

CHALLENGES FACING SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF NIGERIA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY GAMES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SPORT DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This paper identified some challenges encountered during hosting of Nigeria Private University Games (NPUGA) in relating to game venues or site in the past and how the new hosting institution could overcome them for successful hosting of the next NPUGA edition. Some of the challenges identified are: some of the major events were played on borrowed or rented sub-standard sport facilities far away from hosting institutions without notifying the members institution; travel long distance from the hosting institution to the games' venues that some of the visiting institutions didn't plan for financially; during arrival and events some players and officials will be looking for venues for registration, games, meetings, accommodation and they didn't know where to go. Also, solutions were provided to some of these challenges. The paper recommended that private universities management needs to improve on their sporting facilities before bidding for hosting of NPUGA, as this will also facilitate sports development in their university.

Keywords: Games venue, sporting facilities, sporting events, proper planning

Introduction

A sport event is a social gathering that brings together a large number of people and activities on the occasion of a competition. A crucial part of any sports organisation's management operation will be its organisation and administration of the sporting events that are part of its sphere of operation. Sport, like so many other areas of life and business, changes radically and very quickly in this modern age (Iheanacho, Rufus & O'Neill, 2013). Sports has gotten more popular and attracted global recognition. It has become, in this millennium, a symbol of wealth, fame and recognition which has major influence on the social, political and economic growth of any country. It is a

means of bringing people of different cultures and creeds together, and serves as a venue where people of different genders, ages, religious backgrounds and political affiliations meet without any rancor. It is therefore a social agent where people of different ages and political backgrounds meet as either producers or consumers (athletes and spectators) (Akindutire & Oyeniyi, 2012). In recent times, while ranking the competitiveness and wellbeing of any nation at the international level in various economic, social, educational and other parameters, sports performance of any country makes a huge contribution in its overall performance.

Today, sports have entered into the subconscious and consciousness of man to

such an extent that man has become fanatically committed to the course of sports either as athletes, coaches spectators and sports administrators. People of the society today take part in various sporting activities, because of awareness of the importance of activities to the welfare and well-being of human as a whole. It is therefore important to train and retrain the personnel involved in sports administration from time to time, so that they can give their best in managing their respective organisations.

The primary interest of Sports Organisations (SOs) is the promotion of the sports concerned within the country (domestic sports development), their actual involvement of most SOs aim in pursuing both goals (that is, elite and sports development), which in practice may appear very difficult as each one demands different delivery systems(Kotter,2002). The study of organisational effectiveness in the context of the SOs is their human resources. Four internal identifiable groups (volunteers, paid administrative staff, contracted professionals and officials) have to work together in order for the SOs to deliver their services(Kotter,2002; Müller & Bíró, 2015).

When organizing a sports tournament, the selection of venue is just as important as the event budget and event date. The sports facility must not only meet the projected competition needs of the event, but it must be available on specific dates and it most certainly plays a major role in formatting the budget. Of lesser importance (but important nonetheless) might be its location in relation to hotels, airports or downtown areas. The competition needs and the

available dates can be answered before visiting the facility. If it is available when desired, and has the needed number of playing areas and seating, then it's time to tour it and talk details and money. The checklist for both of these items is found in the Event & Venue Checklist, and it should be reviewed thoroughly before making the visit. The event organizer who submits a detailed list of needs and requests to the facility will not be subject to last-minute surprises (Boyer, Musso, Barreau,Collas & Addadi,2007; Müller & Bíró, 2015).

Sports Venue

A venue is the place where an event or meeting is happening. If you're going to see the best band ever, you should get to the venue early to get a good seat. Venue is derived from the Latin for "come" (venire), and it's a place people come to. A sports venue is a building, structure, or place in which a sporting competition is held. The concept of the athlete village has been developed and successfully implemented during a number of Olympic Games (Boyer, Musso, Barreau,Collas & Addadi,2007). When a sport event brings delegations together for a long time, such as one or two weeks, it is usual to have the sportspeople live together in one location. The primary objective is to encourage the values of fraternity, universality and friendship that sport represents. Having people stay in one village also has other advantages. Creating a well-defined and protected zone assists in security and rule enforcement, as well as transport efficiency. The village also allows various services to be offered as a package, such as personal care, medical care, leisure activities and shops.

