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**AFRICA**  
**AMERICA**  
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### ✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH 2016*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
8 March 2016	<b>International Women's Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
9 — 17 March 2016	<b>Global Money Week</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 March 2016	<b>International Day of Happiness</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
21 March 2016	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
22 March 2016	<b>World Water Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ ANGOLA: YOUTH URGED TO STUDY COUNTRY'S HISTORY

**Luanda, 5 February 2016** - ANGOLAN young people were on Wednesday in Luanda urged to devote to the study of the country's history.

The call came from the deputy chief of staff of the Angolan Armed Forces

(FAA) for Patriotic Education, gen. Egídio de Sousa Santos "Disciplina".

The general was speaking while laying a wreath by the Monument to the February 4 Heroes, as part of the celebrations of the 55th anniversary of the start of

the armed liberation struggle in Angola.

The official defended that the Angolan youths must continue to properly study the national historical dates, to follow the example of the heroes and strive to consolidate peace and

democracy, achieved with great sacrifice.

The "4 de Fevereiro" heroes historical monument is situated in Cazenga municipality, in Luanda.

[Angola Press]

### ✓ BOTSWANA: OFFICIAL URGES YOUTH TO UTILISE IDLE TIME

**Maun, 10 February 2016** - MINISTRY of Youth Sports and Culture's (MYSC) programmes officer in Maun, Oganeditse Mhapha, has implored youth in the Ngamiland to utilise their spare time.

In an interview, Mhapha said idle time without money exposed the youth to social ills such as inter-generational sex, sexual diseases and alcohol abuse.

She therefore implored youth to utilise services offered by MYSC and Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) who offered business funding and mentorship.

She pointed out that

although she was new in the Maun, she had observed that young people did not realise that art was a business.

"Youth should take art out of the box, be go getters, network and seek advice to refine their ideas and products," she said.

Mhapha, who has a brand called Khai Creations, said her clothing line started as a hobby in 2007 which was meant to kill idle time. She said Khai Creations was initiated for the love of crafting and not profit oriented.

Khai Creations had T- shirts, bags and shoes blended with leteisi or German print.

Her hobby, she said, turned into business with time and now she planned to inspire the youth to do the same.

Mhapha said Khai Creations was inspired by her mother who was a dress maker. As it was compulsory for girls to learn sewing she automatically became her assistant.

"I also want to give something back to my country which is why I changed the theme this year to add Botswana colours to the T-shirts," she said.

Initially she started with designing jewelery in 2003.

Mhapha encouraged the youth to search within

themselves and find some of their childhood love for something and turn it to make profit.

"Everyone has untapped potential, so give it attention, love what you do and with hard work you will succeed," she said.

Ms Mhapha observed that art producers tend to price their products unreasonably therefore making it unaffordable especially for the locals which negatively impact on their businesses.

[Botswana Daily News]

### ✓ MALAWI: MALAWIAN YOUTHS ASKED TO HELP THE NEEDY

**Lilongwe 8 February 2016** - AS a way of building charitable spirits among future leaders, youth in Chiradzulu district have advised fellow young people to take a central role in assisting underprivileged people in society.

When speaking to Malawi24 after the event, chairperson for the youth group, George Kachale said time has come for the youth to be active in taking part in social responsibilities and

development issues in their respective communities.

Kachale explained that only active and responsible youth can bring positive results for the country's development.

He went on by asking other young people in the country to emulate what youth group at their church are doing.

"Through this event we are trying to teach young

people to have a heart of helping others with what they have.

"We believe that on our own as young people, we have all possibilities of bringing changes to the world through our works," explained Kachale.

He also revealed their plans of embarking on some entrepreneurial projects that will help to keep young people busy and prevent them from doing bad things.

Among others, the funds will help in constructing shelters for elderly people and in paying school fees for poor students in the district.

In the past, the group has been involved in different charitable works among them conducting regular donations to hospitals and prisons.

[Malawi24]



### ✓ NAMIBIA: AWARD ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO ENGAGE YOUTHS

**Windhoek, 3 February 2016** - THE Katutura Youth Enterprise Centre (KAYEC) Trust, with the encouragement of the Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, Immanuel Ngatjizeko, is to host the Namibian Next-Generation Business Awards for companies that empower Namibian youths.

Thirty leading Okavango companies will be participating in the award on Saturday followed by another thirty leading Windhoek companies for the Windhoek award on February 26.

