



### ✓ In Today's Bulletin

**MALAWI**: Youths Encouraged To Plant Trees

**NAMIBIA**: NEEEF – An Opportunity For Youth

**NIGERIA**: Peugeot Launches Youth Empowerment Initiative In Nigeria

**SOUTH AFRICA**: Youth Employment Initiative To Be Launched This Month

**UGANDA**: Uganda To Host Fourth Commonwealth Youth Symposium

**CANADA**: A Good Start To Helping Youth Enter The Workforce

**JAMAICA**: At-Risk Youth Get Second Chance

**ROMANIA**: Young People Set To Make Life-Changing Journey To Romania

**RUSSIA**: Young Scientists From Russia Develop Engineering Equipment

**SPAIN**: Youth Jobless Rate In Spain At 42pc In First Quarter

**BANGALDESH**: Tapping the Potential of Our Youth

**PAKISTAN**: KP Governor Says Govt Taking Steps For Development of Youth

**PALESTINE**: A Ray of Hope for Palestine's Youth

**PHILIPPINES**: Makati Engages Youth Participation for Drug-Free Communities

**QATAR**: Youth Leadership Is Focus Of Empower 2018

**BULGARIA**: Bulgaria's Youth Unemployment Rate Falls To 12.9% In 2017

**GERMANY**: Youth Between Marginalization And Participation: Forum 2017

**ITALY**: Italy's Overall Unemployment Increases, While Falls Among Youth

**SPAIN**: The Youth Guarantee In Spain: How Does It Work?

**UNITED KINGDOM**: Compulsory Sex Education In All Schools Welcome

**AUSTRALIA**: Youth Struggling To Find Jobs In NSW

**FJI**: Young People And Volunteerism

**GUAM**: Guam Youths Join Forces To Address Social Issues

**SAMOA**: Increasing Employment Opportunities In Agriculture In Samoa

**VANUATU**: Vanuatu Pin Hopes Of Battling Youth Crime On National Ids

**AFRICA**  
**AMERICA**  
**ASIA**  
**EUROPE**  
**PACIFIC**  
**INFO**

### ✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL, 2018

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 April 2018	<b>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
7 April 2018	<b>World Health Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 April 2018	<b>Global Youth Service Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
22 April 2018	<b>International Mother Earth Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
23 April 2018	<b>World Book and Copyright Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
28 April 2018	<b>World Day for Safety and Health at Work</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



## ✓ MALAWI: YOUTHS ENCOURAGED TO PLANT TREES

**Lilongwe, 20 March 2018** - YOUTHS in the country have been urged to plant more trees so as to make that future generation avoid effects of climate change which most part of the world is facing.

Forestry Plantation Manager for Phalombe district, Ajibu Liwasa, said this during tree planting event organized by Phalombe Hand for Orphan and Youth Organization (PHOYO) at Minyenje CDSS in the district.

“I know we have all here ate mangoes, but tell me

how many have at least planted one mango tree this year? Please let’s not wait for the dead to come and plant trees for us and for our children,” said Liwasa.

He added that youths should make sure that they are in forefront in protecting trees that have been planted so that many should survive.

Traditional Authority Mkhumba concurred with the forestry officer and she advised chiefs that fall under her authority that they should not entertain people who are cutting down trees carelessly in their respective

villages.

“Let me thank PHOYO for what they are doing today, but my fellow chiefs let’s help these youths in protecting these trees from charcoal burners and their friends,” said Mkhumba.

On his part, Executive Director for PHOYO, Dan Thomas said their organization will continue planting trees in the district and he asked other youths to borrow a leaf.

“Today we have planted over 150 trees around this newly established school,

and we won’t stop here as we are targeting to plant close to 1000 trees. And it’s my plea to my fellow youths that lets take part in conserving the environment,” Thomas said.

PHOYO is a nongovernmental organization which teaches youths on different issues that affect them such as sexual reproductive health environmental management and among others.

[Malawi24]

## ✓ NAMIBIA: NEEEF – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

**Windhoek, 8 March 2018** - THE new Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework and its attendant bill have made headway.

Public consultations have been concluded, and the Cabinet workshop has deliberated on issues arising from stakeholder engagements.

Cabinet will in the coming months resolve all pending matters. Another opportunity for public feedback will be provided before the bill is tabled in parliament for further deliberation and adoption.

At this stage, most stakeholders have accepted the need, in principle, for an overarching empowerment framework to benefit previously disadvantaged members of our society.

As a nation, we have not yet attained the necessary levels of income and wealth

equality that can assure the sustainability of our democracy.

It should be stated that the suppression and alienation of the large majority of human capital from the developmental process under apartheid resulted in a skewed economic structure.

Namibia has a young demographic profile, with a median age of 21 years. According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, the youth population segment between 15-34 years constitutes 36,8% of the total population.

This segment is predominantly previously disadvantaged.

The socio-economic difficulties facing the majority of young Namibians today cannot be separated from our history of restricted participation and the underdevelopment of human capital.

Two challenges face young people today. First is the challenge of high-income inequality, attributable to the high level of unemployment (39% broad and 43% youth).

Subdued economic performance, which hit an all-time low in 2016 at 1% growth, further exacerbated the problem.

The economy requires at least 7% annual growth to absorb new, young entrants into the economy.

The second inequality challenge facing young Namibians today is the wealth gap.

It results from the restricted economic participation of their parents or themselves prior to independence. As a result, previously disadvantaged parents could not access opportunities to accumulate wealth to bequeath to their offspring.

We now have a generation of young Namibians, including those 'born-free' post-1990, who have to build from the ground up, with a zero asset base.

This lack of capital has become an entry barrier for a large majority of enterprising youth, and has the long-term potential to undermine MSME sector growth and job-creation.

Neef is part of the solution to the complex issue of wealth redistribution.

The framework will align existing empowerment legislation, and aims to increase access to capital, skills, education, employment and wealth in Namibia.



Neeef offers a holistic empowerment package, including for young people. The pillars on human capacity-building, enterprise development and market access, community investments and research and innovation aim to stimulate the growth and expansion of local firms and boost productive capacities, leading to job-creation and economic growth.

President Hage Geingob has expressed concern about Namibia's triple challenges of income and wealth disparities, high unemployment and the existence of severe pockets of poverty.

The emphasis on the type of empowerment model to be

promoted by Neeef is empowerment that is broad-based and cascading downwards to empower communities and groups, rather than individuals, have young people and vulnerable groups as the intended beneficiaries.

