



DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians



57th Batch Orientation



On the 7th of May, the three weeks Accelerated De-suung Training Program successfully concluded simultaneously in Tendruk, Tashichholing, Deothang, Jigmeling, and Tashigatshel. The program covered a range of subjects including military training, policing, disaster management, health, and Driglam Namzha. The participants underwent an intensive training program, designed to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to serve as De-suups.

On the 12th of May, the 57th batch orientation was held at De-suung Headquarters. A total of 551 Desuups attended the orientation, with 240 being male and 311 being female. During the orientation, Zimpon Wogma Kinzang Dorji and a team from the DHQ delivered a briefing, outlining the various roles and responsibilities of De-suups. The orientation also set expectations for the De-suups in their role to serve the community.

DID YOU KNOW?

32 De-suups were deployed for crowd control during The Bhutan Olympic Day and the Tokha program. The Olympic Day celebration took place on May 6th at Merak Primary School, which is located at over 3500 meters above sea level, making it the highest Olympic Day celebration ever.

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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

57

• Female Trained

15,171

• Male Trained

22,126

• Total Trained

37,297

TASHIGANG CLEANING CAMPAIGN



- ✓ On the 10th of May, the De-suups of Tashigang and Bartsham Central School joined hands to conduct a cleaning campaign from Bartsham till Reju in Tashigang. The campaign aimed to promote cleanliness and raise awareness about the importance of keeping our environment clean. The team was divided into four groups, consisting of 10 De-suups, 40 students, and 8 school staff. Together, they worked to collect waste along the designated route. Their hard work paid off, and they were able to collect an impressive total of 57 sacks of waste.

Beautification and Landscaping



23 Desuups (11 male, 12 female) started a landscaping and beautification project at the retired armed force Lhakhang at Lower Motithang on May 10th. While the duration of the project is not yet fixed, the first stage will involve weeding and cleaning the pebbles. Following this, the Desuups will engage in layering and planting grass inside the compound. Once this is completed, the group will proceed with landscaping and planting flowers.



NYAMRO CHRONICLES



I was assigned the role of the Dzongkhag De-Suung Coordinator of Sarpang in 2017. During that time, Sarpang had approximately only 100 De-Suups which has now grown to over 2000 De-Suups in a matter of six years. De-Suups were deployed for various types of service all across the region and each deployment required a distinctive way of attention and way of operation. It was a challenge but I have always looked at it as an opportunity to serve the nation in her time of need and also as an opportunity of personal growth and development.

De-Suups had the opportunity to work in various fields during the pandemic such as border security, quarantine management, patrolling, escort services, security of specific locations, control and logistics, delivery of essential goods during the lockdowns and the helpline center. The nature of deployment has slightly changed today in comparison to the previous deployment pattern. Simply put, our service previously was mostly protection of the community and now it is in the development of the community. De-Suups right now are being deployed for programs such as the water projects, Million Fruit Tree Plantation, National Accelerated Dog Population Management and other acts of service towards the community.

As the Coordinator working with Desuups especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, I have learned several valuable lessons. The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges that required a collaborative and coordinated response and I would like to share the lessons I have learnt over the course of these six years.

1. **The Power of Collaboration:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation. I learned that by working together, we can achieve more significant outcomes than working alone. It was essential to coordinate our efforts and align our actions to achieve our common goal of serving the community.
2. **The Importance of Adaptability:** The pandemic was a rapidly evolving situation that required us to be adaptable and flexible in our approach. As a De-Suung Coordinator, I learned that it was essential to be prepared to adjust our plans and strategies in response to the changing situation. We had to be quick on our feet and ready to pivot our efforts as needed.
3. **The Value of Training and Preparedness:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters. I learned that training and preparedness were critical components of our response efforts. We invested in training our young De-Suups in various areas, including quarantine management, contact tracing, and public education. This training ensured that they were well-prepared to serve the community during the pandemic.
4. **The Importance of Resilience:** The pandemic was a challenging time for everyone, and it required us to be resilient in the face of adversity. I learned that resilience was a crucial trait that we needed to develop in ourselves and our young De-Suups. We had to be able to bounce back from setbacks and challenges and maintain our commitment to serving the community.
5. **The Value of Community Service:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of community service. I learned that serving the community was a rewarding and fulfilling experience. We were able to make a significant impact on the lives of others, and that gave us a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

As I continue to serve as the Dzongkhag De-Suung Coordinator, I am learning new lessons every day from the challenges faced as we carry out our service and from my fellow Nyamros as well. These lessons will continue to guide us as we navigate future challenges and serve our communities.

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MOH SURVEY



A total of 149 De-suungs are currently undergoing a 9-day training to become enumerators for medical records, started on May 9th, 2023. The Ministry of Health has been collecting data from all over Bhutan after every 10 years. Normally, the data collection is done by unemployed candidates, but this time, De-suungs will be assisting health officials in the data collection process. According to health officials, the reason for assigning the data collection survey to De-suungs is due to the cooperative nature of every citizen of Bhutan towards the De-suungs fraternity. The survey will take almost 2 months to complete, during which medical information of all citizens within the country will be collected.

DE-SUUP LEVEL UP WITH ACCOUNTING SKILLS.



De-suup Level Up With Accounting Skills.

The DSP program in Graduate Diploma in Accounting (GDA) and Certificate in Accounting (CIA) at the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) Semtokha came to an end on May 11, 2023. The program was initiated in partnership with RIM to provide accounting skills to De-suups. The GDA was offered to De-suups with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce or Business Administration with accounting studies, while the CIA was offered to class XII Commerce and non-commerce students with mathematics studies. The courses were conducted for a duration of 13 weeks. The 2nd cohort of GDA started with 24 De-suups and 6 Armed Force personnel, while the CIA started with 26 De-suups and 6 Armed Force personnel in August 2022.

The closing ceremony saw Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Member of the DSP Steering Committee, as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the trainees and urged them to constantly evolve, improve, and stay relevant. He also advised them to have the desire for change, to reinvent themselves for the better, and to aspire to be trustworthy and dependable. Zimpon Wom Sonam Thinley, Domain Lead and Member of the DSP Steering Committee, along with the management and faculties of RIM and AASBB, were present during the graduation day. The success of the program was attributed to the management and faculties of RIM for organizing it.

MOIT Survey Update



The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MOIT) survey began on May 5th. After two days of on-the-job training for enumeration, around 200 De-suups started the survey in the Dechencholing area on May 5th. The group was divided into six, with 34 members each, guided by one MOIT official in each group. The De-suups had to visit every building and collect information about rented houses or rooms, as well as other personal information, solely for updating the data collection system provided by MOIT. As of May 13th, the data collecting work has been completed in around six major places in Thimphu, including from Dechencholing to Olakha area. According to MOIT officials, the data collection survey will take a few more days to complete the remaining major places that fall under the Thimphu major town area.