Representatives of the KAYEC Children's Federation, a group of about 70 teenagers were elected by fellow participants in KAYEC after-school programmes nationwide to advocate youth issues.

The group designed the survey that will be used to identify the winners of the

award in Okavango and Windhoek. The survey covers the companies employment of young people, support for youth initiatives and education, business services designed for Namibian youth, and pro-family work policies.

Ngatjizeko is urging private sector leaders to back the initiative.

"At a time when Namibian youth unemployment has climbed, among the highest in Africa, it is essential that the business and trade community does all it can to engage the next generation on which we must depend to advance our economy in the years to come.

This is why I lend my support to the first ever Namibian Next-Generation Business Award, which the youth from KAYEC will unveil for the most forward-thinking business leaders."

Last year, teenagers from the KAYEC after-school centre in Ondangwa hosted the first Namibian Next-Generation Business Award for companies in the Oshana region.

One of the Oshana winner was Robby Amadhila, founder of Roama Gates Manufacturing Pty Ltd.

Roama Gates Manufacturing Pty Ltd is a locally owned and operated company that supplies steel gates countrywide and exports beds to Angolan schools and hospitals.

It won the award based on its youth-oriented record in 2015, which included giving a bursary worth N\$70,000; employment of the youngest worker among the competition, and marking Africa Industrialisation Day by speaking to school children.

The Vice-President of the KAYEC Ondangwa Children's Federation,

16-year-old Martha Efraim says: "We need something that can just build. Mr Amadhila is so inspiring and we need more people like him."

Owners of Okavango Country Hotel, Ikus and Bianca Conradie, are supporting the February event with Okavango business leaders by offering their venue free of charge. "The whole community needs to work together so that all youths in Namibia and Okavango can succeed," says Ikus Conradie.

Business partnerships developed at these events will also be necessary to secure funding KAYEC's after-school programme in Windhoek, Ondangwa and Okavango.

The centre in each of these towns requires about N\$500,000 to continue operations this year.

[New Era]

### ✓ ZAMBIA: IMPART RIGHT SKILLS IN YOUTHS, URGES MWALE

**Lusaka, 6 February 2016** - DOREEN Nawa, Lusaka Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development Vincent Mwale has called for the provision of entrepreneurial skills and start-up capital to youths to create employment and wealth.

The minister was addressing African youths during a session on "Key regional priorities for youth development in Sub-Saharan Africa" during the just-concluded United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Youth Forum 2016 in New York, USA on Friday. "We have young people that graduate from universities and colleges, but do not have the right skills that are required on the market.

The education system is kind of misplaced," Mr Mwale said.

"What is needed is the right education to provide the right skills that are required. One of the best ways to eradicate poverty in Africa will be through the provision of the right skills to our youths."

In a statement released by first secretary for press and public relations at the permanent mission of Zambia to the United Nations Chibaula Silwamba, Mr Mwale urged African governments to put the young at the centre of their national development.

The minister expressed concern about the mismatch between the skills that tertiary education institutions were imparting in students and the requirements of the labour market.

He wants African youths to be innovative and turn the natural resources into finished products. He believes that improving the manufacturing industry would reduce Africa's dependence on imports.

"We have enough resources to produce sufficient goods and services within Africa and provide job opportunities for every young person on the continent," Mr Mwale said.



“We need young people to engage with the Government.”

The Youth Forum 2016 under the theme “Youth taking action to implement the 2030 Agenda”, attracted over 1,000 participants, including 21 ministers, international organisations’ leaders, UN agencies, civil society leaders and youths from across the globe at UN Headquarters on February 1 and 2.

It was meant to chat the way forward on youths’ participation in the implementation of sustainable development goals.

*[Zambia Daily Mail]*

NEWS



## ✓ BERMUDA: GIVING YOUTH TOOLS TO LEAD SUSTAINABLE ISLAND

**Hamilton, 11 February 2016**

- IN its 20th year around the world and second year in Bermuda, the Eco-Schools programme prepares our future leaders to have a holistic perspective about the implications of their decisions, inclusive of environmental, social and economic concerns.

Run by Greenrock, with support from 12 local delivery partners, the programme serves 16 schools, both public and private, from preschool to college.

By participating in Eco-Clubs, audits, campaigns and engagement activities, students figure out that they and their community are part of the natural world and have a responsibility to it. As we strive for a more

balanced education, this hands-on learning incorporates ecological principles into all subjects, breaking free of the discipline-centric focus and even the confinements of the classroom.

