taught by Professor Alexander Klaussner.



FIRE TRAINING - 6th Batch

On October 18, 2022, the Fire Service Division (FSD) of the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) at Changzamtog, Thimphu, commenced the month-long fire training program for its sixth batch. The ceremony was opened by the Royal Bhutan Army's Deputy Chief Operations Officer. There are thirty De-suups in the training regimen.

The trainees of De-suup are taught the operation of fire engines, the monitoring of the fire control center, the observation of smoke and fire from the observation tower, as well as the reception of emergency calls and coordination mechanisms. The De-suup trainees are attached to the RBP, and this is replicated in 20 Dzongkhags to respond to fire and rescue incidents around the country. To date, 104 De-suups have been trained at FSD.

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ABOUT THE GUARDIANS

On February 14, 2011, the De-suung Integrated Training Programme began in Tencholing, Wangdue Phodrang. De-suung, which means "Guardians of Peace," is a Royal Initiative of His Majesty The King.

His Majesty The King Commanded the establishment of De-suung in response to an overwhelming supplication from the youth for an opportunity to offer their voluntary service to the nation. Thus, De-suung was created as an avenue enabling those who wanted to volunteer their time and energy in service of the nation and people.

The Training Programme's foundation is based on the spirit of volunteerism and the positive influence of community service, integrity, and civic duty ethics and values.

De-suungs actively volunteer during disasters, participate in social service activities, and offer service to others throughout their lives. In other words, as lifelong members of the De-suung Organization, trainees progressively improve their ability to bear their daily duties and responsibilities.

• Batches Trained

52

• Female Trained

12,395

• Male Trained

19,225

• Total Trained

31,620

TRANS BHUTAN TRAIL



✓ The Trans Bhutan Trail (TBT) scout walk, representing twenty Dzongkhags and four Thromdes, finished at Trashigang on October 18, 2022. The Canada Bhutan Foundation, in conjunction with the Tourism Council of Bhutan, Bhutan Scouts Association, and the TBT Project Office, launched the walk on September 10, 2022, from Haa.

The Trans Bhutan Trail (TBT) was set up at the command of His Majesty The King. TBT is the official group responsible for the preservation and restoration of the 403-kilometer ancestral trail. From Haa in the west to Trashigang in the east, the trail passes through 27 Gewogs, 4 Dzongs, 21 temples, 12 mountain passes, five suspension bridges, ten cantilever bridges, 77 chortens, and 30 stupas. It traverses diverse landscapes, including verdant rice paddies, rhododendron forests, dense wilderness, secluded villages, and bustling cities. It also passes through some of the most important cities in Bhutan, including the capital, Thimphu, and the royal city of Bumthang.

Participants not only walked along the trail but also interacted with locals to learn about the people, place, culture, tradition, flora, and animals. In addition, as time permitted, the participants performed community service and taught Scouting classes to Scouts in the schools they attended.

There were 24 scouts from 20 dzongkhags and 4 thromdes among the participants, with two members of the Royal Bhutan Army from the Gyelsung Office, one De-suup from the Administrative Office of De-suung, one scoutmaster, one TBT trail professional and a team of BBS comprising six individuals.



DZONGKHAG DE-SUUNG COORDINATION MEETING

✓ The Dzongkhag De-suung Coordination meeting was held at the De-suung Club House in Haa on October 14, 2022. The meeting was presided over by the Dasho Dzongdag of Haa. The Chief Planning Officer of De-suung and a team from De-suung Headquarters were also present.

157 De-suups from Haa joined the meeting and discussion to address the issues and difficulties on the ground. According to the Coordinator of Haa Dzongkhag, there are 463 Desuups in Haa Dzongkhag (258 men and 204 women).

The head office also thanked the Haa De-suups for their persistent efforts as volunteers in the service of the Haa community throughout the pandemic. At the end of the coordination conference, every De-suup made a promise to volunteer in times of crisis.

NAMGAYLING DZONG, HAA



- ✓ The Namgayling Dzong in Haa was transferred to De-suung together with a 1.28-acre plot of land. The Dzong is a two-story structure with a conference hall, offices, and three rooms plus a kitchen on the second floor and three rooms on the first floor. Currently, the structure serves as the Haa De-suung Clubhouse. A total of eight De-suups have been sent to the site to do different duties.

The Clubhouse will also function as a De-suung office and a De-suup transit camp.

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SPECIALIZED REFRESHERS COURSE (SRC) UPDATE



SRC De-suups Deployment (Ongoing):

Thimphu = 10

Samtse = 20

Gelephu = 57

Samdrup Jongkhar = 29

Phuentsholing = 27

Damthang, Haa = 26

Commando wing = 35

Tencholing, Wangduephodrang = 36

Male = 157

Female = 83

Total = 240



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NYAMRO CHRONICLES



Lifetime opportunity

My name is De-suup Tshokey Dorji, and I am from Nobgang, Punakha. I was a part of the 36th De-suung training class at the Military Training Center in Wangduephodrang. We are commonly referred to as the Gelong Drep Batch because our batch had a total of one hundred ex-monks.