There are many moving parts that go into planning a sports tournament, from the perfect venue to ensuring you have correct number of water stations. Every detail that goes into planning a sporting tournament will help ensure that you hit your sporting event out of the park. Here are a few tips to consider as your start planning your next sports tournament. Every sport facility is expected to be meet international standard. But there are local ones that may not meet such standard. These ones are never accepted for use in international competitions. It is advisable that every sport facility should meet international standard. This is very helpful to sportsmen and women. Sports facilities are certified good and up to standard before they are put to use for any major or international competition. It is always the duty of the sport organizers at the regional, continental or even at the world level to delegate technical teams to inspect and certify that sport venues are good and suitable for use before competitions take place. While each technical teams inspect the sport venues, they would also inspect the equipment that will be used. It is common and accepted practice that with such disposable equipment like balls, shuttle cocks and the rest, only new ones are used for competitions (Morakinyo & Aluko, 2008; Chidi, 2018).

These are sports organisations that have some particular manufacturers or producers who are sponsors and only such products are accepted to be used for competitions. Any hosting club or country of any sport competition is advised to check from the regional or continental sport organisation where such sponsors exist before purchasing such equipment like balls for competitions. Whenever sport

venues are being constructed for competitions, the hosts should also bear in mind the use such venues will be put after the competitions. It will be very rewarding if sport venues can serve the public after the competitions. One of the best ways of maintaining sport facilities is to put them into use. It is important to have a broad understanding of the event in order to better shape its identity, to define the spirit you want it to have whilst also mastering its organisation. Every sport event is unique, and branding the project can help an organisation establish the event and make the most of the event's unique identity (Banji, 2006; Morakinyo & Aluko, 2008).

Brief History of Nigeria Private University Games Association

Nigeria Private University Games Association (often abbreviated as NPUGA) event is a national sporting competition, organized by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Registrars for private universities in Nigeria. By constitution, the 74 private universities accredited by the National Universities Commission are eligible to compete. NPUGA was founded in 2003, the competition is held once every two years at a host university (Ocheja, 2018). The objectives of the games according to the organizers are to promote national unity through sports; encourage physical and mental fitness among its participants; and act as a preparatory phase for athletes who could potentially represent Nigeria at international competitions. The games competed for by participating universities includes athletics, badminton, basketball, chess, football, Scrabble, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

Problems/Challenges Identification

In Nigeria at present, there are 79 National Universities Commission approved private universities. Despite this, only 18 of these universities participated in NPUGA 2013, 28 in 2015 and 22 in last edition of Nigeria Private University Games Association (NPUGA 2017) bi-annual competition. This is due to problems of game venues or site by hosting institutions in the past, this made some of the participating institutions not to be committed to the competition again. Some of the problems identified are:

- Playing some of the games on borrowed sports facilities
- Rented sports facilities
- Sub-standard sport facilities
- Distanced sports facilities from hosting institution
- Travel long distance from the hosting institution to the game's venues that some of the visiting institutions didn't plan for.
- During arrival for the competitions, players and officials will be looking for venues for registration, games, meetings, accommodation, there is no guide or someone in charge, to take good care of contingents from guest institutions.
- Insufficient or lack of accommodation for NPUGA athletes and officials inside the hosting institution.
- None provision of game village for the competition. There is always agreement by the NPUGA council that anyone private university that won the hosting right must provide the game venue for all athletes to meet and relax after their events,

but majority of the institutions that have hosted in the past didn't make provision for this.

There is no how Nigeria Private University Games Association, can have a successful competitions, if there is no solutions to these challenges.

Suggestion of Alternative Solutions

The alternative solution is designing a game venue for successful hosting of the next edition of Nigeria Private University Games (NPUGA). The hosting university must get ready to set and put everything needed in place to solve the problems the NPUGA had been encountering in the past events. Some of the solutions that should be provided by the university for successful hosting of the games are:

- Creation of game zone
- Sufficient facilities and equipment to be used during the competition
- All the game venues are within the campus and less than 5 minutes walking distance to each other, no need for participating athletes and officials to travel long distance.
- The accommodation for officials and athletes has been set for the participating institutions
- The game village has been marked out within the campus
- Production of information booklet for all the athletes and officials

Action Plan for Proper Planning

The hosting institution must have a working plan and put following into consideration for successful hosting:

- Labeling of all the facilities and their venues

- Selection of working teams for each facility
- Assign supervisors to each game venues
- Fixing and supervision of all minor repairs in some of the facilities
- Assign situation meeting rooms for each game venue
- Early registration of participating teams and sending of advance copy of contingency list for accommodation allocation
- Setting up information stands at the strategic location
- Training of staff, volunteers and securities that will be assigned to each venue
- Production of information booklet that will contain the designed games venue list and names, contacts phone numbers of supervisors and assistants in charge (Table 1 below).

