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AFRICA

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INFO

✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
3 May 2019	World Press Freedom Day	Melaka, Malaysia
15 May 2019	International Day of Families	Melaka, Malaysia
17 May 2019	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Melaka, Malaysia
17 May 2019	World Information Society Day	Melaka, Malaysia
21 May 2019	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	Melaka, Malaysia
29 May 2019	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Melaka, Malaysia
31 May 2019	World No-Tobacco Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ KENYA: KENYAN YOUTH NEED SKILLS-BASED TRAINING

Nairobi, 19 April 2019 -

THE shortage of skilled workers in the informal sector is a growing concern for a country such as ours, with 77 percent of Kenya's workforce employed in the informal sector.

A study by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics found that over 86 percent of Kenyan youth aged between 15 and 24 years believe that education is the ultimate path to a successful life but only 21 percent of the respondents professed to have college or university education.

With such a huge divide, the question remains: How can we leverage resources to fill existing gaps in the market?

Kenyan youth play an integral role in our economy's growth and can do even more.

Yet, in practice, many youth face an uphill task to participate meaningfully in a way that not only changes

their lives but also has an impact on the economy.

In response, several workforce initiatives have been introduced, Generation being one of them.

The programme, funded by McKinsey & Company, USAID, SIDA and the Safaricom Foundation, gives opportunity to any youth in Kenya with as low as a KCPE certificate to gain the requisite skills that will enable them to build meaningful careers in various fields, including finance and manufacturing.

After an evaluation of the local labour market to identify entry-level jobs that feature either high scarcity or high turnover, Generation creates four to eight-week programmes that offer specific technical and behavioural skills and support services.

The programme has graduated more than 13,000 youth and placed 84 percent

of these into meaningful employment. Some 70 percent of these youth have a KCSE grade C and below, and 57 percent of them are women.

A number of these graduates have been trained in Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings (TVET) institutions, in partnership with the Nairobi County government and several institutions in the government of Kenya.

The efforts of the Generation programme complement those of the government, whose focus on skills training in line with the Big Four agenda towards a sustainable economy has ensured our TVET institutions are supported.

Beyond channeling resources to these TVET institutions, the government has been running campaigns in a bid to influence the public's perception of vocational training and encourage youth to enrol in these institutions.

Public, private and civil society partnerships can create more sustained and effective results. When employers collaborate with training institutions to provide practical training that focuses on demand driven skills, this increases our pool of skilled workers and creates opportunities for improved productivity and economic growth.

This also benefits employers, as Generation has proven through a reduction in required interview hours, better trained professionals and employees who stay on the job longer.

This mutually beneficial engagement allows both employers and training institutions to play a role in solving the youth unemployment problem.

[Daily Nation]

✓ MALAWI: GOVT TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH-PRESIDENT

Lilongwe, 13 April 2018 -

PRESIDENT Peter Mutharika Friday has promised the youth of this country to create opportunities for employment and business in order to reduce poverty and suffering among them.

The President made the promise when he presided over the first Youth Innovation Awards at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

He said his job as a President is not to fight

anyone but to fight the challenges that cause suffering of youth and all Malawians.

The President made the promise when he presided over the first Youth Innovation Awards at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

He said his job as a President is not to fight anyone but to fight the challenges that cause suffering of youth and all Malawians. Mutharika assured the youth

of his support as a Global Champion for Youth and African Youth.

"I fight poverty! I fight hunger! I fight unemployment and I fight disease. These are the real four enemies of this country. These are my enemies," the Global Champion for Youth proclaimed.

The President said the country's economy is improving and give an opportunity to create jobs and new businesses

openings thereby reducing unemployment rate in the country mostly among the youth.

Mutharika said government is starting rural industrialization programme in order to create more jobs by establishing rural factories for manufacturing and value addition in agriculture.



“I am inspired to see most of you shaping your own lives and doing things for yourselves instead of waiting for anyone or Government,” he pointed out.

Minister of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development, Grace Chiumia said the issue of unemployment in the country still remains critical and that government alone could not absorb anyone.

She said the establishment

of Community Technical Colleges in the country has provided an opening among the youth to sharpen their skills, create self employment and businesses amongst them.

Chief Executive for National Youth Council of Malawi, Dingiswayo Jere said his organization is striving to make sure that most youth in the country are empowered to be self reliant.

He pointed out that there

need to investment more in the youth since the majority of the country’s populations are youth who could positive contribution to national development.

A Youth Representative, Maureen Phiri thanked government for involving the youth of the country to participate in vocational skills development, jobs for youth initiative including internship programme.

She said it was pleasing to note that you have directed

that those that were on internship should be permanently employed and recruited while some would extend their internship to next year.

President Mutharika was honoured for being Global Youth Champion during the ceremony.

[The Maravi Post]

✓ MOROCCO: 6TH ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM TO CONNECT YOUTH WITH EMPLOYERS

Rabat, 6 April 2019 - THE Morocco Youth Association in Ouarzazate hopes to build networks for the country’s future entrepreneurs by connecting them with business experts and professionals.

Ouarzazate With the goal of connecting creative young minds with business experts, the Morocco Youth Association will be hosting the sixth Moroccan Entrepreneurship Forum.

