



Sport and Local Development: Past and Present Successes and Challenges, and Future Safeguards

A multi-disciplinary seminar convened by Kipchumba Foundation in collaboration with St. Patrick's High School-Iten on Thursday 29 November 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Introduction

In recent times sport has become one of the most important commercial activities in the world. It has served many other functions such as promotion of peace, as demonstrated by West African FIFA world cup teams' performance like in Ivory Coast or even our own Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation annual peace race. The same has been extended to our local communities, where sport, especially athletics, is second most important activity for self-growth after education. However, not very much attention has been focused on the role of sport in local development in detail, especially at the policy level. While every policy-maker considers sport as a key pillar of national development, apparently, there is not much in tangible investment efforts to that effect. This is clear from the limited range of sports activities that are played by Kenyan teams at international levels.

In other cases, there is mismatch between the attention accorded to sports that Kenyans perform better by the Government and those that they do poorly; for instance, athletics that is well performed is underfunded compared with football that has successively recorded poor performances. This raises the question of the viability and reliability of existing Government priorities in promoting sport. However, it is understandable that football is seen as more of a national sport because it registers almost all ethnic communities compared with athletics that has been more or less dominated by the Kalenjin sub-ethnicities. Thus you will realize that if all

investment calculations are made the Government's efforts and priorities in this perspective are misplaced.

In addition, it is worth mentioning that Kenyan communities have had excellent sports activities that have not been patented or developed further. Such could have given more opportunities to the local communities because that is what is best for them, and, we have no doubt, that is what they can do better, although we do not want to sound judgmental. We would like to see such debates raised and developed by the presenters and other participants on the occasion of the seminar.

Themes

The seminar organizers welcome presentations in the general realm of sport and local development, including the following:

- Experiences of coaches in Kenya
- Financials of sport in Kenya
- History of sport in Kenya
- Opportunities in sports activities other than athletics
- Sport and environmental conservation
- Sport and entrepreneurship/ sport and private sector
- Sport and health
- Sport and peace in Kenya/ sport and policing/ sport and security
- Sport and politics
- Sport as leisure
- Sport as part of ethnic histories
- Sports policies in Kenya
- Transformation of sport in Kenya