It also integrates key metrics to understand the impact, by conducting pre- and post-audits so schools can evidence their improvements.

The impact Greenrock looks to have includes improving sustainability awareness, 21st-century skills, and school engagement.

Designed by the Foundation for Environmental Education, the Eco-Schools model started in response to a need identified at the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992.

That need was to involve young people in finding solutions to sustainable development challenges.

Greenrock was selected to represent Bermuda as the national member.

The Eco-School model doesn't take away from any existing strategies in schools, it enhances the content and teaching methods while engaging the students in a positive transformation of their physical, social and mental learning environments.

It also provides schools with financial savings and improved aesthetics.

This approach combines learning and action, which embeds students in their immediate environment and provides them with the tools

to make the appropriate changes.

They are involved in the challenges and successes. It supports our young people to see more clearly into our larger living system and generate sustainable solutions to improve our quality of life.

Ultimately, Eco-School participants will be equipped with the awareness and tools to be the leaders of a sustainable Bermuda.

*[Royal Gazette]*

## ✓ CANADA: WINDSOR YOUTH STRUGGLE WITH 22 PER CENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**Windsor, 10 February 2016**

- AS bad as Windsor's unemployment rate has been in recent years, youth in the southern Ontario city are suffering even more when it comes to trying to find work.

The youth unemployment rate sat at a staggering 22 per cent in January, according to the latest figures from Statistics Canada. Those numbers are up from last year when the jobless rate averaged 19.9 per cent.

Windsor unemployment rate down to 9.3%, but tops in Canada

Employment experts call those figures staggering when considering the general unemployment rate

for Windsor sits at 9.3 per cent.

"That is more than double the general unemployment rate," said Tanya Antoni, executive director at Workforce Windsor Essex.

"That demonstrates that youth are experiencing additional barriers connecting to the labour force."

With so few jobs available in the city, many young residents have started their own businesses.

Ben Magri, 20, recently opened Gray Wolf Pest Control and has seen early success, but starting a company on his own hasn't been easy.

"You're pretty much doing everything.

You're doing the sales, you're doing the work, you're answering the phones, you're trying to do the bookkeeping and everything," he said.

"It's really hard. It's something where you're working all day round and you just kinda gotta power through it and that's what I've been trying to do."

There are many others in Windsor looking to become their own boss, according to staff at the Small Business Centre.

The group, which is part of Windsor's economic development corporation, has seen an increasing number of people looking to start their own business.

"I think you're seeing a

trend, a significant shift perhaps in the attitudes and mindsets of young people who maybe are not finding opportunities in traditional employment," said Sabrina Demarco, director of small business development at the small business centre.

"And they are looking at self-employment, entrepreneurship as a way to kind of get experience and pursue what they want."

The centre launched a program called Starter Company last year, which gives out grants to entrepreneurs under 30 years old. More than 50 grants have been given out so far.

*[CBC News]*



### ✓ JAMAICA: OVER 600,000 POSITIVELY IMPACTED BY YOUTH MINISTRY

**Kingston, 4 February 2016** - SOME 619, 974 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 have benefitted from interventions by the Ministry of Youth and Culture and its agencies during the period between 2012 and 2015.

Minister of Youth and Culture Lisa Hanna disclosed that face-to-face engagement with youth amounted to 280,049 during the period, while an additional 339,925 were reached via social media.

The National Youth Service (NYS) engaged some 48,850 young people through a range of programmes, including the summer employment programme which allowed young persons to gain work experience.

The NYS also offered financial assistance for tertiary education to graduates of its several programmes.

The Ministry's 11 Youth Information Centres (YIC) conducted empowerment and personal development sessions, training in youth leadership and entrepreneurship as well as counselling and employment referrals, benefitting 51,312 young people.

The centres are located in the parishes of Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Ann, St. Catherine, St. Mary, Portland and the Municipality of Portmore.

They provide a focal point for the work of youth organizations and are a repository of information on Jamaica young people ages 15 to 24 and in special cases and programmes up to age 29 years.

Parishes currently without a Youth Information Centre have Youth Access Points, which serve as a contact

point for youth engagement, networking and empowerment.

Working through the National Secondary Students' Council, the Jamaica Union for Tertiary Students, the National Youth Council, Youth Month activities and the Jamaica Youth Ambassadors programme which conducts empowerment and personal campaigns and community outreach programmes, the Ministry reached a total of 42,685 young people.

