

Address by Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay during the 2nd batch of Scout Leadership Program held on 19th July 2014 at Wangdue Phodrang.

My dear scouts

My dear scouts leaders

Thank you for allowing me to be part of what is a very special day in your lives and what is a very auspicious day in the scouting movement of Bhutan.

I want to congratulate each and every one of you - Scout Leaders. Each and every one of you deserves a heartiest congratulation. On behalf of the government, on behalf of the education family, your teachers, your fellow students I extend to you heartiest congratulation.

I want to tell you a secret. When I was a child, when I was a student I wanted to be a scout. I wanted to be part of this lovely movement that helped our school and our community, that wore uniforms, that met regularly, that could be easily identified by the scout scarf, that travel into the community to help them, that went on camps, build tents, build your own fire, cooked your own food and sang songs. I desperately wanted to be a scout. But I was small for my age, I was young for my class and there were only limited seats for the scout and I was not able to be a scout.

I regretted. Today when I see you, scout leaders passing out of the scout leadership program, I wish more than ever before that I like you were also a scout. That said I am extremely happy for you. I am so happy for you and I am proud for you for taking part in the scouting moment for making your fellow students and your teacher and parents proud, and most importantly for making your King, our King proud of you as scout.

Scouting is important. It is important for our school; it is important for the education system and important for our country. Scouting imbibes, in our youth essential values for nation building. It teaches us to work together, it teaches us to go beyond the call of duty, to volunteer in our schools and in our communities, it teaches us that we must come forward and accept responsibility - to make our class room safe, our school stronger and our country secure. It teaches us that the welfare of our communities, the prosperity of our communities is in our own hands and we must take responsibility for that.

Scouting all over the world teaches youth essential life skills, essential leadership skills but in Bhutan scouting goes beyond that. It teaches us the core Bhutanese

values of 'Tha Damtsi' and "Ley Judrey.' this is why scouting is important in Bhutan and this why His Majesty the King is the patron of scouting movement of Bhutan. This is why under His Majesty's vision and personal guidance we have no less than 20,000 scouts spread across our country in almost everyone of our schools.

What we have achieved in numbers, His Majesty now personally is improving in quality. You are here as scout leaders and had spent the last three weeks training, learning to become even better scout leaders so that you can go back to school and lead scouts and students alike. You are the leaders of Bhutan's very important scouting movement.

In this very training ground I have seen desup graduate. Desups come here, spend month or two and go back home and go back to their work. Desups are important for Bhutan, but as scouts after your training you back to your school and continue as scouts and you'll be scouts for many years. And in that respect I think you have a far bigger opportunity and far bigger role to play than desups. And remember always that as scouts and as scouts leaders your leader ultimately as the patron of scouting movement is His Majesty the King.

You have learned a lot in the last three weeks. You have learned a lot of theory in the classroom, you have learned a lot outside the classroom. You have learned to work hard and play hard and you have learned to lead, lead groups of fellow scouts. Put all that into use, take it back to your schools, take it back to the communities and put it in good use.

Always remembering to keep within you the inspiration that His Majesty the king has provided you. Always remember that you are his chosen ambassadors, you are his "Thuk Seys" – his heart sons, for the scouting movement.

As you graduate today I want to reiterate my heartily congratulations to all of you. I want to remind you to think of me as a little boy at school, wanting to join the scouting moment but not getting the opportunity. Think of me and then look at your fellow student in your school and imagine the many of them who would also want to join the scouting moment. But because of limited opportunities cannot join the scouting moment. Think of them who look at you as a role model, as an inspiration and then commit to yourself to be a true scout and a true scout leader. Lead these children inspire them to work harder in the classroom and play harder outside the classroom. And work harder to make our communities ever better. Most of all leave no stone unturn to work very hard to make our king, to make your king proud of you.

Scouts, scouts leaders as you pass out from the 2nd batch of Scout Leadership Program, I say to you Tashi Delek.