The forum will be held in its annual location of Ouarzazate, a desert city roughly 200 kilometres southeast of Marrakech.

Because of capacity constraints, the forum can only host a limited number of participants in order to attend, individuals must have applied and been accepted.

This year, the association received more than 1,000 applications from nearly a dozen cities across Morocco. Only 180 gained admittance.

By using the forum to bring

together young minds with professionals, the association hopes to cultivate entrepreneurial ideas that will benefit Moroccan society in the future.

“We want to develop the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth today because this could lead to the growth of all other industries in Morocco,” Marieme Thomson, a communications coordinator at the association who has helped plan the last four forums, told Morocco World News.

“Entrepreneurship is at the heart of many Moroccan cities. If we can cultivate this, all of Morocco will grow.”

At the forum, participants will have the opportunity to meet employers and business experts one-on-one. During these meetings, participants are expected to pitch new ideas and develop relationships with potential employers.

All of the opportunities the forum provides are

available to both Moroccans and migrants.

“Through entrepreneurship, everyone can be a benefit to society,” Thomson said. “We hope to give all people the same foundation in order for them to create the best businesses.”

Twelve of this year’s participants are originally from sub-Saharan African countries. While this is only roughly 7% of the participants, Thomson hopes the number will grow as the event does.

While the Morocco Youth Association’s focus is on growing in Ourazazate and spreading to other cities, the association has already received several invitations to host entrepreneurship forums in other African countries.

According to Thomson, this potential international partnership is still in the earliest stages of development.

“Our dream is that the forum will be held every month in every major city in

Morocco and than eventually across all of Africa,” Thomson said.

“We know this is a big dream, but we remind ourselves that everything the forum is right now, was also once just a big dream.”

[Morocco World News]



✓ NAMIBIA: GOVT CALLS ON THE YOUTH TO VOLUNTEER AT KATUTURA HOSPITAL

Windhoek, 2 April 2019 - THE Society for Family Health, in partnership with the Katutura State Hospital, wants 78 young volunteers who can work in various positions at the hospital.

A notice posted on their social media page mentions a range of available positions, which include 10 administrative officers; 43 cleaners; six porters; five artisans; four HIV-AIDS counsellors; four social workers, and four registered nurses.

Interested applicants must

be between 16 and 35 years of age.

No prior work experience is required from the prospective applicants, who will receive induction training.

"Applicants should be well-disciplined, trustworthy and be able to read and write, and have passed at least Grade 8," the notice states.

Applicants are advised to submit an application form before the 12 April 2019 deadline.

Meanwhile, health executive director Ben Nangombe has praised the non-governmental organisation, saying its interventions are complementary to the ministry's efforts to provide quality and comprehensive health delivery to communities.

"That specific initiative at Katutura State Hospital addresses the issue of staff shortages, and is a call to the public, in particular our youth, to promote community support and involvement," he said,

adding that volunteerism would provide the youth with an excellent opportunity to gain valuable experience.

Nangombe said the length of the initiative "will depend on the needs at the facility."

The initiative follows the government's halting of the placement of interns and trainees in the public service last year.

[The Namibian]

✓ UGANDA: MUSEVENI OFFERS 800 000 USD FOR FUNDING YOUTH PROJECTS

Kampala, 15 April 2019 - PRESIDENT Museveni has offered 800 000 USD (Ugandan Shs3 billion) for funding youth projects in 35 districts across the country, local media reports.

THE BIG PICTURE: Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the long-serving leader of Uganda has been lauded by Ugandans for his shoring up the Ugandan economy and beefing up the military amid Kigali and Kampala fallout. According to Daily Monitor, youth leaders will be trained in the making of soap, shampoo, tailoring, and salon, among other skills, for the project that will begin early next month.

"The youth have a lot to do and this can be translated into employment. There has been an outcry of unemployment but this will solve it partly.

The President has given this money and later he will be going around giving machines," the presidential

personal assistant added.

Last year, President Museveni commissioned more than 10 projects he funded through the formation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (Saccos), Monitor adds.

When the President of Uganda, Museveni, handed out Shs100m to the ghetto youth of Kamwokya, a Kampala suburb, a section of the public criticized the initiative, saying it had been from the result of the pressure brought by some opposition leaders who were rallying the youth.

Museveni said in the Financial Year 2018/2019 budget, Shs1.119 trillion had been put aside for Operation Wealth Creation programme, Youth Fund, Women Fund, Micro-finance, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, Luweero Triangle Fund, and KCCA, among other initiatives, through which

this money is channelled to the beneficiaries Monitor adds.

[Region Week (blog)]



✓ CANADA: NEW SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN YOUTH IN THE NORTH

Ottawa, 8 April 2019 - EXPEDITION to Community will engage about 300 youth through Canada Service Corps.

Canada's future prosperity depends on young Canadians getting the experience and skills they need to succeed.

That's why Will Amos, Member of Parliament for Pontiac, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, today announced Expedition to Community (E2C), a new program that aims to engage Canadian youth in community service in five Inuit communities located in four northern regions: Nunatsiavut, Nunavut, Nunavik and Inuvialuit.

Through this program, a

core group of 50 youth will in turn involve as many as 250 more in unique service opportunities that address issues and needs faced by communities across Canada's North.