In 2019, I completed my training and competed in the 112th National Day contingent drill. It was an honor for me to perform at the Changlimithang stadium for His Majesty the King, the Royal Family, and the crowd.

When our country faced its greatest difficulty owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, I couldn't stay idle and joined the fight against the greatest hidden enemy. My current assignment has me working on the water project in Samdrupjongkhar, known as Jomotshangkha. Since I was given the chance to become a De-suup, I have done everything in my power to best serve my country. And I will never stop serving my King, my people, and my country.

The following are the areas that I have served in so far:

Sl. No	Deployment	Total No. of Days
1	Unloading Stocks at FCB, Punakha	1
2	SBD 3, Gelephu Sector	49
3	NBD, 1st Phase, Trashigang	70
4	4th Special Refreshers Course, RBG Thimphu	21
5	RBA Wing-IX Duty, Sarpang	40
6	Sarpang Special Force 3, Sarpang	146
7	Haa SBD 2nd Layer - 1st Batch	29
8	SBD 5th, Lhamoizingkha	55
9	SBD 13, Samtse	28
10	SBD 23, Chukha	62
11	Phajodhing Trail Cleaning Campaign, Thimphu	1
12	Jomotsangkha Water Project, S/Jongkhar	92

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ASSESSMENT REPORT MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS - ROYAL TAKIN ZOO MOTITHANG, THIMPHU

On the command of His Majesty the King, a team comprising of the following officials visited the Royal Takin Zoo to assess the maintenance requirements on October 17th, 2022:

1. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council
2. Dasho Zimpon Wogma, His Majesty's Secretariat
3. CPO, De-suung Head Office, Thimphu
4. Officiating Director, Department of Forest and Park Services of Bhutan
5. Thimphu Dzongkhag Forestry official

The following were the observations made:

1. The painting of the entry gate to the zoo is faded.
2. The zoo cafeteria is closed and does not cater to the needs of the zoo visitors.
3. There are no streetlights near the gate or along the pathways. The zoo area would be pitch dark in the evenings and nights. The visit to the zoo would not be possible in the evenings.
4. The entry board with the portrait of His Majesty is observed to be not adequate and appropriate. The design, height, and size of the board are also not adequate.
5. Rusty iron dustbins were observed to have been installed everywhere, making the area look bad. Wastes were observed to be scattered everywhere.
6. The Observation Tower and surrounding area looked empty and deserted.
7. Rusty iron benches have been observed along the way.
8. Due to the pandemic, the zoo area has been isolated for a long time, so the grass and the bushes along the way as well as around all the areas have been grown and the area looks very messy.
9. Since many visitors walk down the path, it's been observed that some path ways don't have a fence, and there's a very high chance that people may fall down, and more over, the labor camp below the path way was looking in appropriate.
10. The posters and the wooden sign on the cage were faded and outdated.
11. It was observed that the pathways' side trails were damaged, and due to that, the pathways were looking ugly from start to finish.
12. After the 3rd poster right above, the area looks very empty and deserted.

1. The flower garden had been kept untouched and no flowers were seen.
2. Few pathways have been found over steep ways to walk down, and it's inappropriate, especially for elderly visitors, as well as very risky during the rainy season for all.
3. The trench area was all covered by long bushes and there was no fence around, which made the place look messy and very high risk for visitors to fall.

Recommendations

Accordingly, the team is making the following recommendations:

1. The total repainting of the entry gate is necessary. The painting should be properly decided to give the proper theme and significance of the zoo.
2. The cafeteria should be open and maintained at all times. Therefore, it is recommended that the cafeteria be run by the Desuung Skilling Program.
3. Install the street lights along the paths and visitor areas, starting at the entrance gate.
4. Change the design (mainly the frame) and choose an appropriate portrait of His Majesty. Further, the painting of the board should be carried out in such a way by using earth paints to give the board an earthy look.
5. Remove all the iron dustbins installed in the pathways and other zoo areas. It is recommended to install wooden dustbins at strategic locations. Furthermore, install appropriate signboards with messages to manage the waste properly during the visit to the zoo.
6. A large guide map of the zoo should be printed or painted and attached to the frame of the observation tower. The poster on consolidated bird information should be removed. Instead, separate posters for each bird to be erected next to the respective bird area or at specific intervals along the pathway would be ideal. A large poster of the Royals will also be placed directly in front of the Observation Tower, along with a Takin' Landscape concept.
7. To remove all rusted iron benches and replace them with wooden benches in the appropriate locations or areas.
8. All the long grass and the bushes need to be removed and beautified.
9. To setup a bamboo fence to cover up the labor camp as well as for the safety of the visitors.
10. To remove all the faded posters and wooden signs from the cage.
11. Maintenance of pathways and side trails
12. To build or construct a gazebo and a picnic spot for exclusive families right above the 3rd
13. Taking care of the flower garden and making it look beautiful.
14. railing on the way right above the guest house.
15. To install safety wood railings wherever they are needed along the way.
16. The bomb bridge will be built above the path's top.
17. Remove the gazebo and more like the construction of a balcony for the visitors to view the scenes all above the zoo area from the top.
18. Restore steps in the pathways where there's too steep a way to walk down.