Agencies which fall under the Ministry, Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC), the Institute of Jamaica, the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) and the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO engaged a further 135,835 young people, while the Jamaica National Heritage Trust spearheaded Heritage Clubs in 25 schools.

Making reference to the Ministry's active use of social media, Minister Hanna said: "Our youth in today's Jamaica are savvy, in tuned, have access to information and are not shy to express themselves and ask for what they want.

Therefore, we have strategically positioned the Ministry and all our agencies to cater to youth virtually, that is, online.

The virtual programmes have been so designed to meet the young people in their online spaces, so as to provide the mechanism to guide and direct them in being able to connect the dots to essential services, personal development and educational and employment opportunities."

*[Government of Jamaica]*

### ✓ PERU: PLAN TO IMPROVE EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH TRAINING IS APPROVED

**Lima, 15 February 2016** - THE Peruvian Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (PETM) has ordered the adoption of the Action Plan of Dual Training to improve employability across the country, reports Staffingamericalatina,

business partner of Staffing Industry Analysts.

According to the ministry, this measure provides for the authorization of the technical tools to implement the plan to the Directorate General of Vocational Training and Labor

Ministry.

The resolution is referred to as Ministerial Resolution 017-2016-TR, and combines dynamic and flexible learning.

This measure complements the National Youth

Employment Programme "Productive Youth" which aims to employ young people of 15-29 years of age, low income and the vulnerable, and the poorest families in the population.

*[Staffing Industry Analysts]*

### ✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: DONATES OVER \$30,000 TO MUSIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH

**Port of Spain, 19 February 2016** - THE Tourism Enhancement Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Trinidad Hotel & Tourism Association donated close to \$30,000 this week for programs directed at youth development.

The Tourism Enhancement Fund made a donation of \$26,050 to the Cultural Development Foundation in support of their music education program.

Over the years, the Cultural Development Foundation (CDF) has engaged a number of Steel Pan orchestras in training programs in Music Theory and Musical Arrangement.

This donation will teach 40 young people Music Theory I and II and help train 25 aspiring pan tuners the art of Pan Building and Tuning.



The Fund also made a donation to Cocktails and Contacts, an event birthed by Shernell Lionel in 2014 that provides young professionals the apt environment to network with each other in an effort to seek out opportunities to grow their businesses.

A donation of \$5,000 was made to a planned seminar to be hosted by Cocktails & Contacts titled; "Five Things Every Entrepreneur Should Know."

Some key topics will include; how to make tax less taxing, technological innovation, positioning your business for great investment, networking the key success and maintaining competitive advantage.

The seminar, commencing in early 2016, will seek to highlight key areas which are essential to the success of every entrepreneur and to facilitate an environment within which various options are available to entrepreneurs to aid them fill any gaps identified.

The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) is a private sector initiative established in 2013, it is designed to allow the Tourism industry a greater opportunity to play an integral role in the sustainable development of our destination and people.

The TEF is financed by a small, voluntary donation from member hotel guests' of \$2 USD per night, and goes towards community development and environmental projects and actions.

Both of these programs reflect some of the core

tenets of the Tourism Enhancement Fund as it continue to support Human Resource Development at all levels of society.

[Trinidad News]

A large, vertical, stylized word "NEWS" in a light red/pink color, positioned on the right side of the page. The letters are thick and have a slight shadow effect.



### ✓ AZERBAIJAIN: YOUTH TO CREATE FUTURE OF AZERBAIJAIN

**Baku, 1 February 2016** - YOUNG people are usually considered to represent the future by bringing novelty and emerging energy into the system ruled by the worldly-wise.

In Azerbaijan, youth is also believed to be one of the main sources for the country's development.

Young Azerbaijani state celebrates the day of its youth on February 2.

This year, the day is celebrated for the 20th time, which means that the country has managed to breed a new generation.

Being young and constantly developing country, Azerbaijan itself has changed a lot in these years and today's youth cannot be compared to those who lived tens of years ago.

This tendency is observed around the world and quite obvious in Azerbaijan too.

Ahead of the big day, President Ilham Aliyev has met with representatives of the younger generation to congratulate on the occasion and present honorary diploma.

The meeting discussed many spheres of interest for the young generation including education, opportunities for young entrepreneurs, attracting young people to science and youth policy, volunteering, development of intellectual games and much more.