Core participants will be provided with inspiration, incentives, key skills, supportive learning environments, and a range of learning opportunities that are suited to their own aspirations and interests.

E2C is delivered by the Students on Ice foundation, which educates youth about the importance of the Polar Regions.

Students on Ice receive funding through Canada Service Corps.

This January marked one year since the Prime Minister and Minister of

Youth, Justin Trudeau, launched the design phase of Canada Service Corps to promote civic engagement among young Canadians.

Canada Service Corps provides youth with access to service opportunities that are meaningful, while assisting them in gaining life skills.

These service opportunities will provide young people with the chance to make a difference in their communities.

"Canada Service Corps is about giving youth the opportunity to build a program that is for them, by them.

Through youth-led service programs like Expedition to Community, our government is helping Canada's young people

develop individual strengths and gain essential life experiences"

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

"Canada Service Corps serves community needs through innovative programs like Expedition to Community.

Programs like these give youth in rural and remote areas the chance to enrich their communities and build a better Canada for everyone. I look forward to seeing the expanding impact that youth leadership is having across our country."

[Canada Newswire]

✓ GUYANA: RUPUNUNI YOUTHS GET \$6M IN STIMULUS GRANTS

Georgetown, 22 April 2019 - BENEFICIARIES of the Hinterland Employment and Youth Service (HEYS) continue to receive financial support under the initiative, with 119 North and Central Rupununi youths recently receiving stimulus grants amounting to \$6 million in total.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) reported that the recipients all completed training under the programme and established businesses in the areas of cattle and chicken rearing, baking, honey production, etc.

Of the 119 youths, 60 of

them hail from 11 North Rupununi villages, including Anna, Surama, Rupertee, Wowetta, Aranaputa, Fairview, Massara, Rewa, Kwaimatta, Yakarinta, and Crash Water.

The 59 youths from the Central Rupununi were drawn from Yupakari,

Quatata, Fly Hill, Kaicumbay, Katoka and Simonie.

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA: NCB FOUNDATION INNOVATION CENTRE TO EMPOWER AT-RISK YOUTH

Kingston, 9 April 2019 - ONE hundred and fifty at-risk young people will be afforded opportunities to make better of their life and circumstances through a US\$1.5-million Digital and Innovation Centre, thanks to the National Commercial Bank (NCB) Foundation in partnership with The Trust for the Americas, a non-

profit entity affiliated to the Organization of American States (OAS).

"This is a momentous day for young Jamaicans and this is just the start, as we need to embark on an actual campaign to get the message out," said NCB Financial Group Chairman Michael Lee-Chin at

yesterday's signing of the memorandum of understanding at the bank's Atrium offices in New Kingston.

The centre will be part of the Trust's larger initiative, 'Creating a Brighter Future for Jamaican Youth through Technology and Innovation', which seeks to establish 11 technology

centres and innovation laboratories across Jamaica to foster economic growth and citizen security through workforce development, technology training and leadership skills.



In a one-year period, the initiative will offer the participants the opportunity to follow one of two tracks: Skills of Tomorrow which includes digital skills, coding, and job readiness or Entrepreneurship, which provides innovation modules on business and opportunity to create microenterprises.

The Trust for the Americas began designing the strategy in 2016 after receiving a generous grant from Citi Foundation to establish the first Innovation Laboratory in Jamaica, and additional support from the United States Agency for International Development

(USAID).

“We live in an era that is driven by technology and innovation. By democratising innovation, we give every Jamaican the opportunity to create wealth,” NCB’s head honcho said.

Trust CEO Linda Eddleman said, “The NCB Foundation Digital and Innovation Centre will be the first to provide skills for the jobs of tomorrow to at-risk youth. Every centre designed by The Trust focuses on different challenges and opportunities.

She said that the OAS is

working to promote STEM education, leadership and job readiness, combined with innovation and entrepreneurship readiness throughout Jamaica.

Meanwhile, OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs James Lambert noted that in an ever-connected world, it is important to invest in technological skills training, reasoning that those new abilities demand a new approach in the way we think of work and the way we discover opportunities, especially for youth.

“The Trust of the Americas is very proud to partner with the NCB Foundation to

launch this digital centre and the distinct focus it will bring on STEM subjects and knowledge and abilities on the part of youths to ensure that today’s students become the change makers, and people that are capable of challenging and pushing forward into our dynamic future,” he said.

[Jamaica Gleaner]

✓ PERU: PERU SHOULD HELP MORE YOUNG VULNERABLE PEOPLE INTO WORK

Lima, 20 April 2019 - PERU’s remarkable economic growth since the 2000s and policies targeting the most vulnerable young people have helped boost the youth employment rate.

Peru should now focus on improving job opportunities for low-skilled youth, young women and indigenous and Afro Peruvian youth, according to a new OECD report.

Investing in Youth: Peru says that the youth employment rate today is higher than both the average of OECD countries and many Latin American countries. But many challenges remain.

Income inequality is high and poverty has risen recently.

A large share of the youth workforce with a lack of the right skills and a sizeable informal sector hinder the transition to a more

productive, better-paid and better quality jobs for Peruvian youth.

Young people with tertiary education face an even higher risk of unemployment than their less-educated peers.

