

**SPORT FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.**

***(SPORTS AS VEHICLE IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE)***

Prepared by:

HENRY J. RAMADHANI

Director of Sports Development

Ministry of Labour, Youth Development and Sports

## **SPORT FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **SPORTS AS VEHICLE IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE**

#### Definition & Preamble

Sports are institutionalized competitive activities that involve vigorous physical exertion or the use of relatively complex physical skills by individuals whose participation is motivated by a combination of personal enjoyment and external rewards. It challenges gender roles and myths and crosses social and cultural barriers to bring about peace, development and holistic fitness.

#### The Role of the Sport in the Era of New Millennium and World of Globalization

The role must focus on promoting the fundamental elements in order to achieve "Global Millennium Development Goals" by United Nation Agencies. This is not a creation of new sporting champions and the development of sport, but rather the use of sport in broader development and peace building activities. Sports as a tool for development and peace must focus on the promotion of the fundamental elements in order to achieve *Global Millennium Development Goals* namely:

(a) Peace Promotion

(b) Development Promotion

(c) Holistic Fitness

Mentally

Physically

Socially

(Sports have public health benefit promotions).

The time is ripe to develop a coherent and systematic strategy for increasing the use of sport within our Communities and States. A common framework needs to be established that draws together sport-related initiatives and actors across the different sectors.

#### **FUNCTIONS**

Sports as a function for Peace and Development has a very big impact on the lives of. People. Its strong emotional power is so dynamic that can easily change millions of peoples' ideas in a second. Lessons and values learned by people involved in various sports activities whether young people on a soccer field, in swimming or on an athletic racetrack etc. have application for life. Sports functions must therefore develop the fundamental elements of sports promotions geared to the achieving of the Millennium Development

Goals which is one among U.N. endeavors to face the challenges of Millennium we have just crossed to.

The good sport influence has been noted in various functions as follows:

### 1) Sports as a Door to Conflicts Resolve

Between states

*Example: India and Pakistan have been at each other for year over a boarder dispute. They actually also participate against each other as Cricketing Nations and the vehicle of sport is used by them to try reach Peaceful agreements about their differences.*

It is a positive postulate to assume that some Nations is the Middle East might rather consider becoming Sporting Nations and by this vehicle try and settle differences rather than bloody wars and fighting.

Between Regions

*Example: During the year of the USSR, Sport ties between USA and USSR and in the long run it contributed to an understanding by way of which the Iron Curtain gat breached.*

*In Zimbabwe the Sporting World United against the Governments approach to certain political issue and the sport people are still participating and at this level contributes to understanding among the nations involved.*

### **Between Societies and Families**

**Example:** *Sports as a weapon to fight racism and protector against discrimination During the apartheid years in South Africa, Sport was used to break down the barriers and to bring Peaceful change in South Africa. The 1995 Rugby World stands a prime example for this.*

### **2) Sports as a Door to Development Promotions**

In the modern world, sport is a money-spinner and more and more nations are realizing the value of promoting sport as a part of the economic growth of a country.

By having peace brought through sport, it shall not only build one's physique, but also teaches communications, respect for others, and acceptance of failure. As such sports for peace is an important medium for strengthening the ties among different civilizations and value. In deed the co-existence of the above areas of success shall form a base for economic development.

It is within this function where sports industries fall, basing on different entrepreneurship avenues such as:

#### a) Tourism attraction

The availability of modern sports complexes and facilities will attract international competitions to be hosted in our countries. This shall definitely open door for tourism, as the influx of the fans for sports will arrange their trips, which will not end up only in the sports arena but also to our beautiful and historical touristic industries.

*Example of Tanzania: The Kilimanjaro- Pride of Tanzania and "Roof of Africa"*

#### b) Seasonal Sports

#### c) International Sports Academies

#### d) Sports Competitions (local and international) such as - All African Games

- Commonwealth Games

- Olympic Games

*EXSAMPLE:*

The construction of the Oar es Salaam National Sports Complex.

#### 3) Sports as a Door to Holistic Fitness

The connection between sports and healthy life has been clear since many years and it has proved to form a part in medical science through physiotherapy. Sports stimulate good habits, lesson and values. Regular exercise, healthy eating, together- with sound social life discipline contribute a lot to the holistic fitness which cover mental aspect, physical, as well as social aspect. These habits among others underpin a major part for our work to prevent various such as heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease, diabetes, oral disease, just to mention but a few.

**EXAMPLE:**

#### **CONCLUSION**

I have the honor and I am very much grateful to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism by respecting our Ministry of Labour, Youth Development and Sports to participate in this IIP SUMMIT ON SPORT FOR PEACE DEVELOPMENT. The importance of Peace Promotion through Sport has not only being emphasized by this Summit but also highly by United Nation Agencies in it's meeting as they cited the importance of sports and physical activities in promoting world public health and peace. (Ref. U.N. website in achieving the "Millennium Development Goals")

I once again repeat and emphasize, "Time is *ripe* to develop a coherent and systematic strategy for increasing the use of sport within our Communities and States. We must come up with a

common framework that draws together sport-related initiatives and actors across the different sectors. We urge countries/states to include sports and physical activities in their development policies and to promote initiatives to increase participation and access to sport".

**SPORTS IS A VEHICLE IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH.**