Representatives of youth organizations have used the opportunity to share their aspirations and ideas.

The head of state described the past 20 years as a period of development and stability, stressing that the main goal now is ensuring the sustainable development of the country, where the crucial role belongs to the youth.

However, the number one task is the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the president stressed.

He noted that young generation should be well aware of the situation on the global scale.

The head of state has specially noticed that there is a great need for serious reforms in the economic sphere in Azerbaijan.

The upcoming years will be a period of innovation, the key word say the technology, so it is necessary to completely eliminate dependence on oil.

Here again, the role of the youth cannot be underestimated as young people as they are the main participants of the process.

The head of state assured that the state would continue supporting the youth in their initiatives.

The state is proud of its young generation and implements different programs to make the young people more advanced and cultured.

A number of projects were realized for better education of the youth.

They are open to the world and thousands of students were sent to study at the best universities worldwide. Azerbaijani youth takes an active part in the different projects, initiatives and developments.

They are good athletes, talented musicians and inventors.

The state policy holds the opinion that in the presence of creativity, qualitative education and hard work, innovative consciousness inherent in youth, can radically change the face of civilization.

There is no doubt that many of the problems in the world today will be resolved precisely because of boundless energy and determination of young people.

At present, over 2.5 million people, aged between 14 and 29, are considered as youth in 9.5 million people Azerbaijan. This constantly growing index is positive tendency for the country.

In the era of steadily progressing technology, it is a well known fact that the youth grasps in a single flash and today when the country needs them to bring innovation for further development, the young generation should be helping the homeland to prosper henceforward.

[AzerNews]

### ✓ BAHRAIN: BAHRAIN TO OUTLINE NEW YOUTH STRATEGY

**Manama, 5 February 2016** - A new five-year strategy is being drawn up to develop youth and sports programmes in Bahrain, said a report.

Several new sports facilities were built last year along with expansions and upgrades to existing ones, with more in the pipeline for this year, reported the

Gulf Daily News, our sister publication, citing Youth and Sport Minister Hisham Al Jowder.

[Trade Arabia]

### ✓ INDIA: YOUTH REQUIRE HAND-HOLDING TO IMPLEMENT INNOVATION: RAIKER

**Panaji, 7 February 2016** - AN Aspiring Entrepreneur workshop was conducted at the Goa Chamber of Commerce (GCCCI) to create

awareness about the recently launched Start-up India project by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The workshop was held under the auspices of World Trade Centre (Goa), GCCCI's Women's Wing, GEMS and I-Create.

Youth do not lack innovative ideas, but need to formulate and crystalize these ideas.



Mudra Bank has formulated special schemes launched for promoting Start-up India, said member of the board of micro, medium and small scale enterprises Mangurish Pai

Raiker. The workshop saw an attendance of more than 125 participants.

Regional coordinator for I-Create Goa Manish

Gosalia spoke about the importance of development of entrepreneurs through focused and concise entrepreneurial training.

The participants were

briefed about the Start-up India initiative and importance of developing an entrepreneurial mind-set.

[Times of India]

### ✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH URGED TO CREATE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

**Lahore, 12 February 2016** - SPEAKERS at a seminar held at the University of Education (UoE) on 'Human Rights: Education and Sensitisation' have stressed on the need of proper education on human rights among masses and active participation of youth in raising awareness on the issue.

UoE and the Ministry of Human Rights jointly organised the seminar on Thursday.

UoE Vice Chancellor Dr Raufe Azam presided over the seminar while Human Rights Director General Muhammad Arshad, Regional Director Lubna Mansoor, University of Central Punjab

Communication and Media Studies Dean Prof Dr Mugheesud Din Sheikh, faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion. The Seminar was aimed to aware, educate and sensitise students about human rights, its legal proceedings and current scenario.

Addressing the seminar, Muhammad Arshad said that the constitution of Pakistan is a guarantor of basic human rights of every citizen.

"In democratic societies, youth's education, awareness and active participation is of great importance for better implementation and protection of human rights.

Increasing violence incidents in society can only be stopped when we respect other rights," he added. He also threw light on the ministry's performance, ongoing projects and other related affairs.

In his address, UoE Vice Chancellor Raufe Azam said the society is an aggregate of human beings where rights and duties are both essential elements.

"Unfortunately, the prevailing discriminative attitudes in our society are not only a shameful but also a big hurdle in implementation of the government writ," he said, adding that we should abide by the golden principals of humanity in our individual

and social lives so that we could make our country a peaceful society.