In 2017 their unemployment rate was 14.6%, compared to 8.7% for people with a secondary education degree and 7.3% for unskilled youth.

The situation of limited employment opportunities for many youth also translates into low levels of well-being.

This compares to an OECD average of about 20% and places Peruvian youth towards the worse-off end of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Today’s high proportion and number of youth in the Peruvian working age population is set to decline in the near future.

Without action, the opportunities to benefit from the growth dividend associated with the demographic bonus will fade away, according to the report.

To help more young people into work, the OECD recommends that Peru:

Strengthen social dialogue with unions, civil society and employers in order to improve labour market policies that reduce the dualism of the labour market between permanent and temporary contracts and encourage employers to hire young workers.

Ensure that business incentives, such as tax breaks for small firms, do not discourage them from expanding and hiring young workers.

Expand and increase the efficiency of the public

employment services (PES) by strengthening recruitment and training programmes for caseworkers.

Continue efforts to increase the enrolment and learning performance of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Engage in ambitious policies to tackle the vulnerability of young Peruvian women.

Combat discrimination against indigenous and Afro-Peruvian youth; and

Boost job opportunities for rural indigenous youth by implementing a nationally co-ordinated strategy to help rural populations engage in new and more profitable entrepreneurial activities.

[Modern Diplomacy]



✓ SURINAME: CADRE OF TRAINERS TO RESPOND TO YOUTH CRIME IN CARICOM

Georgetown, 1 April 2019 -

Guyana – As part of the approach to fight crime and violence from a social perspective, several persons associated with youth development will benefit from training in five member states of the Caribbean community over the next month.

The training is aimed at establishing a cadre of trainers to build the capacity of youths at risk of or are already in conflict with the law.

The training which will be held in the member states of Saint Lucia, Guyana, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica, includes parenting skills, life skills development parenting skills leadership and mentoring.

It is an activity of the crime and violence prevention and social development project in the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM), under the more extensive CARIFORUM/European Union crime and security cooperation programme being implemented under the 10th European Development Fund.

The training initiative builds on outcomes of and expands the Gangs and Violence: Partnering for Prevention and Social Development Pilot Project.

The activity is intended to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to facilitate gang leaders with life skills which will enable them to better re-integrate into society.

This involves the conduct of

gang prevention training workshops targeting rehabilitated gang leaders, parents, teachers, school administrators and faith-based organisations (FBOs).

To this end, approximately 35 trainees will be drawn from identified schools and related communities, past student associations, the business sector and faith-based organisations and youth institutions.

According to project manager at the CARICOM Secretariat, Louis Dodson, such programmes are intended to result in community-based initiatives aimed at creating behaviour change and fostering proactive, healthy and productive lifestyles for at-risk youths and by extension their communities.

“Youth already in conflict with the law must be targeted when addressing the issues related to reducing crime and violence to enhance their chances of navigating out of the paths they have begun to traverse,” Dodson emphasised.

The project manager noted, as well that the social crime prevention approach addresses the root causes for example, poor education, lack of opportunity, drug addiction and alcoholism of crime, driven by poor social conditions.

[Caribbean News]

NEWS



✓ CHINA: DEPRESSION AFFECTS NEARLY 30 PER CENT OF CHINA'S YOUTH

Beijing, 18 April 2019 - Almost 30 per cent of Chinese young people aged 14-35 are in danger of becoming depressed, with 8.1 per cent considered high-risk, according to recent research by the China Youth & Children Research Centre and the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Compared with research carried out in 2008, the situation is getting worse. Then, 75.8 per cent of young people were free from depression.

However, in 2019, only 70.5 per cent show no depressive tendencies, with 21.4 per cent in danger of becoming depressed.

While 7.4 per cent of respondents were highly likely to become depressed in 2008, that figure has risen to 8.1 per cent in 2019.

Also, it seems depression is more likely to affect men, with 9.1 per cent of male respondents considered high-risk compared with 7.2 per cent of women.

More middle-school students suffer from anxiety than do university students and office workers, with 5.5 per cent reporting severe anxiety compared with 3.9 per cent of university students and 5.2 per cent of office workers.

Almost 30% of Chinese

young people aged 14-35 are in danger of becoming depressed, with 8.1% considered high risk.

Pressure comes from three primary sources: financial situation, career and school work.

For office workers, financial pressure is the main burden, with 72.1 per cent of respondents citing it as their main concern.

For middle-school and university students, schoolwork tops the charts, with 88.7 per cent and 77.3 per cent of respective groups noting it as their No 1 cause of anxiety.

Young people note that ef-

fective ways to ease pressure and soothe anxiety include talking with others about their worries (43.9 per cent), seeking advice from their families and friends (35.4 per cent) and participating in activities (31.7 per cent).

According to respondents, unhelpful ways to release pressure include suppressing anxiety (64.4 per cent), having a rest and leaving the problem alone (30.1 per cent), and using cigarettes, alcohol or food (20.8 per cent).

[Telegraph.co.uk]

✓ INDIA: YOUTH TO SUFFER FURY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA

New Delhi, 23 April 2019 - WITH every passing year, India's increasing suffering at the hands of drought and extreme weather showcases more evidence of the devastating effects of climate change jolting the country.