In the definition of a previously disadvantaged person, the youth are targeted empowerment beneficiaries.

In fact, the youth are recognised as descendants of previously disadvantaged persons, and would therefore form part of empowerment schemes.

In order to benefit fully, young people should be better organised into groups, at community

level.

After all, central to the success of Neeef will not only be the provision of instruments to finance transformation through equity acquisition, but also financing start-ups and growth-oriented MSMEs.

By unlocking economic potential through Neeef, new opportunities will be created for young people.

The developmental challenges affecting the youth also present significant opportunities to tap into their potential.

Future economic growth will depend on the ability of stakeholders to harness this demographic dividend

during the open window of opportunity.

Neeef has been constructed to create pathways towards enhanced economic participation in the mainstream economy, for both the young and old.

The legislation should receive the full collaboration and compliance of all public and private sector stakeholders.

The framework is catalytic and poised to yield long-term transformational impacts, and young people will not be left out.

[Namibian]

### ✓ NIGERIA: PEUGEOT LAUNCHES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

**Abuja, 21 March 2018 - AUTOMOBILE** manufacturer, Peugeot, has launched a corporate social responsibility (CSR) known as Shade Tree Youth Empowerment Initiative (STYEI) in Nigeria.

At the launch which held at the Peugeot Automobile Nigeria (PAN) premises in Kaduna, the company stressed STYEI is targeted at young people committed to becoming entrepreneurs within the service value chain of the automotive industry.

“We are constantly looking for opportunities to create the next generation of Nigerian Automobile Engineers; people who are not just in touch with tools and technology but equipped with the design thinking that tomorrow will demand,” the automobile company said.

The company said the launch is fuelled by the optimism of more than just giving back to the society but also of empowering the future of Nigeria's Indigenous Automobile Industry.

Ibrahim Boyi, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of PAN, said the company has always been at the forefront of automobile development in Nigeria, spanning decades.

He assured that within six months, with the 80,000 euro grants received alongside support from Peugeot Foundation, no fewer than 30 Shade Tree Pilot Scheme Quick Auto Service Centres will be roll out, which will subsequently be replicated all over the country, with rural areas also targeted.

Boyi said that there have been changes in automotive industry in terms of sophistications and parts, which has created skills gap in the industry.

He explained that PAN through its world class learning centre has over the years been training, altogether 1,200 youth, including 224 women.

Peugeot promised to provide industry standard training; bridge the skills gap in Nigeria's automobile industry, standardize primary service centres and offer opportunities for economic empowerment with the initiative.

STYEI, as part of PAN's CSR program in collaboration with interested agencies and corporate bodies, is targeted at closing skills gap in the automobile industry in the

country, providing a formalized operating structure for the largely loose, fragmented and unregulated auto mechanics across the country with the value proposition of adequate capitalization, training, and compliance with specific standards and business trajectory.

“The program would be funded through the Shade Tree Trust Fund, which is independent and funded by public organisations, private individuals and international development partners.

“The scheme will standardize primary automobile service centres, offer opportunities for economic empowerment,” the company said.



The News Guru reports the Director General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC), Mr. Jelani Aliyu, launched the STYEI. A prototype of the initiative's garage was also

launched. The immediate past president of Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr Otis Anyaeji, who is also the Chairman Board of Trustees of STYEI was in attendance at the launching

event. Also, the representative of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investments, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah; Engr John Aboje; Engr. David Abu Ozigi who represented the Director

General of SMEDAN, Dr Umaru Radda, and Head of Marketing, PAN, Mrs. Shepuya Icha attended the event.

[TheNewsGuru]

### ✓ SOUTH AFRICA: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED THIS MONTH

**Cape town, 21 March 2018**

- THE initiative provides more than internship opportunities for unemployed youth and also helps SMMEs grow. Out of a total youth population in South Africa of 17 million, 36% are employed, three million are not economically active and the actual number of youths without jobs is 5.9 million.

This is according to Youth Employment Service (Yes) CEO Tashmia Ismail-Saville, who said these figures are taken from the latest count by StatsSA.

Yes is an initiative which is meant to bring to fruition to President Cyril Ramaphosa's promise to provide 1 million unemployed South African youth with jobs. It is expected that Yes will be launched sometime this

month. Speaking to the SABC, Ismail-Saville added that 56% of the million youth entering the labour force each year do not possess a matric certificate which means they do not have a way of achieving certain results they wish to achieve.

"So the Youth Employment Service is trying to work on the demand side of the economy and the demand side of the economy is, how do we find new places and new spaces for work that didn't exist before?" Ismail-Saville said.

She said one of the solutions the service is looking at is finding jobs for unemployed youth closer to where they live.

She said jobs for unemployed young South Africans can be sourced in

the digital space which has a diverse range of opportunities.

"Something like coding, you don't need to be in a big office building in a metro to do coding, digital surveys, GPS location for marketing companies, so there is a whole range to explore," she said.

Ismail-Saville said Yes has a BEE scorecard recognition called employment recognition which acknowledges businesses that employ young people during slow growth economic conditions.

"There's the employment tax incentive which is a R1 000 back on black youth between 18 and 29 on every month's salary," she said.

Ismail-Saville said the

programme run by Yes is more than an internship as it encourages companies to recruit as many young people as they can into their employ, and that the service also has Small Medium Micro-sized Enterprise (SMME) and Micro Enterprise Strategies.

These strategies, she said, are when large companies which cannot afford to accommodate a young person in their office building pays for that unemployed youth to gain experience at an SMME based in their place of residence.

"Then we get a double ring because the young person gets this year-long experience and the SMME grows," she said.

[Citizen]

### ✓ UGANDA: UGANDA TO HOST FOURTH COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

**Kampala, 16 March 2018** – UGANDA Parliament of Uganda is set to host a landmark Fourth Commonwealth Youth Parliament Summit from 14 to 19 March, 2018.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Oulanyah, said that the Conference will expose the youth to the realities of legislation and governance at regional level.

"When you expose the youth to all levels of engagements in leadership at an early age, they learn to respect the rules and play within them and this is the beginning of stability and order," said Oulanyah.

Oulanyah made the remarks while meeting a delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) on Thursday, 14 March 2018.

Oulanyah noted the importance of nurturing the youth into leadership, saying that such conferences provide the much needed platforms.