Talking on media's role and characteristics regarding human rights, Dr. Mugheesud Din Sheikh said that media could effectively eliminate the increasing intolerant culture, injustice and ignorance from society.

"A careful reporting under journalistic ethical frame on human rights, issues and challenges is need of hour," he added.

[Daily Times]

### ✓ YEMENI: ROTA TRAINING BENEFITS 1,100 YEMEN YOUTH

**Sana'a 12 February 2016** - A TOTAL of 1,100 Yemeni youth benefited from entrepreneurship orientation and training provided by Reach out to Asia (ROTA) in partnership with CARE International and Silatech.

The initiative is part of a \$1.2m project 'Toward Better Economic Opportunities for Youth in Sana'a and Hajjah'.

The two-year project aims to improve economic opportunities for Yemen's youth and offer viable alternatives to formal employment in a country

disadvantaged by high unemployment and a growing population of young people.

Through training and mentorship, the ROTA-funded project provided youth with business skills, training, orientation and linkages to youth-friendly financial services, allowing them to capitalise on their skills through self-employment.

The project was launched in early 2014 in four districts in the Hajjah Governorate, including Abs and Hajjah,

and three districts in the Sana'a Governorate Maeen, Bani Al Hareth, and Sawan. ROTA worked with Silatech and its partners in Yemen to teach 1,100 youth skills and knowledge for self-employment.

It also granted another 1,000 young Yemenis access to information and support services to assist entrepreneurship, enabling them to harness local resources.

Essa Al Mannai, Executive Director, and ROTA, said: "The collaboration on the project has had an important and positive impact on a

country whose economy is extremely limited.

The intelligent design of the project meets educational and employment needs of youth, and its innovative approach helps promote sustainable long-term development in the country."

Dr Tarik M Yousef, CEO, and Silatech, said: "The project has helped create an environment for youth entrepreneurship through the facilitation and encouragement of knowledge sharing.



Daw Mohamed, Country Director for Yemen, CARE International, said: “The unique initiative is providing for Yemen’s future by supporting and incentivising its youth.

Through this partnership, the younger generation will be able to pursue their career goals and facilitate change in their immediate environments and within their country.”

Many young people in Yemen have benefitted from the project, such as 24-year-old Elham Radman Al Qadasi, who lives in one of the most marginalised communities.

Elham lives in a small rented house with her mother, she supports due to her ill health.

The success of her plan has allowed her to work in the beauty business as a hairdresser and, over the past 16 months, she has served her community from home.

*[Peninsula On-line]*

NEWS



### ✓ BULGARIA: BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME

**Sofia, 10 February 2016** - THE Bulgarian government approved at its regular meeting on Wednesday a national youth programme encompassing the period between 2016-2020.

The programme will serve as an instrument for fulfilling the goals of the country's youth policy and funding youth projects realised by NGOs.

The funding will be provided under two main sub-programmes, namely the development of the

network of youth information-consultative centres and national youth initiatives and campaigns.

The programme is expected to contribute in achieving strategic goals of the national youth strategy through fulfilling eight operational goals and fifteen activities directed towards encouraging personal development and youth economic activity.

It is also aimed at: improving access to information and quality

services; encouraging healthy lifestyle; preventing social exclusion and increasing civic activity among youth.

Among the expected result is achieving territorial coverage through the functioning of at least thirty youth information consultative centres providing quality and effective services.

Other expected results are raising youth awareness, developing their knowledge, skills and attitudes as well as encouraging them to

participate in the process on deciding important social issues and youth problems. The programme will also inform youth of the benefits of healthy lifestyle, youth volunteering, and opportunities for youth entrepreneurship in Bulgaria and mobilising youth in the implementation of European policies.

[Novinite.com]

### ✓ CROATIA: INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CREATIVE YOUNG MINDS

**Zagreb, 21 February 2016** - MORE than 1,000 international creative minds coming to Zagreb in May.

Leap Summit will gather more than 1,000 young people who are entrepreneurs, NGO leaders, students, leaders and opinion leaders in their respective communities.

Main themes of the Leap Summit will be connected to innovations, entrepreneurship, modern technologies, career development and success stories.

The Summit is under patronage of President of Republic of Croatia and is highly supported by University of Zagreb.