More than 400 people died in a span of 100 days last year as a result of 40 storms ravaging the country.

Thermal power plants, that were set to be shut down, such as the Badarpur power plant in Delhi, continue to pollute, and the government fails to warn citizens about the storms early enough, despite early warning systems being put in place.

But in the recent years,

those that have been standing up against the government's lackadaisical climate action have been the youth not just in India but around the world.

It is widely known that climate change will hit the poorest the hardest; however, not only will climate change deepen inequalities within a generation, it will also exacerbate the inequalities between different future generations.

Present inaction on climate change will leave the burden of coping with its deleterious impacts on the youth and future generations. But, the youth of today are not settling for this grim fate.

In recent years, the youth

globally have become the vanguard in the fight against climate injustice. In experiencing the first-hand the toll climate change takes on them and their communities youth are now protesting and employing advocacy as ways to combat climate inaction.

The Youth Climate March also known as the "Zero Hour" March, held in Washington, DC on July 21 last year, along with sister marches that took place around the world, are testament to the fact that the world's youth do not depend on adults to help improve their lives on this planet.

This teenager-led movement used the power of social media and advocacy to raise awareness and call for

immediate action towards climate change. Today's youth are also becoming more environmentally conscious and taking action through lifestyle changes.

In India, the zero-waste movement has been gaining traction over the last few years, with an increasing number of youth committing to creating minimal waste.

What started as an online group of a few hundred members on social media a few years ago has now become a community of around 16,000 members pledging to avoid waste creation and landfill emissions.



In November 2016, a group of 21 young people between the ages of 9 and 20 sued the US government for failing to take adequate and appropriate action towards climate change and protecting public resources, resulting in a violation of the younger generations' constitutional rights to life, liberty and property.

Considering that a majority of India's population comprises of

youth with more than half of the country's population of 1.25 billion people less than 25 years of age it is almost inconceivable to see the Indian government's lack of climate action to protect its future generations, and drivers of economy and society. In witnessing increasing environmental destruction and lethargic climate action by people in power, humanity and especially the youth must not become hopeless and

spiral into apocalyptic fatigue.

We, the youth, should persevere and continue to speak up, engage with others and fight for everyone's rights, just like many are already doing today.

The more we consistently demand for action and the more people join the climate movement, the more the government and other entities will cave in to our needs. And as

people (of all ages) sharing this world over time, there needs to be an effort to empathise and mentally connect with those that are yet to arrive at our home (like many already attempting to do with their ancestors), and to join the fight for their well-being too.

[The Hans India]

✓ MALAYSIA: RM10 MIL FOR IMPACT MALAYSIA YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Subang Jaya, 19 April 2019

The government has allocated RM10 million to Impact Malaysia, which has been set up for youth and social development projects, said Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Abdul Rahman.

He said Impact Malaysia is a platform to connect government bodies, corporate companies,

NGOs, civil community organisations, social enterprises and individuals.

“At the moment, we have too many volunteer programmes. In fact, many ministries also have the same volunteer programmes and these are overlapping, resulting in ministries competing among themselves.

“Therefore, Impact Malaysia is a combination of all parties, opening doors to NGOs, corporate companies, industries and even individuals to carry out social innovation with the latest technology,” he told reporters after launching Impact Malaysia at Spacecubix in Puchong near here today. Commenting further, Syed Saddiq said Impact

Malaysia is not just a rebranding of the previous 1Malaysia 4 Youth (iM4U). He said all programmes formulated are different and they would have an effect on the community in the long run.

[Free Malaysia Today]

✓ PAKISTAN: PAKISTAN & YOUTH AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY REVOLUTION

Islamabad, 2 April 2019 -

PAKISTAN and Youth seminar has been organized by the Pakistan Studies department of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) to uplift the budding youth efforts into most prosperous nation.

Notorious Scholar and author Prof Dr Fateh Muhammad Malik addressing the seminar stated that the youth has a very important role to play in fortify of any country since they are an integral part of any revolution.

Even Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad

Ali Jinnah had focused on the youth in their effort to build Pakistan. The youth can make the most urbanized and flourishing country in the world, he added.

DR. Malik addressed that the adolescence is imperative in the freedom of Pakistan and it is our duty to give the youth a chance to turn Pakistan's into a great nation.

He further added that all of Allama Iqbal's poetry is about the youth.

“Through his poetry, he tried to make the youth understand the importance

of freedom.”

[OyeYeah]



✓ QATAR: GOVT TO FULFILL 100,000 QATAR JOB QUOTA BY YEAR END: ZULFIQAR BUKHARI

Islamabad, 28 April 2019 - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sayed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari has vowed to fulfill the 100,000 manpower quota, recently announced by Qatar, till the end of 2019 in a bid to alleviate unemployment at home.

Previously, as many as 45,000 skilled and semi skilled workforce has been sent to Qatar for prospective job opportunities in construction and other sectors, he shared the figure while reiterating his government's resolve of creating maximum employment for youth.

Underlining the need to build a skill-set for the country's workforce, Zulfiqar Bukhari said his ministry was deliberating upon various ways to produce skilled manpower, adding that he was in contact with the quarters concerned in Qatar to increase the job quota for Pakistanis.