Hon. Elijah Okupa (FDC, Kasilo County), who is also the Treasurer of the CPA (Uganda), said that the youth will hold a plenary session in the Parliamentary Chambers and thereafter, make resolutions.

He said that majority of the youth who will participate will be between the ages of 11-22 years, in accordance with the Commonwealth definition of a youth.

"Uganda will be represented by 25 youths selected from all regions of the country, while other countries will each select two representatives; male and female," said Okupa.



Demetru Stephen Mgalami, the Assistant Regional Secretary at the CPA (Africa Region) said that the resolutions from the Youth Conference will inform the agenda of the regional conference to be held in Botswana in August, 2018.

He said that the resolutions will be presented by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker elected during the Youth Conference.

“These resolutions will be heard and debated by over 300 Members of Parliament across Africa sitting in Botswana who will make recommendations,” said Mgalami.

He appealed to governments to ensure that the resolutions made are implemented, saying that they reflect the needs of the people and impact on their development.

The Commonwealth Youth Parliament Conference will be held under the theme; “Securing a better future for Africa: Role of the youth”.

The topics to be discussed include; youth unemployment, alcoholism and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. Other topics are; harnessing the youth in leadership and the youth and social media.

The conference is expected to attract over 200 delegates from all the commonwealth countries.

*[East African Business Week]*

NEWS



## ✓ CANADA: A GOOD START TO HELPING YOUTH ENTER THE WORKFORCE

**Toronto, 2 March 2018** - BOYS and Girls Clubs of Canada is pleased to see this year's federal budget invest \$448.5 million over five years in the Youth Employment Strategy and direct that money to maintaining the number of job placements funded under the Canada Summer Jobs program 70,000 a year for the next two years.

Each summer, the Canada Summer Jobs program provides grants so organizations can offer opportunities for youth to gain work experience, develop employability skills, and save up for

postsecondary education. The program is invaluable to Boys and Girls Clubs, who offer supportive work environments where youth can meaningfully contribute to their community.

"Last year, local Boys and Girls Clubs hired 660 university and high school students in communities that would otherwise have had few opportunities for meaningful employment," said Owen Charters, President & CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "We also know more can be done. We'd love to see the government extend the program to youth who are

not full-time students."

Newcomer and low-income youth are often disqualified from the Canada Summer Jobs program because they are studying part time in order to fulfill other Responsibilities a situation that affects young women especially.

As Canada's largest youth-serving organization, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada has long recommended expansions to the Canada Summer Jobs program that will remove barriers preventing vulnerable young people from joining the workforce.

In impoverished communities, a summer job can mean helping family or having a safe place to be during the day. Perhaps most importantly, a job can be a source of personal pride and have a positive impact on a young person's mental health.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is anticipating government reforms to the Youth Employment Strategy so that the needs of Canada's more vulnerable youth are addressed.

*[Canada NewsWire]*

## ✓ JAMAICA: AT-RISK YOUTH GET SECOND CHANCE

**Kingston, 23 March 2018** - FORTY-FOUR youngsters who have been in conflict with the law have been given a second chance to turn their life around and make a positive contribution to society.

Over the past two years, the youngsters have been engaged in a reintegration programme being undertaken by the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) III in partnership with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

Following assessment, the participants, who were referred by the DCS, received psychosocial services, vocational skills training in areas such as auto mechanics and general construction, remedial education, counselling and consistent monitoring and follow-up by CSJP case management officers.

Ten additional persons are currently engaged in the programme.

At a ceremony held at the Ministry of National Security's Oxford Road offices on Monday (March 19) to celebrate the success of the beneficiaries, Portfolio State Minister, Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., commended the CSJP III and its partners for the transformative work.

"This is an opportunity for us to say to Jamaica, to those who are most vulnerable and at-risk, that those that some label as not deserving can become the best among us.

They can become the next generation of champions to move our country forward," he noted.

He expressed the hope that the publicity around the programme will inspire confidence in those struggling to maintain a

positive path in society.

"To achieve greatness we have to treat with crime and violence.

We have to create an environment where people feel confident, where people can trust again, where people believe in themselves, in the process and in the system," Senator Charles Jr. argued.

He pointed out that the Ministry is working to ensure that rehabilitation and redemption are not just theoretical, but that efforts produce positive and tangible results "to show to our country that we are making a sustainable and real difference".

Senator Charles Jr. hailed the beneficiaries, who have worked to transform their attitudes and circumstances, and urged them to be ambassadors for the Ministry and the CSJP in their communities.

"We expect you to walk and to talk and to conduct yourself in such a way that others looking on know that you have benefited from the CSJP programme and know that they too can change," he added.

The young people involved in the reintegration initiative also benefited from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Internship Programme, aimed at improving the employability and social skills of participants as well as the relationship between young men and the security forces.

They are part of a wider pool of 2,319 youth from across 50 volatile communities across eight parishes, who have benefited from the case management services under CSJP III since January 2016.

*[Government of Jamaica]*



## ✓ ROMANIA: YOUNG PEOPLE SET TO MAKE LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO ROMANIA

**Bucharest, 17 March 2017** - A GROUP of young people from North Belfast are gearing up for a potentially life-changing trip to Romania.

Twenty youths, aged between 15 and 18, who are part of the Romania Project in the New Lodge area, are to travel to the country in just a few weeks.

The New Lodge Youth Project, as part of Ashton Community Trust, started back in 2015 and enabled young people to get involved in an extensive programme which involved personal development,

supporting young people with disabilities at the 174 Trust, volunteering to help Belfast's homeless and intergenerational work with the local elderly.

Youth worker Sean McMullan, who is in charge of the project, said the project was much more than just a trip abroad. "The young people learn so much throughout the year within the programme which benefits them whilst out in Romania," he said.

"The young people volunteer weekly in the 174 Trust with young people with disability, taking part

in homeless work and also learning a lot about themselves.

"Whilst in Romania the young people work in a local disability centre, orphanages, family homes and engage with young people their age to experience the culture of a young person living in Romania.

"The young people are a credit to us at the youth centre, to themselves and to their families as well. The Romania Project experience is one that is life-changing and it is a privilege to be a part of this experience with all of these dedicated young

people.

"Whilst already making a big impact in their community I know that these young people will be great role models for other young people in their youth centre and community for a long time to come."

The project has won two awards for positive change and continues to impact positively on young people's lives in the New Lodge district.

