



DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official Newsletter of the Guardians

Issue 59 | July 31, 2023



A special prayer ceremony was held at Kuenselphodrang on 29th July to honor the precious lives lost in the flash flood in Ungar, Lhuntse. Over 570 De-suup volunteers took part in the prayer ceremony, which was led upon the request of the Des-uups by His Eminence Laytsho Lopen, with the offering of one thousand butter-lamps. May the departed be guided safely on their path onward.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the De-suung Skilling Programme (DSP), a group of skilled de-suups recently crafted an eco-friendly and lightweight bicycle made from bamboo in Thimphu.

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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

58

• Female Trained

16,119

• Male Trained

23,199

• Total Trained

39,318

ROYAL TAKIN PRESERVE TEAM_MOTITHANG



✓ The Royal Project was initially started on October 19th, 2022, and it has been almost 10 months since its inception. The 1st phase has been successfully completed, and we are now commencing the 2nd phase. The project was initiated with a total of 58 de-suups, comprising 38 male and 20 female de-suups. Currently, we have 71 de-suups, with 36 males and 35 females, actively contributing to this noble cause with utmost dedication to their nation.

Thus so far, we have completed the landscaping and renovation of footpaths and the cafeteria, which were significant tasks. Additionally, the constructions of the water tanks, toilets, Japanese arch bridge, and the fitting of pipelines has also been finished. For the 2nd phase, we are deploying only 30 de-suups, including 15 males and 15 females. The remaining 41 de-suups will be assigned for another project as soon as possible.

The second phase is currently in progress and includes the construction of a pedestrian bridge and area beautification. This phase incorporates various environmental displays, such as the rock garden, wood park, picnic spot, pond, and children's park. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the upper authorities for granting us this golden opportunity. The De-suup nyamros have been actively learning new skills and gaining valuable experiences through this project.

56TH BATCH(BMT) ORIENTATION



- ✓ On 24th July, the 56th batch (BMT) orientation was held at De-suung Headquarter. During the orientation, De-suung CPO Tandin Dorji and the team from the DCH delivered a briefing, outlining the various role and responsibilities of De-suups. This is the first BMT(Basic Military Training)course. It began in March this year as a special program to pilot a part of the Gyalsung training that all Bhutanese youths will receive by next year. A total of 500 young men and women participated in the three and a half months training program. These youthful, motivated, responsible, disciplined, and smartly dressed De-suups are the first BMT De-suups.



NYAMRO CHRONICLES



From Citizen to Orange Warrior: My Journey with the De-suung Organization.

My unexpected journey as a member of the orange uniform began during a time when our country needed support the most. Witnessing the dedication of countless individuals in orange uniforms working tirelessly to help our nation inspired me to join the Desuup, a decision I'll never regret.

Upon completing my training, I served at Quarantine and CFM centers during the pandemic. This experience filled me with immense pride as I stood alongside my fellow orange-clad comrades, united in our shared mission to aid our country in its time of need. The realization that we were contributing to the well-being of our fellow citizens and the nation as a whole was deeply gratifying.

Subsequently, I joined the De-suung Clubhouse, which introduced me to an entirely different world. It became a place where I could connect with fellow "nyamros" – fellow members of the De-suung Organization– and hear their unique stories. Learning about the incredible efforts they put into their duties further empowered and motivated me to continue working for the betterment of our country.

The sense of camaraderie and unity among the De-suung members was palpable and infused me with a renewed sense of purpose. Getting to know my fellow comrades on a personal level strengthened our bonds and deepened my commitment to our shared cause. Together, we embraced the spirit of service and dedicated ourselves wholeheartedly to uplifting our nation. My journey with the De-suung Organization has been nothing short of transformative. From the initial decision to don the orange uniform, to the experiences during the pandemic, and the heartwarming moments at the De-suung Clubhouse, I have gained invaluable lessons in unity, service, and resilience. Reflecting on my experiences fills me with a profound sense of gratitude and pride for being a part of the orange people, working tirelessly to serve our beloved country.

Once a Desuup, Always a Desuup: United in Orange, Forever Devoted to Service.

 Karma Selden
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MOH SURVEY



It was June 1st, 2023, and we the guardians of peace known as De-suung, embarked on a health survey conducted every ten years. The main objective of this survey was to assess the health status of the people and provide the necessary aid and supplies based on the discussions during the Five Year Planning.

Out of 200 volunteers from De-suung, each Dzongkhag was assigned 10 Desuups for the survey. Our team was assigned to survey Samdrup Jongkhar. As it was my first time traveling to an unknown place, I was filled with excitement, as traveling is one of my passions. We set out on our journey at 8:30 am and had to spend a night in Phuentsholing before reaching our final destination.

We finally reached Samdrup Jongkhar. Since I was used to the cold weather in Thimphu, the hot weather in Samdrup Jongkhar made it difficult for me to sleep that night.