Zulfiqar Bukhari said increased job opportunities in Qatar for Pakistani manpower would pave the way to making the national economy stronger and vibrant.

Highlighting his government efforts on diplomatic front, he said Qatar has established three visa facilitation centres at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to ensure swift processing of intending emigrants' visas.

Bukhari said special facilitation Centers were setup for the aspirants, who see Qatar as a prospective foreign job destination, to augment Pakistani

manpower abroad, in addition to lessening chances of their exploitation by employers.

He said those centers were aimed at protecting the rights of the workforce, who faced different problems at the hands of employers.

"Such a facility eases the visa getting process for Pakistanis, ensure their safety and legal rights in Qatar, giving a substantial boost to the receipt of remittances through legal means," the Special Assistant asserted.

Bukhari said Qatar intended to further strengthen its ties with Pakistan, which was evident from the fact that it had selected Pakistan from eight countries for setting up 'Qatar Visa Center' to facilitate the aspirant manpower.

[The Peninsula Qatar]

NEWS



✓ AZERBAIJAN: IMPLEMENTS PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN TOURISM

Baku, 13 April 2019 - A youth project that is implemented by the Public Association "Supporting Youth Solidarity".

"The fair took place on April 12-13 and it is obvious that it aroused great interest among young people.

Through such events, young people are given a real opportunity to get the necessary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeva said.

The youth project, as part of which the fair was held, is aimed at enhancing the role of the tourism sector in improving the business environment in Azerbaijan, she added.

The fair was held on April 12-13 in the Agro Mall shopping center with the participation of representatives of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan, Baku Textile Factory, as well as employees of many travel and consulting companies.

[AzerNews]

She noted that the two-day event was held as part of a

✓ BELGIUM: YOUTH FOR CLIMATE LAUNCHES PLATFORM TO GATHER CITIZEN IDEAS

City of Brussels, 23 April 2019 - THE movement at the root of the so-called pro-climate "school strikes", Youth for Climate, is launching an online platform, intended for compiling citizen ideas to limit global warming.

The solutions proposed will be submitted to the authorities, "the idleness" of which youngsters are denouncing every week in the streets.

Flowing from the demonstration this Thursday, the fourth organised in Brussels by Youth For Climate, the collective has unveiled its new platform. "We will continue our demonstrations until we are sure that we have been heard.

However, we also wish to give people who are not (yet) engaging in climate initiatives, the opportunity to make their voice heard," indicates the collective.

"It is not simply youngsters' ideas any longer, indeed everyone can post suggestions there," states the French-speaking coordinator, Adélaïde Charlier.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is fixed as 31 March 2019.

These will be analysed by a committee which will assess their given feasibility.

Internet surfers will then be able to vote for those which, in their view, must be the priorities for the next parliament.

The most successful ideas will be submitted to the authorities. "We hope that politicians will be inspired by some of these ideas," adds Dries Cornelissens, of Youth for Climate.

On Thursday, some 12,500 youngsters, once again, demonstrated in the streets of the capital demanding significant political measures to fight climate change.

Although less numerous than last week, youngsters nevertheless continued to demonstrate. "The movement is not crumbling as such but it is dispersing," states Adélaïde Charlier.

For example in Liège, more than 15,000 students also walked through the streets.

[The Brussels Times]

✓ BULGARIA: UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA WAS 4.7% IN FEBRUARY 2019 – EUROSTAT

Sofia, 1 April 2019 - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria was 4.7 per cent in February 2019, down from 5.4 per cent in February 2018 and unchanged from January, according to seasonally-adjusted figures released by European Union statistics agency Eurostat on April 1.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate in February 2019 represented about 157 000 people, down from about 182 000 the same month a year earlier, Eurostat said.

February 2019 was the latest in a succession of months that Bulgaria's unemployment rate was below the EU average, which was 6.5 per cent the lowest across the 28 member states of the EU since the start of the monthly unemployment series in January 2000, the statistics agency said.

In Bulgaria, youth unemployment in February 2019 was 12.4 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in February 2018. This represented about 18 000 Bulgarian under-25s, compared with 20 000 a year earlier.

[The Sofia Globe]



✓ GERMANY: 'SKILFUL YOUTH CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Berlin, 10 April 2019 - SKILFUL Pakistani youth can take the advantage of business opportunities available in the West, especially in Germany.

This was stated by Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of GoNetwork Germany Zeshan Pasha while addressing an even titled "Innovative Business Models for Youth and Business Opportunities in Germany for Pakistan."

Pasha said that he started his journey in Germany by distributing newspapers but with the passage of time, he started a small business by investing 25,000 euros and now within just 10 years his company is providing jobs to dozens of people in Germany and company is expanding operations to Pakistan.

"To have a successful business, one needs innovative thinking,

courage, determination and commitment. Anybody equipped with these tools with sound technological knowledge has vast opportunities in Germany," he said.

Pasha said that his company wants to expand business in Pakistan especially in real state sector, adding that authorities in Pakistan need to formulate business friendly policies and must encourage those who want to invest.

Many German companies can be convinced to invest in Pakistan if suitable business opportunities are provided as Pakistan is a huge market. Pakistanis in Germany will serve as a bridge in this regard, he said.