*[Belfast Media Group]*

## ✓ RUSSIA: YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM RUSSIA DEVELOP ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT

**Moscow, 10 March 2017** - ENGINEERING education should start at from an early age.

TO organize scientific and technical creativity within the framework of additional education at schools Fablab Polytech created a set of available digital production equipment "DFKit" for engineering and technological classes.

The kit includes 3D scanner, 3D printer, laser and milling machines, as well as a set of additional information materials on how to use this equipment in the educational process.

Particular features of the kit are simplicity, unified management and safety for children, so it is suitable for equipping classrooms, small amateur laboratories and centers of technical creativity.

"This idea came up as we

started 3D modeling and prototyping intensive courses for schoolchildren, where participants get the task, a set of tools and materials for its implementation," says Polina Dyatlova, director of the Center for Scientific and Technical Creativity of Youth at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU).

"Children would design models and adults cut future project parts on the industrial machines. Kids have always wanted to control the production process but it was too difficult and not safe.

So, we decided to create educational equipment that will bring more children into engineering, allowing them to manage the whole production cycle from a draft to the final product by themselves."

The project is carried out in cooperation with LLC

"Photomechanics" and supported by the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises in Science and Technology in Russia.

Fablab scientists plan to provide schools and centers of innovative and technical creativity with the equipment for technological classes.

Within the framework of extracurricular activities movement of the National Technological Initiative it is planned to open digital production laboratories equipped with DFKit all over Russia.

*[BBC News]*



### ✓ SPAIN: YOUTH JOBLESS RATE IN SPAIN AT 42PC IN FIRST QUARTER

Madrid, 27 March 2017 -

THE jobless rate for people under 25 years of age in Spain in the first quarter dropped by 1 percentage point to 42 percent, compared with the previous three-month period, the Economy Ministry reported.

Spain's unemployment peaked at 27 percent in 2013 just before it began to emerge from a tough five-year financial crisis.

The country still has the second-highest unemployment rate in the 28-country European Union behind Greece.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government has made reducing unemployment and boosting economic growth its main goals since taking office in 2011.

Economy Minister Luis de Guindos has said the country will create some 500,000 new jobs this year, bringing the unemployment rate below 17 percent.-AP

*[Bloomberg]*

NEWS



## ✓ BANGALDESH: TAPPING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR YOUTH

**Dhaka, 13 March 2018** - Many oil-rich countries like Norway, United Arab Emirates and Brunei have put billions of US dollars into Sovereign Wealth Funds through which they invest in interest-bearing assets around the world, either enhancing the amount in the fund, or for subsidising costs of selected services for their own citizens.

Bangladesh has the potential to develop its own sovereign wealth assets over the coming decades if we are able to make strategic investment in these potential assets and enable them to give significant returns on our investment.

I am not referring to money but rather to the potential of our young girls and boys, especially those who will be studying at universities in the coming years.

Bangladesh now has over a hundred universities stretched across both the public and private sectors.

This means that we have hundreds of thousands of boys and girls studying at these universities every year.

Although the quality of the universities may vary a lot, the potential of each student is no less than his or her counterpart in other countries, including developed countries.

They have the same intelligence, energy and enthusiasm for learning.

Thus Bangladesh has the potential to harvest this demographic dividend if we are able to not just educate them but also make them realise their full potential.

I will describe below some of the ways in which we can do so.

Firstly, I will argue that even though we must invest in both girls and boys, the emphasis should be more on girls. As the African proverb has it: "If you educate a man you educate

an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family (nation)."

Secondly, we need to rapidly enhance the quality of education provided in our universities and change our emphasis from rote learning aimed at answering examination questions only.

The new kind of quality education needs to enhance creativity of students and unleash innovation in both students and teachers.

Thirdly, we need to inculcate a cultural shift away from job seeking to job creation amongst our students.

This is perhaps the most difficult of the tasks but one that will allow the full returns on investments.

Thus we need to teach and promote innovation and entrepreneurship amongst the best students.

Finally, there is a very strong climate change

connection to educating and empowering our young girls and boys as they will be the ones who inherit a significantly changed climate from us adults and they will have to be the ones who clean up the mess we will be leaving for them.

For Bangladesh there is thus an urgent need to make our future citizens climate-resilient women and men who can tackle and indeed solve many of the problems that Bangladesh will inevitably face with climate change.

By making our girls and boys climate-resilient problem-solvers, we will not only be able to tackle climate change in Bangladesh, but globally as well.

*[The Daily Star]*

## ✓ PAKISTAN: KP GOVERNOR SAYS GOVT TAKING STEPS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH

**Peshawar, 21 March 2018** – SHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Engr Iqbal Zafar Jhagra has said that youth are precious assets and like elsewhere in the country, they form a major part of the population of FATA.

With this fact in mind, he said that the government, apart from promoting academic and co-curricular activities, was also taking concrete steps to promoting awareness amongst them with an aim to enable them to play a better role in development and progress

of the nation.

He said this while presiding over a meeting regarding FATA Youth Development Programme here at Governor House, Peshawar on Tuesday. FATA ACS Sikandar Qayyum, Principal Secretary to Governor Munir Azam, FATA University vice-chancellor, officials of FATA Secretariat, and Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs representatives were present on the occasion. A detailed briefing was also given to the governor regarding

FATA Youth Programme. The governor, while referring to the ongoing measures to ensure overall development and progress of FATA, said that due priority was being given to development and promotion of sports.

Later, presiding over a meeting of FATA Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2017-18, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra directed officials of the FATA Secretariat to ensure the transparency and quality of ongoing development schemes and construction works. He

stressed that no compromise would be tolerated in this regard.

FATA Secretariat Planning and Development Secretary Muhammad Zubair briefed the participants of the meeting about salient features of the FATA ADP 2017-18.

Additional Chief Secretary Sikandar Qayyum, Principal Secretary to Governor Munir Azam, all political agents and other officials concerned also attended the meeting.

*[Pakistan Today]*



## ✓ PALESTINE: A RAY OF HOPE FOR PALESTINE'S YOUTH

**East Jerusalem, 14 March 2018** - PALESTINE'S youth, who make up 61 per cent of the population, harbour dreams and aspirations in an economy under an occupation.

With the unemployment rate in the group aged between 18 and 29 at 44 per cent and the highest in the Mena region, Taawon is facing a daunting task.