The Leap Summit international conference hopes to gather a lot of Croatian participants who live outside of Croatia, to exchange ideas and positive experiences, according to a press release on February 19, 2016.

We are honored to invite you to participate at the Leap Summit - international

conference for youth which will be held from 5th till 7th of May, 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia at the University of Zagreb.

Leap Summit will gather more than 1,000 young people who are entrepreneurs, NGO leaders, students, leaders and opinion leaders in their respective communities.

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We hope to gather a lot of Croatian participants who live outside of Croatia, to exchange ideas and positive experiences.

[Total Croatia News]

### ✓ NETHERLANDS: OVER 70 YOUTH SET FOR LIFE SKILLS TRAINING IN NETHERLANDS

**Amsterdam, 18 February 2016** - ABOUT 75 youth in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, will benefit from training on basic life skills embedded in technical programmes in five sub-sectors.

The Netherlands-funded project is to be implemented by Iringa-based Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

SIDO has been selected as a local building capacity for the Opportunity for Youth Employment (OYE) project which will be implemented in Mufindi District.

According to a statement issue by SIDO, the one-year project is being funded by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in partnership with Master Card Foundation.

OYE in renewable energy aims at stimulating youth employment opportunities in renewable energy value chains.

As such, OYE project will work with youth in solar energy, improved cook stoves, domestic biogas, bio slurry and briquettes sub-sectors.

After successful

completion of the technical training, youth will be matched with renewable energy companies working in the mentioned sectors to get further on-job placements and training before receiving business skills training where they will be able to access low interest loans from micro-lending institutions that are OYE partners, the statement said.



Among other activities, SIDO has been mandated to identify youth groups from pre-selected intervention areas through the use of selection criteria and proce-

dures laid down by OYE. It then presents youth with employment opportunities in the renewable energy sectors and collects data and information of the identified

youth from the project areas.

[IPPmedia]

### ✓ SERBIA: THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS

**Belgrade, 15 February 2016** - WE are in the second month of reaching the 2030 sustainable development agenda; 178 to go.

In September 2015, 193 governments agreed on a plan to end poverty, combat climate change and fight injustice and inequality. The governments came together in the United Nations to adopt the sustainable development agenda with 17 goals to transform our world into one of prosper, just, and well-being.

The first time I told my mates in Serbia about the new 17 goals, their reactions were not unpredictable.

From a developing country, Serbia developed into an upper middle income country. For generations born in the new millennium, this meant that when it comes to global development looked through the prism of the Millennium Development Goals, Serbia was in a limbo the country was neither of a high standard nor in a vulnerable position to receive assistance.

The unfair distribution of

power and the consequential divide were harmful in many ways.

One of which was that it made young people react to the Sustainable Development Agenda as yet another development plan, which is happening "somewhere out there", far on another continent, and something that is irrelevant for us.

On the first reading of the new 17 goals we were all proven wrong. The new agenda is transformative; the new agenda is universal!

It brings together social, economic, and environmental sustainable development highly relevant for all countries around the world.

The new agenda, in a way, makes every country a developing one. For young people in Serbia, sustainable development agenda is a roadmap for changing the way we live, the ways we value each other, the ways we learn, consume and grow.

On the second reading of the 17 goals, another thought comes to mind.

Despite the transformative nature of the agenda as a whole, the goals still don't have a strong enough reference to or focus on youth, youth participation, and investment in youth or rights of young people.

Young people have the right to ask if we are not in it, is the development agenda really for us? It's a fact that the primary responsibility for implementing the agenda rests with governments.

Yet, we are talking about a large stake for the present and the future of our society; we are talking about bringing about changes, re-allocating funds and putting energy into a development which young people in Serbia as young citizens of the world have the right to participate in.

Young people are active drivers of change in local communities.

Young people have a role in engaging people at the grassroots level and a role in communicating the goals to a wider society.

Before anyone thinks of it no, communicating the

goals through social media is not youth participation. It's not what our main role is in checking off the to-do list called sustainable development agenda.

Young people and youth-led organizations need to have the space and recognition to participate in translation of the agenda into local, national and regional policy, in implementation, in monitoring and review, in holding governments accountable.

Young people need structured mechanism for participation through decision-making, ideally in co-decision manner, and especially in areas that have a clear impact on young people.

With right political commitment and adequate fund allocation, young people can fulfill their roles and that way make the most effective transformation of the world into a better place for all.

