

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:

TOPIC: SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

INTERVIEWEE: IDADA JOACHIM

INTERVIEWER: ADEBOWALE

Meet F.I.Joachim Idada, highly respected apostle of the use of sports as a means of economic empowerment, especially for youth development. He like believes that that sports plays a vital role in development of the tourism industry. His company developed appropriate technology for harnessing sports. In this interview with our correspondent, he bears his mind on some nagging issues and recent project his company is currently developing.

Q: Who is Mr. Joachim Idada?

A: I read Mechanical Engineering in the University of Lagos and have a keen interest in youth development using sports. After my working career in a couple of companies, I have invested so much of time and resources in developing children and youths using sports as my medium of communication.

Q: Looking at your background. What kind of things and processes did you go through that has doctored your mind towards serving society via youth development?

A: I grew up in Ikoyi. I won't say I was privileged but i grew up amongst the white and a couple of elitist black people. I attended St Gregory's college initially from 1-3 before i changed to federal Government College Azare, Bauchi. I did some little of Judo when I was in secondary school, which was in Bauchi and chess in the university. As a little child I read a lot of comics. There was something that was unique about this foreign comics that came into the country at that time, there was page that had a coupon attached which also had a lot of sporting items advertised. You were required to mail the completed coupon to the publishers where you may be opportune to get one of the sport gifts. Unfortunately, I did not get any of the gifts but some of my friend got. Some got skate boards, bicycles etc. At that time Nigeria was very....! We had integrity and once they tell you that you've won something and it's shipped, you'll surely get it. But, today things have changed. That was how my keen interest in sports started. In Ikoyi then, we participated in a lots of sports, not just at school but at home because the compounds were big with a lot of space for recreation. Also, we went to St Saviours school, Ikoyi park to play and we were cub sub scouts but it seems that the people of today do not understand the importance of such places and have destroyed them by converting them to residential estates. These spaces have been sold and as a result we have lost a valuable tool in youth development.

Q: Tell me about the FIJI chess club?

A: In 1997 after playing chess mostly for Leisure, I came to understand that a lot of my decisions were based on things and principles learnt from chess and several sports. I also understood that sports had great benefits and along with this came a responsibility to give back to the society. So, I took to setting up FIJI Chess Club as a place that can positively impact the youths because I realise the If things do not change, they will become the forgotten generation. So, I started with the chess club, we had a few chess players, adult male and then Captain Zoan Petrovich, a captain fling for JAT/ADC Airline visited us and in the process a lot changed. He made us understand that sports especially Chess had greater benefits to children and not adults..... And so we started the SCDC, a committee of schools that appreciated the value found in games and who were determined to use these games as a tool for informal education. That was how SCDC was came to be. FIJI Chess Club grew and we produced many top national players and some of them are abroad today and we are very happy about that. I now felt that there was a need to impact and develop a more organized and strategic approach to sports and youth development in the country. So, we have grown from FIJI Chess club to FIJI Recreation Center.

Q: Now you are taking on more then Chess?

A: Yes. Now we are looking at every game because sports originated from games. Every game is important and we'll like to develop every game. FIJI Recreation Center is aimed at developing the mental aspect of games.

Q: You are one of the apostles of the dual nature of sports. Can you look at the psycho motive aspect of games?

A: Every game is psycho motive .There is the mental and the physical aspect. No matter the game, you'll have these two parts. if you do not have a good understanding of the mental nature, you cannot develop the physical up to a level where it becomes a source of economic value for you. In FIJI therefore, we feel that we must first emphasize the mental aspect of the game. When we appreciate only the physical aspect, there is this tendency of people not been able to compete at the highest level of the games.

In this country, we do not understand that you must have learnt, enjoyed, and developed hobbies before one can harness such pastimes and make them sources of economic treasures. The issue for us today, is that because of the Skewed nature of our educational curriculum, many youths loose the benefits of informal education. In the 60's, 70's and early 80's sports was an important point of the curriculum. But taking a look at our leagues and other sporting event, or listening to interviews conduct with many of our active sports personalities, you will be saddened. That is why developing the mental acumen of our sports men and women is important. Please note that we are not here to criticize, but we want to seek solutions, reform and transform the sports industry so that maybe current but definitely future practitioners will be treated with dignity and respect. As it is in other part of the develop society.

Q: Please sir, can you zero in on the online games and how people can earn dollars?

A: As I said earlier, every game is psycho motive. Here in this country, we have a fundamental problem. We only emphasize the physical part leaving out the mental. This is where we come. We want to shift attention to the mental part because if we acquire the right mental power, the physical becomes much easier. To excel at the top, it will take years to grow to the peak level of performance which requires such mental alertness that physical practice alone can not give. Sometimes up to 15 years of torturous mental and physical training. We have decided to reduce some games to the fundamental by looking at the thought processes involved in the game. These are now presented in a format which can be played using different ICT medium and platforms. Know that games are schematic illustration of life, example, monopoly teaches financial acumen, scrabble test word power, chess logic and ability of quick mental recollection etc. This online games and sports each designed to impact leisure, enjoyment while at the same time provide the opportunity for participants to each economic value.

Participants may earn financially i.e. our star prizes is \$100.00 each week per game but the most important part are the rating points which each participant earn quarterly. With this rating, participants may participate in rated tournament in these games. It is in this tournament that participant must compete to earn large sums of money. The value shall be based on the rating category or groupings. With this, we can identify and develop talented participant.

Q: How much does it take to be member?

A: It is absolutely free.

Q: Then Sir, how do you join this prestigious club if you permit me to call it so?

A: Go to our website, www.fjiventuresltd.com click on the FIJI Recreation Center or ASEN Icon, then membership, follow the prompt. After completing this process, you will receive a mail from us in your regular email address showing your membership number and password to your account. With these numbers you can then access your account.

Q: How do you then earn the \$100.00weekly?

A: First, I must say that this is no lottery. That is why we do not use the word win but earn! You procure pins online or through any of our dealer or retailer. After login into your account and using the pin you can the attempt the game puzzles. The step by step procedure has been pasted on the web. Then, on a weekly an electronic draw is held to determine who gets what! Every month, all entries will be rated using our rating software and total point earned will be published every quarter.