Taawon is the Welfare Association, an independent non-governmental organisation that was founded in 1983 by a group of Palestinian business leaders and intellectuals to support the sustainable development of Palestinians in the West Bank including occupied Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, 1948 areas and refugee camps in Lebanon.

Back in 2009, Taawon launched YES its Youth Empowerment Services programme to address this very challenge.

"The YES programme is one of seven programmed approaches we have adopted at Taawon," says Mahmoud Nazzal, the Programme Manager.

"Its primary purpose is to contribute to building a youth Palestinian economy and facilitate entrance to the job market for them.

Our target group is graduates from universities, technical and vocational schools. We maintain a 50-50 gender ratio and give priority to people with disabilities as well as women."

"The education system

doesn't provide needed skills for the market, and we are trying to play an integral part by adding life skills and personal competencies, meaning community and environmental awareness, effective work habits, tolerance and values," Nazzal explains.

"We match them with companies through an online portal that we established in 2011.

This has proven to be a win-win for all.

Most importantly, it's about seeking first employment for the graduate, which is generally very hard to do as economic hurdles are high and life experiences and salaries are low."

YES statistics show 76 per cent of participants obtain permanent jobs at the same company or another.

"Fifty-eight per cent of our beneficiaries are women," he says "The portal has the advantage of geographical reach.

We learned that Nadia from A Araqa, a remote village in the north, was able to obtain a job nearby, which was received with much appreciation."

To date, more than 25,000 job seekers have registered on the portal and more than 2,600 companies or employers have done likewise.

About 7,800 have been matched with 2,100 employers in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem alone.

"The YES programme in

Gaza has another scope of work," he explains.

"Taawon was the first to support the idea of entrepreneurship in Gaza by launching the pioneering incubator Mobaderoon in 2010.

The YES programme has supported more than 600 entrepreneurs by providing skills, knowledge and seed funds to start their projects, with more than 100 start-ups launched."

Despite poor economic conditions, many of start-ups have been successful, employing youth and making profits.

Most importantly, many of the trained youth through Mobaderoon now work as freelancers with employers from Europe, US and Gulf countries, especially in the IT sectors.

"We have other incubators in Hebron and in occupied Jerusalem providing entrepreneurial skills needed for the candidate entrepreneurs, and seed funding to help them initiate the establishment of their businesses," Nazzal says.

"The YES programme has partnered with the Leaders organisation in Ramallah to launch the first business accelerator in Palestine," he says.

"Fast-Forward, whose purpose is to take an idea, add \$20,000 to \$30,000 of development to it in order to speed up the process as venture capitalists await the next big idea.

This accelerator's work has

led to five deals with investments of \$1.5 million."

The YES programme also brings together the private sector, students, NGOs and donors with workshops in Palestinian universities by facilitating speakers from Silicon Valley to inspire young Palestinians.

But Palestine's main economic activity is agriculture. Is YES ignoring this?

"We have partnered with the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association by supporting it with several projects with focus on women," Nazzal says.

We are fast forwarding technologies in agriculture by enhancing the pipeline of agriculture and IT graduates in the field of food processing and farming in water, which resulted in the first such farm in Palestine, and recently the launch of the first agri-business accelerator."

Taawon also seeks to reinforce the economic dimension and cooperation with the Palestinian diaspora by supporting and developing virtual work opportunities to address the youth employment challenge in Palestine, and by matching graduates with regional and international markets.



“We help design projects, provide seed funding and training to translate an idea into fruition. Funds or loans are revolving with zero interest,” he says.

Another component of the YES programme is DAIMN project (Diaspora Angel Investors and Mentors Network), which is a project jointly funded by Taawon and KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), which aims to create a network of potential impact investors from the diaspora with up and coming tech start-ups in Palestine to provide guidance and skill experience that will contribute to the success of entrepreneurs and local start-ups, Nazzal explains.

“This project supports the development of innovative and creative capabilities of Palestinian entrepreneurs by providing them guidance

and mentorship to take their start-ups or projects to the next level,” he says.

“The Palestinian diaspora has the potential to contribute knowledge, expertise and skills along with investment and mentoring capabilities to support projects and initiatives aimed at developing multiple sectors throughout the West Bank and Gaza.”

Nazzal explains that the developmental process also includes a Social Impact Initiatives programme, which is based on social impact investing.

“This type of investing combines philanthropy and traditional investments to produce a positive societal impact with modest returns on investment,” he says. “In Taawon’s case, any returns from investments will be reinvested through

the fund revolving in new initiatives.

This new method of development is different from providing grants, where Taawon will be investing in ideas or existing for-profit companies, and owning equity shares in them.”

By following this method, Taawon would achieve its philanthropic goals that are not based on profit, while providing sustainability of the programme.

During the past eight years, YES had invested more than \$21 million with much success, and 40,000 youths have benefited from the programme.

In all, 9,200 new graduates have secured jobs in the local market and YES has supported the establishment of 720 business start-ups employing 1,200 youths.

Another 3,000 youth in occupied Jerusalem have been supported with integrated social services, and YES established three business incubators and two accelerators.

All told, the cumulative efforts of YES have led to an aggregate annual income of more than \$50 million in permanent jobs and entrepreneurship.

YES has adopted a pragmatic and holistic approach to tackling the unemployment issue of Palestinian youth by investing in entrepreneurship and creating virtual work to increase youth employability with a measure of real success.

[gulfnews.com]

## ✓ PHILIPPINES: MAKATI ENGAGES YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES

**Makati City, 2 March 2018** - MAYOR Abby Binay is urging the youth from the city’s schools and barangays to get involved in the ongoing “PAGASA sa Makati” campaign against the drug menace, noting that it has reached close to 6,000 participants, mostly students from the city’s public schools.

PAGASA sa Makati is an information, education and communications (IEC) campaign against illegal drugs using arts as a preventive education tool among youth and their community.

The campaign, launched in April last year through the joint efforts of a

Community of Collaborators under the sponsorship of the Makati Peace and Order Council (MPOC), is aimed primarily to develop active youth advocates who will serve as the city’s partners in the promotion of a “drug-free Makati”.

“We are glad to note that the PAGASA sa Makati campaign is fast gaining ground. We encourage more young Makatizens to participate in various training and activities being conducted in our schools and communities,” Mayor Binay said.

“The program is aimed not only to cultivate the skills and talents of the youth, but

also to empower them to be great leaders and role models for their peers,” she emphasized.