After taking a day's rest at De-suung camp, we began our survey the next day. The survey focused on three different aspects: individual health, household health, and women and child health. It took us around 3 hours to survey each household, and people often asked us about the purpose of the survey. Thankfully, De-suups provided clear explanations, and the survey went well. It took us around ten days to complete the survey in Samdrup Jongkhar.

Next, we headed to Jomotsangkha, but unfortunately, we lost our way during the journey. I became worried and anxious, but some local Indian people kindly helped us find our way back. We faced a language barrier in Jomotsangkha as the residents spoke Lhotsampa (Nepali). Fortunately, my obsession with watching Nepali movies helped me understand some broken Lhotsampa, making communication a bit easier.

After finishing the survey, we headed to the next destination, Lauri, and Serthi. However, the road was blocked, and we had to wait for two days for it to be cleared. During this time, we went to Arunachal Pradesh for sightseeing, which turned out to be a perfect spot for vacation due to its natural beauty. I was amazed to find that the people in Arunachal Pradesh could speak Sharchop fluently, in addition to Nepali.

Returning to Deothang due to the road conditions, we faced challenging journey conditions. The next location for our survey was at Army camp, and we needed permission from their senior authorities to enter. It took some time, but we eventually got permission, and the Army officials were kind enough to assist us in the survey, making our work easier.

During the question and answer session, one of the wives of the Army provided a humorous moment by answering that our bodies should be 200 percent healthy, leading us all to laugh heartily.

Our team was then divided into two, with one team sent to Phuntshothang and our team sent to Pemathang to complete the survey. At Marsala, we encountered some people in need of stitches, and our health team provided the necessary assistance.

The survey was conducted successfully in other Gewogs and Chiwogs. Finally, we arrived at Lauri, which proved to be the most difficult survey due to the blocked road. We had to endure seven hours of waiting on an empty stomach until Gewog officials sent a vehicle to escort us to their village. As our vehicle was stuck on the roadblock, we had to hire the Gewog vehicle to complete the survey, which eventually went well.

After gathering all the survey data from the Gewogs and Chiwogs, we had a farewell ceremony at Serthi and began our journey back home, cherishing the memories of the survey and the fun we had with Nyamro. I would like to express my gratitude to De-suung organization and the Ministry of Health for conducting this survey, as it provided me with new knowledge and unforgettable experiences.

Written by
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SOUTHERN BORDER DUTY



With the break of dawn, excitement, together with euphoric feelings, filled the air, and smiles adorned the lips of the 16th batch SBD Nyamros as we embarked upon our journey to the southern border duty at Lhamoizingkha, located at the Chakarmari outpost. Sonam Rinchen, one of the Nyamros, guided us to this unknown place, deceitfully downplaying the exhausting distance. However, with sheer determination, we finally reached the Lhamoizingkha outpost, where there were five outposts in total.

The first day began with us guiding the outpost, and we felt proud and productive. However, as the week passed by, our sleep was frequently interrupted by bed bugs and mosquitoes. Some of us had to become nocturnal by filling the holes in the room walls to prevent these pests from entering. Since our duty was during the summer season in the southern region, heavy rainfall worsened our living conditions with erosion and flooding.

CONTINUATION....

As time went on, we began to miss our family members and loved ones. The network disturbance made it difficult for us to find time for social media, but fortunately, we could access the network at 1 am to call our loved ones. Some of the Nyamros even cried when their loved ones failed to respond to their calls, and others struggled to make fire due to the wet weather, which made cooking challenging.

While performing our duty in the south, we were fortunate to get beef meat freely, as most people in the region do not consume beef when their animals get injured or die. This allowed us to cook meals with beef for a week or two. We also had the opportunity to go out fishing and enjoy ample fish meals. Some even caught crabs but decided to release them alive, as it was hard for them to kill these creatures.

During our time on duty, we encountered majestic Bengal tigers, wild elephants, peacocks, and wild boars. Some of the Nyamros even collected peacock feathers for decoration. However, it wasn't always easy for us to perform duty at midnight, as elephants often came to the nearby post and posed a threat to us and the nearby villages. We also had to be cautious of the frequent sightings of poisonous snakes in the south.

One of the most challenging moments for us was dealing with transportation during sickness. The basic health unit was located at a considerable distance, and motor vehicles were rarely available to carry sick Nyamros. Travelling on hilly and mountainous roads while feeling unwell was both torturous and yet satisfactory in fulfilling our duty. One of the most nerve-wracking encounters we faced was with Indian military personnel, who carried AK-47s and other sophisticated guns during their patrolling on the border side. Our Nyamros had to standstill with only Lhadhi (wooden sticks). The Indian military personnel patrolled the border to take care of Indian civilians who crossed over to Bhutan to buy alcohol at a cheaper price. On one lucky day, we were able to help in the seizure of alcohol worth Nu 70,000, which was a significant achievement for us during our SBD duty.

Written By
15th Batch SBD Nyamros.