Conclusion

This paper identified the challenges hosting of Nigeria Private University Games has been facing in relating to game venues or site in the past and solutions to the aforementioned problems were provided through the designed game venue template (see table 1).

Recommendations

1. Private universities management must improve on their sport facilities before bidding for hosting NPUGA.
2. There is need for various private universities to see the need for extramural competition, as it will expose their institutions to hosting events.
3. Proper documentation of any sporting event must be ensured as it will give room for correction of mistakes and provision for improvement for others that will host after them.
4. Private university management needs to improve on their sports facilities as this will also facilitate sports development in their university.
5. There is need for NPUGA council to set up a facility monitoring team, that will be checking hosting institutions facilities and ensure they are in order before the competition.
6. There is need for management of private to employ qualified and experience sport administrators in their sports center or unit.

Table 1: Template of Events and Game Venues Designed

Date	Event	Venue	Time	Remarks
December 10 th (Thursday)	Registration and Accreditation	Owolabi Hall	1:00pm-10:00pm	Arrival
December 11 th (Friday)	Drawing of fixture Welcoming party	TDC Hall Alpha Belgore hall	4:00pm 7:00pm	Welcoming event
December 12 th (Saturday)	Welcoming Programme Football Match Chess Volleyball Basketball	Sports Pavillion Football Field 1 TDC Hall (Chess Room) Volleyball Court 1 &2 Basketball court 1 &2	10:00am 4:00pm 4:00pm 4:00pm	Opening Ceremony
December 13 th (Sunday)	Games continue Badminton Tennis Table tennis Volleyball Basketball Chess Football Scrabble	TDC Hall Tennis court 1,2,3 &4 TDC Hall Volleyball court 1 & 2 Basketball court 1 & 2 TDC hall Football field 1, 2, & 3 TDC Hall	Morning session 8:00am-12:00pm Afternoon session 2:00pm-6:00pm Night session 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Games Preliminary stage
December 14 th (Monday)	Games continue Badminton Tennis Table tennis Volleyball Basketball Chess Football Scrabble	TDC Hall (Indoor Badminton Court 1, 2, & 3) Tennis court 1,2,3 &4 TDC Hall (2 nd Floor) Volleyball court 1 Basketball court 1 & 2 TDC hall (First floor Chess Room)	Morning session 8:00am-12:00pm Afternoon session 2:00pm-6:00pm Night session 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Knock out and finals

	Athletics	Football field 1, 2, & 3 TDC Hall (1 st Floor Scrabble Room) Track and field facility		
December 15 th (Tuesday)	Games continue Tennis Table tennis Volleyball Basketball Chess Football Swimming Athletics	Tennis court 1,2,3 &4 TDC Hall Volleyball court 1 & 2 Basketball court 1 & 2 TDC hall Football field 1, 2, & 3 TDC Hall (Indoor Pool) Track and field facility	Morning session 8:00am-12:00pm Afternoon session 2:00pm-6:00pm Night session 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Knock out and final
December 16 th (Wednesday)	Games continue Volleyball Basketball Football Swimming Athletics	Volleyball court 1 & 2 Basketball court 1 & 2 Football field 1, 2, & 3 TDC Hall (Indoor pool) Track and field facility	Morning session 8:00am-12:00pm Afternoon session 2:00pm-6:00pm Night session 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Knock out and final
December 17 th (Thursday)	Games continue Volleyball Basketball Football	Volleyball court 1 & 2 Basketball court 1 & 2 Football field 1, 2, & 3	Morning session 8:00am-12:00pm Afternoon session 2:00pm-6:00pm Night session	Knock out and final

			7:00pm - 9:00pm	
December 18 th (Friday)	Games continue Basketball Football	Basketball court 1 & 2 Football field 1 & 2	Morning session 8:00am – 12:00pm Afternoon session 3:00pm – 6:00pm	Knock out and final
December 19 th 9Saturday)	Closing ceremony Football	Sports Pavilion Football field 1	10:00am	Final
December 20 th Sunday	Departure			

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