The mayor pointed out that participating in the campaign as youth advocates of drug-free communities was a “much better and wiser option” than joining fraternities or gangs. She said she hoped young Makatizens would be discouraged to do the latter after the fatal stabbing last February 9 of a Makati high school student, which was linked to rivalry among fraternity groups.

“I appeal to students and to all our young constituents to avoid any involvement with groups that breed violence, and to instead devote your

time and energy to more productive endeavors, such as the PAGASA sa Makati campaign,” Mayor Abby said.

The PAGASA sa Makati collaborators reported that to date, the drive has established six student campaign groups, developed theater and arts skills among students which they can use for peer education and peer support, and activated civic involvement in battling illegal drugs trade and use within barangays.



The respective Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADAC) of the said barangays joined the Community of Collaborators to implement programs integrating arts and multimedia tools. These include three major workshops, Basic Integrated Theater Workshop (BITAW), Repertory Theater Guidance (RTG), and Song Writing Workshop, which were launched last year to train teachers and establish core campaign groups of students initially in six target public schools.

From April to November last year, 96 teachers had been trained, along with 507

students from Fort Bonifacio High School, Makati High School, San Isidro High School, Pitogo High School, Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino High School, and Tibagan High School, who became members of their own school’s core campaign groups. Many of them have expressed delight over the opportunity to take part in such an undertaking which empowers them to speak out on relevant issues like the drug problem, and to positively influence their peers towards self-improvement, rather than self-destruction.

Also launched under the

campaign were the Inter-School Song Making Contest, Festival of Plays, a series of school play performances, barangay outreach performances, and poster making challenge events. A total of 434 students from the six public schools and from private junior high schools participated in the said activities, which gained a combined audience of 4,430 consisting mostly of public school students, and also parents and other young residents.

The term PAGASA was derived as follows: PA pananaw (vision), paninindigan (standpoint), pananampalataya (faith);

GA galing (skill) at gawa (action); SA sarili (self) at samahan (fellowship). PAGASA sa Makati also literally means “hope in Makati”.

The Community of Collaborators implementing the program is composed of the six pilot public high schools and their teachers and students, the DepEd Makati Division Office, Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council (MADAC) and its representatives, and BADAC representatives.

*[Philippine Information Agency]*

## ✓ QATAR: YOUTH LEADERSHIP IS FOCUS OF EMPOWER 2018

**Doha, 20 March 2018 -** MORE than 450 young people in the age group 16-32, including international participants, have converged on Qatar for Empower Youth Conference 2018, which got underway at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Student Centre.

The three-day event is being organised by Education Above All (EAA) Foundation’s programme, Reach Out to Asia (Rota).

HE the Minister of State Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, and Qatar’s Olympian high jumper and world champion Mutaz Essa Barsham were among those spoke at the opening session.

‘Empower 2018’ intends to promote a better understanding of youth leadership, service learning and Global Citizenship, under the theme ‘Youth and

Effective Citizenship’. The conference aligns with the Qatar National Vision 2030 that focuses on youth development as one of its key pillars. In its 10th edition, the conference aims to raise awareness and knowledge as well as build the capacities required to enable young people to take leadership roles in addressing local and international developmental issues that concern them.

There are panel discussions, keynote speeches, workshops, seminars, off-site activities, exhibition, social programme and youth cultural expression.

HE Dr al-Kuwari said the conference comes at an important historical phase in the life of both the leadership and the people of Qatar.

“Our young people have been quick to express their loyalty and exercise their citizenship through their positive interaction with the leadership’s orientations. Their expression of a rational behaviour reflected their faith in a culture promoting peace and rejecting hatred as well as their openness to the world more than ever before so that Qatar is a model of coexistence and an incubator for the world’s cultures.

“Our deep-rooted culture has long advocated co-existence.

While our ambitions are great our responsibility is greater in terms of creating an enabling environment that gives young people their genuine role as the future capital and focus of investment.

We are a young country that has been able to steadfastly face unprecedented

challenges and successes under the young leadership represented by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani,” added HE Dr al-Kuwari. Barsham said, “Empower 2018 represents a propitious opportunity for the youth to work on developing their skills, knowledge and attitudes to achieve the desired change on a personal and national level and help accomplish their country’s sustainable development and prosperity, contributing to the Qatar National Vision 2030.” While expressing his sincere gratitude to the Rota management for its belief in the abilities and competence of the youth, Rota executive director Essa al-Mannai thanked the youth for their thoughts and hard work to plan and execute the Empower Conference for 10 years.



“We see Empower 2018 as an opportunity to realise youth potential for positive change, create a platform for youth voice and provide them the opportunities that would help them realise their full potential.”

Researcher Mohamed al-Hashmi said: "Education Above All believes in the empowerment of youth to become capable and productive citizens.

To achieve this, Rota seeks to achieve several aims through the Empower Conference as it facilitates a forum for exchange of ideas, projects and reflections that address local needs and global issues, equip participants with the tools and knowledge for enabling them as loyal, and active citizens with a positive outlook towards service, and increase awareness of leadership.”

*[Gulf Times]*

# NEWS



### ✓ BULGARIA: BULGARIA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 12.9% IN 2017

**Sofia, 15 March 2018** - BULGARIA's youth unemployment rate (age bracket 15-24 years) decreased by 4.3 percentage points to 12.9% in 2017, the National Statistical Institute (NSI) said on Thursday.

The unemployment rate in the 15-29 years bracket fell by 2.3 pp to 9.9% last year, the NSI said in a statement.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate was 6.2% in 2017, 1.4 pp lower compared to 2016. Long-term unemployment

(people who have been without a job for more than a year) was 3.4% last year. There were a total of 113,800 discouraged people, or 55% of the total number of jobless people.

There were a total of 3.28

million economically active people in the 15-64 years age bracket in Bulgaria in 2017.

[See News]

### ✓ GERMANY: YOUTH BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND PARTICIPATION: FORUM 2017

**Berlin, 2 March 2018** - THE Don Bosco Forum in Bonn provided a platform for more than 400 guests to discuss social marginalization of youngsters.

“It is our goal as Don Bosco to get youngsters out of isolation” emphasized the managing directors of Don Bosco Mondo (Christian Osterhaus) and of Don Bosco Mission Bonn (Nelson Penedo).