[Business Recorder]

✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

Bucharest, 6 April 2019 - BANCPOST sends the most talented IT specialists from Romania to the competition "Beyond Hackathon" dedicated to young IT specialists (software developer, designer, marketer, business developer), an event to be held between 17-19 March 2017 in Athens.

The Bank supports thus the IT industry, offering young talents real chances to national and international recognition.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects which can make a difference in the field of financial services and products and can thus influence the future of banking.

Beyond Hackathon is now at its second edition and is organised by Eurobank Group in a partnership with Foundation M.P. and The Cube Workspace M.I.K.E. and with Eurobank Group subsidiaries in the region Bancpost SA (Romania), Eurobank Bulgaria AD and

Eurobank Cyprus Ltd.

This year's novelty is that start-ups may also participate in the competition companies in this field with maximum 5 years' experience.

During three days IT specialists - programmers, software developers, designers and business developers - will participate in workshops held by international leaders in FinTech and will have the opportunity to interact with experts in various fields (business, design, technology and communications).

The final objective is to generate innovative ideas which can materialise in future banking products and services.

First 10 Romanian specialists registered in the competition will benefit from free participation (within the limit of 500 Euro/participant), according to terms and conditions of the campaign „Bancpost sends you to Beyond Hackathon”.

In the end participants will be able to present their ideas before a jury, and the first three projects will be granted money awards (€5,000, €3,000 and €2,000 respectively), as well as the opportunity to implement the projects with Eurobank support.

[The Daily Star]



✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IS A NATIONAL CRISIS

Canberra, 16 April 2019 -

IT is hard for many of us to comprehend, but trapped within the current political and social system, children as young as 12 are facing life without a permanent roof over their heads.

The 2016 census recorded over 37,000 people without a home in New South Wales. This figure is even more sobering when you realise 9,000 of those were children.

While the problem is not unique to NSW, there is no escaping the fact that the state is Australia's worst offender. The next closest is Victoria, with 6,373.

Reducing youth homelessness had been one of the NSW Premier's key 12 priorities, backed with actions including the Rent Choice Youth Subsidy and investing \$1 billion into social housing and homelessness services.

The team previously reached its goal of increasing the number of young people entering stable housing from 29% to 34%.

While the sentiment and the cash appeared to be heading in the right direction as one small part of solution, it is now unclear what the Premier and her new team are planning on committing to around youth homelessness specifically.

Homelessness is not just the young people seen sleeping rough on the streets; it's those couch-surfing or sleeping in their car, and the thousands taking refuge in overcrowded homeless

shelters. Nationally, things are even more worrying. Compared to other countries, Australia's youth homelessness efforts are ineffective and almost non-existent.

The unfathomable fact is, there is no single national plan for reducing youth homelessness. Governments come and go, but the issues faced by our young people remain.

It's important to realise that those affected by homelessness have ever-changing, complex needs.

Consider this: how could a young person hope to get Centerline, Medicare benefits or even a job if they don't have a fixed address?

These are the questions Australia must face up to, fast. For 30 years, we have been making the same findings, and offering similar solutions. So how do we dig our way out?

Youth homelessness comes from a mix of factors, including domestic violence, mental health, family breakdowns, and financial hardship.

The real solutions will come when we start facing up to the issue's painful root causes.

As it stands, our system has a one track mind, focussing on picking up the pieces after the damage has already been done.

The model focuses on repairing the damage after

a crisis but imagine what could be achieved if we channelled more funding into early intervention services.

Children faced with homelessness from a young age are far more likely to drop out of school and fail to find regular, consistent employment.

Instead of putting a band-aid over the wound, early intervention can stop the fall from happening in the first place.

Currently, there are many gaps in support for children and young people between the ages of 12 and 24.

In NSW, the Department of Family and Community Services has made some inroads with its Homeless Youth Assistance Program, but the money doesn't stretch far enough.

Places are few and far between, and there's often confusion around who actually holds responsibility for that child.

Foster and care homes are not available for everyone who might need care.

Children can have multiple placements 15 is not an uncommon number which fail to provide stability throughout those formative years.

While carers and foster agencies have seen investment, young people are still lacking adequate, stable homes to allow them time and opportunity to repair.

A difficult problem requires

a holistic solution.

Instead of simply throwing more money at standalone programs or services, we must ensure schools, real estate agents, social services; businesses and charities work together as a cohesive unit.

While NSW clearly has a lot of work to do (we have the highest number of young people experiencing homelessness in the nation), a national crisis also requires a national plan.

As it stands, Australia has no single path towards solving the problem.

It's not an impossible dream there are already federal mechanisms that could go a long way to fixing the problem, including a cohesive housing plan and raising youth allowance.

These young people are not faceless statistics.

They went to school with your children, lived in your neighbourhood, or sat next to you on the train. Their plight is your problem and it is mine.

Sure, there are policies in place. But as it stands, our efforts are too small. We must urgently recognise that youth homelessness is an issue for the entire community, and that Australia sits far behind its global equivalents.

[Women's Agenda]



✓ FIJI: ANZ SUPPORTS FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR FIJI YOUTHS

Suva, 6 April 2019 - GOODNEWS for youth leaders across Fiji as they will be part of a program that will help instill in them a culture of saving.