Hundreds of young and long-term members of Don Bosco institutions worldwide, interested parties and representatives from politics and society attended the meeting at the University of Bonn. At the end of the Don Bosco Forum the participants of the prior scheduled International Youth Conference presented the results on the topic “Marginalization”. 40 teenagers from Europe and the Middle East were searching for ways out of radicalization.

They presented the Forum with a video pleading for more tolerance and peace.

In addition, their dancing performance served as an impressive testimonial of the meaning of marginalization.

The teenagers experienced the encounter with participants from diverse countries as enrichment. One female attendee concluded: “the more we know about each other, the more tolerant we become.”

Father Thomas Koshy (SDB), Director of the Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YAR) with headquarters in New Delhi, is aware of the meaning of marginalization of the young.

Roughly ten million children live in the streets in his home country India.

For decades he has been promoting the welfare of street children.

Education is an important key to success.

The caste system constitutes a major problem in India demanding a strict separation of social classes.

Accordingly, the so-called “untouchables” are excluded from society being forced into doing menial work such as toilet cleaning and trash disposal. Fr Koshy laments a culture of exclusion preventing progress.

There are also many youngsters in Germany who are marginalized encountering rejection. “There is one form of

emotional marginalization which leaves young people heavily scarred”, Simon Härting (SDB) stated, the educational director of the Don Bosco Youth Aid Center in Sannerz close by Fulda.

“We had one boy with us who was rejected by his parents, grandparents, by his entire family. Nobody wanted to be in contact with him.

As a protective measure, he built armor, also physically. We did not manage to establish a relationship with him for a year, this being the most important factor we must build up a relationship with the youngster.”

“Sometimes we reach our physical limits when the youngsters become aggressive or offensive which can hit us also physically.

It is important to be well protected and to keep the focus on what is doable and what not. Regardless, Don Bosco always facilitates a fresh start over.

We adhere by our familiar quotation, “In case of a doubt, we grant a tenth chance.”

[The Guardian]



### ✓ ITALY: ITALY'S OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES, WHILE FALLS AMONG YOUTH

**Rome, 1 March 2018** - ITALY's unemployment rate slightly increased in January against the previous month, estimates by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) showed on Thursday.

At the same time, the jobless rate among youth aged 15-24 decreased more consistently.

The ISTAT said that overall unemployment rose by 0.2 percent to 11.1 percent compared to December.

It concerned more female workers (2.9 percent) than male workers (1.7 percent), and all of the age groups.

Youth unemployment decreased by 1.2 percent to 31.5 percent on a monthly basis, the estimates also

showed. This was the lowest level since 2011.

The jobless rate among the people under 24 decreased by 6.0 percent in January compared to the same month of 2017, ISTAT said.

In terms of absolute numbers, some 23 million people were employed in January (a 0.1 percent rise against the previous month), while jobless people were

2.88 million (2.3 percent rise).

ISTAT also registered an upward trend among workers actively looking for a job: after five consecutive drops, their number grew by 2.3 percent or 64,000 units in January against December.

[Xinhua]

### ✓ SPAIN: THE YOUTH GUARANTEE IN SPAIN: HOW DOES IT WORK?

**Madrid, 7 March 2018** - MORE than 4.2 million young people are unemployed in Europe today, with Spain among the worst affected countries. The EU launched the Youth Guarantee as an attempt to turn this situation around, but how does it work? Young people have borne the brunt of Europe's economic downturn.

According to Euro

barometer, "more than half of young people in Europe (57%) have the impression that, in their country, the young have been marginalised and excluded from economic and social life by the crisis".

Nowhere is this marginalisation more clearly illustrated than in the youth unemployment figures for the EU's southern member states.

Greece (44.2%), Spain (42.9%) and Italy (40.1%) have the highest proportions of unemployment among people under the age of 25.

This is far above the EU average (18.6%) and the best performers like Germany (6.5%) and the Netherlands (10.2%).

In his State of the Union speech last September, European Commission

President Jean-Claude Juncker said, "I cannot and will not accept that Europe is and remains the continent of youth unemployment."

He promised to expand the Youth Guarantee scheme to reach out to the young people most in need.

[EurActiv]

### ✓ UNITED KINGDOM: COMPULSORY SEX EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS WELCOME

**London, 2 March 2018** - JUSTINE Greening, Secretary of State for Education, has announced plans for the Government to introduce legislation that will see every child from the age of 4 taught sex education.

Following years of campaigning, UK Youth Parliament welcomes the news that more young people will receive sex education and warns it must be implemented through a youth-led UK-wide review.

UK Youth Parliament has been calling for a 'curriculum for life' for a number of years. We've argued that a radical

overhaul of citizenship education and PSHE is needed to ensure schools prepare students for life.

Both PSHE and citizenship are really important for young people's growth and development as they teach vital life skills and can be the first steps to engaging young people in political life.

This year, UK Youth Parliament will be working to achieve an adequate curriculum for life, following a vote by Members of Youth Parliament in the House of Commons last year, which saw the issue chosen as the priority campaign for

England.

UK Youth Parliament believes every young person across the UK should receive the same high-level standard of sex and relationship education in schools.

It is nonetheless vitally important PSHE includes opportunities to learn about politics, cultural awareness, community cohesion, sustainable living and personal finance.

It's become increasingly apparent that young people have felt the current citizenship education and PSHE provisions are inadequate for today's

generation of students.

Young people have repeatedly called for a curriculum for life, most recently in UK Youth Parliament's 2016 Make Your Mark ballot of 978,216 young people, when the issue was voted a top priority.

However, it's important to note a curriculum for life has become a recurring issue, topping the Make Your Mark on four occasions in the last 5 years.



The British Youth Council have also been working to convince the Government to introduce statutory and compulsory high-quality citizenship and sex and relationship education to the curriculum for a number of years.

In 2013, the British Youth Council's Youth Select Committee report 'A Curriculum for Life' concluded life skills education in schools fell well short of its full potential and little has been done to address the report's findings since.

According to political commentators, it is likely that the introduction of a compulsory sex education would also include a change in teacher training.

UK Youth Parliament believes it is paramount teaching staff are specifically trained to a national standard to deliver PSHE and citizenship education.

*[[ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://ukyouthparliament.org.uk)]*

NEWS



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH STRUGGLING TO FIND JOBS IN NSW

**Canberra, 26 March 2018** - THE Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven regions have topped the list of NSW unemployment 'hotspots' where nearly 30 per cent of people under 24 are struggling to find work.

Five NSW regions have been highlighted in the Unfair Australia report released by the Brotherhood of St Laurence on Monday.

Youth unemployment levels in south coast towns including Nowra, Mittagong and Ulladulla sit at 28.9 per cent, the report says.

This compares with the national youth unemployment rate of 12.2 per cent, which is more than double the nationwide average of 5.5 per cent for people of all ages.

The Murray region, taking in the towns of Albury, Tocumwal, Jerilderie, and Deniliquin recorded the second highest rate of youth unemployment, with 21.5 per cent of youth out of work

The Coffs Harbour-Grafton region came in third at 19.8 per cent; followed by the Central Coast at 18.6 per

cent; and New England-North West region at 16.6 per cent.

Brotherhood of St Laurence executive director Conny Lenneberg says rural areas and outer suburbs carry the heaviest burden, and she has called for action from governments and employers in those communities

"Stubborn rates of youth unemployment are not just a concern for families or the welfare sector," Ms Lenneberg said in a statement on Monday.

The report used Australian

Bureau of Statistics data released in earlier this month.

Across NSW the youth unemployment rate reached 10.8 per cent in the 12 months to January 2018.

Nationwide youth unemployment is highest in outback Queensland where 67.1 per cent of young people are out of work, the report said.

*[The Australian]*

### ✓ FIJI: YOUNG PEOPLE AND VOLUNTEERISM

**Suva, 21 March 2018** - SIXTY per cent of the volunteers in the Asia/Pacific region are young people.

These were the sentiments shared by the secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Elhadj As Sy, while speaking at the inspiring

voluntary humanitarian action in Pacific youth at the University of the South Pacific (USP) on Monday night.

Mr As Sy said in Fiji, youth between 15-35 years made 40 per cent Fiji's population.

"Young people are the leaders of tomorrow. They

play the role of actors today," Mr As Sy said.

He said when it came to volunteerism, about 14-17 million volunteers were part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

"In order to apply humanitarian action, we need show impartiality, be mutual and independent.

"We have to evaluate ourselves to do something which is extremely difficult," he said.

He added that volunteerism was all about going deep inside of oneself, and applying it to our fellow humans.

*[Fiji Times]*

### ✓ GUAM: GUAM YOUTHS JOIN FORCES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL ISSUES

**Suva, 24 March 2018** - YOUTH for Youth LIVE! Guam is a community of empowered youths who create a positive, healthy Guam. The organization has worked to promote healthier lifestyles among teens for the past 30 years and recently held its 28th annual conference.

Phoebe Rei Shmull, the secretary of youth facilitators, has been an active participant at the PEACE Office, the organization behind Youth

for Youth LIVE, for several years.

She was a participant in the 2012 Youth for You LIVE! Conference and developed such a strong love for the organization and its cause that she decided to take her participation one step further and become a facilitator.

She's now in her third year of facilitating.

"Youth for Youth has been a part of my life for a while

now and I speak from experience when I say that trying to manage 60 youth facilitators at multiple trainings and retreats can be very stressful," Shmull says.

"However, the bond I create with my fellow facilitators is what brings me back every year. We all share the common interest in spreading awareness for mental health and substance abuse," she says.

"I believe that this

organization, along with the people inside of it, will help pave the way to creating a healthier future for our island."

Isabella Bargfrede, a new member of the facilitating staff, says her surroundings inspired her to become a member of the organization.

"In the past, I was completely oblivious to the social issues on Guam, such as drug and alcohol abuse.



It wasn't until my high school years that I was really able to see how common substance abuse is and how often it affects the people around me," she says.

"It was hard to see that people as young as I were involved in these things, so I decided to take a stand and

do something about it. I joined to help make a difference in the youth of today."

Nyah Rosete, a participant in this year's conference, explained why Youth for Youth is important and needed.

"Everyone has struggles. Everyone. Whether they are

minuscule or super serious, they're still struggles.

But do you know what makes someone's struggle 10 times harder? It's when they have nobody to confide in," Rosete says "its reasons like that, that Youth for Youth are so important.

Not only does it provide

teens with reliable sources of comfort, but it also works to give them the option of choosing the help of people over the help of drugs or alcohol."

*[Pacific Daily News]*



### SAMOA: INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE IN SAMOA

Apia, 22 March 2018 - IN an effort to curb youth unemployment in Samoa, young farmers in Samoa are equipping themselves with skills that will help them gain employment in agriculture.

The workshops were held recently at the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS) training facilities to give young farmers guidance and training in value adding and food processing practices.

The UN FAO is working SROS to build the capacity

of youth in these areas.

The participants took part in simple value-adding activities using agricultural produce grown locally as a way to generate income.

The training is part of technical cooperation programme, which FAO launched in April 2017 to help youth in Samoa gain employment opportunities in the agriculture sector.

The training covered aspects of food processing including, food legislation, product development and

value adding, good manufacturing practices and food handling.

Activities also encompassed hands-on training in preservation methods of freezing (taro, bananas, pumpkin and breadfruit), dehydration for producing tea and spices and making jam from papaya and oranges.

According to the Samoa 2012 School to Work Transition Survey, 40.3 per cent of youth in Samoa leave school without graduating resulting in very

limited opportunities for employment.

The training is part of the wider United Nation Youth Employment Programme. FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development are collaborating to build the technical capacity of young farmers in various aspects of agriculture.

*[Samoa Observer]*



### VANUATU: VANUATU PIN HOPES OF BATTLING YOUTH CRIME ON NATIONAL IDS

Port Vila, 13 March 2018 - Vanuatu is cracking down on underage drinking and youth crime by introducing national identification cards.

The minister for Internal Affairs Alfred Maoh says the number of violent incidents and criminal activities in and around Port Vila has increased.

Mr Maoh told Koro Vaka'uta a lot of the crime and misbehavior can be attributed to young people having easy access to alcohol.

*[Radio New Zealand]*

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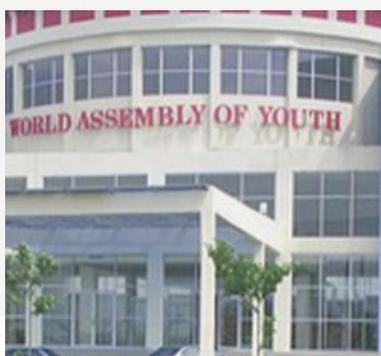
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