This will be delivered to young people across the country through a new partnership between ANZ and Ola Fou where they will be given the opportunity to be part of Money Minded and Business Basics which is ANZ's financial literacy

program. Ola Fou, which means new life, empowers young Pacific leaders to work for positive change in their communities.

ANZ Fiji Country Head, Saud Minam says as part of their initial 3 year partnerships, ANZ will provide Ola Fou with training and accreditation to deliver both Money Minded and Business Basics. He adds that this program

have been successful in improving financial literacy and will add value to the great work Ola Fou is already doing in communities in Fiji.

Minam says that around 12,000 people in Fiji have already taken part in Money Minded program.

Ola Fou Fiji Chairman, Geoffrey Nainoca says that they are pleased to partner with ANZ to deliver Money

Minded in the villages and settlements that they support across Fiji. Nainoca stated that their footprint will extend to Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and PNG, so there is opportunity to grow their partners in the future.

[Fiji Sun Online]

✓ NEWZEALAND: STUNT COMPETITION AIMS TO HELP YOUTH IN SOUTH AUCKLAND

Wellington, 27 April 2019 - COMMUNITY leaders in the Auckland suburb Ōtara are coming together to create a bike stunt competition partly to educate young people about safety.

A social worker who lives in the area, Rocky Misiepo, said he loves the community but there are problems.

He said one of them is young people riding down public roads doing stunts on their bikes.

"On a safety scale, yes it is a problem."

"But these are just fundamentals that these kids have grown up into an environment where madness is fun."

That is why he and five others are putting their heads together to try pull off a wheelie bike competition for the area.

Mr Misiepo said the event would be a chance for community leaders to help teenagers figure out their future.

"A lot of our young people don't even know what they want to do," he said.

"For example, to put into context, a lot of our young people in school will pass their NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3, but it's actually [about] what you do with it when you leave school.

"So that's where the transition takes place."

He said it was about tapping into what young people are passionate about and putting their skills into practical, career pathways.

"Some of these kids that I have intervened with in schools at MIT they actually want to be able to fix bikes, mountain bikes, BMX bikes and motorbikes - so that's where the bigger picture lies," he said.

Mr Misiepo said the teenagers he has talked to so far are asking a lot of questions about it and are excited about a competition.

He said anyone can get involved.

"If you see us out here, come through and get

involved ... participation is pretty much key," he said.

"For us as a community we just need to kōrero and bring it all together."

Out on the basketball courts, one 18 year old who has lived in Ōtara his whole life, is thrilled about the prospect of a wheelie competition.

"I reckon it would be a good experience for some of the boys ... people riding around on their bikes, they're really talented," he said.

Locations and safety management for the event are still being discussed but the community is hoping to hold the competition before June this year.

[Stuff.co.nz]



✓ PAPUA GUINEA: LITERACY VITAL FOR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

Port Moresby, 10 April 2019 - LITERACY is a word that has multiple meanings behind it. Every individual will have their own definition of what literacy is and how it affects societies today.

Generally, literacy can mean anything that is recognised, read or even just being understood by an individual.

Without literacy the world would fall apart and everyday tasks would be impossible to be completed because it is the ultimate superpower that should be attainable by everyone but is not used to its full potential.

One of the most influential parts of literacy is the lives of individuals in the literacy events that occur in everyday situations such as doing shopping, chatting with friends, going out for a ride or party, literacy will always be prompt.

Literacy can also bring the world to its knees or to another level with the help from the communication around the world because it contains power that can build or destroy a person. Without literacy, a country's society can be razed through the struggles and hardships that lead to high crimes whereas with literacy, it can make a country soar with technology and a thriving economy.

For a developing country like Papua New Guinea, illiteracy is one of the most daunting challenges and main drivers of tribal fights, crimes, violence against women, drugging and home brew activities which have lured the lives of many unemployed youths, abandoning education as the fundamental source to a better life.

According to a literacy report in 2015, youth literacy is low at

approximately 63 per cent and covers the population between the ages of 15-24 years.

An estimated 60 – 70 per cent of our population consists of youths and only 20-30 per cent has acquired decent education.

The good news is that one of the objectives of the national governments in the Millennium Development Goal is to achieve 70 per cent literacy rate by the year 2025 including addressing adult literacy.

If the people are illiterate, they will never know how to look after themselves and live a healthy lifestyle. They will lack respect and common understanding.

For example, your ethnic background can also be a major contribution to the amount of acceptance and your views on the society.

Having the ability to be well

educated gives you the advantage on how to change the views of others and the ethnic group in which you belong to.

Literacy teaches you on how to be independent, confident and being true to yourself. It also broadens one's knowledge to differentiate right from wrong. Although there are occasions where literacy is not as important as it seems, being well educated is a crucial thing in order to make you stand out and be able to navigate through your community because in a world like this, it is what you need in order to be successful.

[Post-Courier]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA'S YOUTH HONOURED WITH INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS PRIZE

Apia, 20 April 2019 - IN May this year, Samoa's Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa's borders.

"Most of our members live

on the coastline," Ms. Kwan said.

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it's great to see youth in particular being honoured.

As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

"But there has definitely been a huge shift since we started Y.C.A.N.," she said. "We're actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground."

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old youth group working on defending Samoa's coastal

areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960's. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[Samoa Observer]

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