Harmful stereotypes of today's young people as careless slackers who only have interests in frivolous matters are common.

[Huffington Post]

### ✓ TURKEY: YOUTH UNEMPLOYEMENT STILL HIGH AS OVERALL JOBLESS RATE

**Ankara, 15 February 2016** - TURKEY's unemployment rate stood at 10.5 percent in November, unchanged from the preceding month and 0.2 percentage points down

from a year earlier, while the jobless rate among the young population remained stubbornly high despite a slight upturn.

An additional 29,000 jobless added to the unemployed population aged 15 or above, pushing the total number to 3.12 million although no

percentage change was seen month-on-month in November, the Turkish Statistics Institute (TurkStat) said on Monday.



The unemployment rate was 10.7 percent in November 2014, according to TurkStat data, which also showed the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate as dropping from 10.7 percent to 10.4 percent from November 2014 to the same month of 2015.

Meanwhile, the jobless rate among those aged between 15 and 24 remained high as 930,000 people in this age group had no job even though it declined from 19.3 percent in October to 19.1 percent in November.

While the total young population was counted to be 11.8 million, only 4.8 million were deemed to be in the labor market, according to TurkStat measurements.

The youth unemployment rate stood at 19.9 percent in November 2014.

More than half of young Turkish citizens 50.1 percent consider unemployment the main problem in the country, with education and the current course of the economy being the next biggest concerns for this particular age group, according to a recent survey carried out by the Turkish bureau of global research company TNS.

Despite some slight changes at times in the past, youth unemployment has always been a problem for Turkey as it has hovered between 15 and 20 percent with the exception of the year 2009 since 2005.

While 17.5 percent of young individuals in the Turkish labor force were jobless in 2015, the figure

was 16.5 percent in 2006, 17.3 percent in 2007, 18.6 percent in 2008, 22.9 percent in 2009, 19.9 percent in 2010, 16.8 percent in 2011, 15.8 percent in 2012, 17.1 percent in 2013 and 17.9 percent in 2014. The corresponding rate for 2015 is yet to be announced.

Comparing the statistics with those in other countries, Turkey is considered to be performing better than the European Union as the average youth unemployment rate in the 28 EU countries was 23.5 percent in 2013.

Yet, the rate was 6.8 percent in Japan, 7.9 percent in Germany, 9.2 percent in Austria, 11 percent in the Netherlands, 13 percent in Denmark and 15.5 percent in the US, in the same year.

TurkStat's Monday announcement also revealed that the non-farm unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage points to 12.4 percent year-on-year in November.

*[Today's Zaman]*

NEWS



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: HOMELESS YOUTH IN CRISIS

**Canberra, 15 February 2016** - A mission Australia youth homelessness survey has found one in seven young Queenslanders are at risk of homelessness.

However, if you are young and living in Gladstone and in need of crisis accommodation you may have to look elsewhere because Roseberry Community Service is full and there aren't any other service providers who can offer crisis accommodation for young people.

The general manager of Roseberry, Colleen Tribe, said her organisation had seen a recent spike in young people, 16 years to 25, seeking crisis accommodation in Gladstone but had been at or near capacity for the last year.

Since the New Year 23 people have had to be referred by Roseberry to other housing services at Rockhampton. Out of 146 properties run by Roseberry in the Gladstone region, Ms Tribe said

Roseberry had no vacancies for crisis accommodation and only a few vacancies in its affordable housing program.

"We are in a little bit of a desperate situation," she said.

"At the moment we would have to direct people to other service providers."

Roseberry offers a range of programs to get people back on track and back into employment and private accommodation.

Having been forced to leave her grandparent's house at 13, Hayley Robinson, 25, has spent the last 12 years living in various refuges at different times in New South Wales and Queensland.

She is about eight months away from having her fourth baby and thanks to Roseberry she is now looking to get a bit of stability back into her life.

Hayley's mum left her at a young age, saying she was

heading out for a packet of cigarettes, and her father was absent because he was in jail.

Hayley has been at Roseberry since December after seeking refuge from an abusive partner.

Roseberry House supervisor Sherrie Easton said most people who presented to Roseberry were escaping family conflict and domestic violence and dealing with mental illness.

The Youth Survey found that family conflict affects 1.9million young Australians.

Hayley said her first priority was to find affordable accommodation. "Housing is my main priority and while I'm waiting I'll do my education," she said.

She hopes to find a job in youth work once she completes her study.

Her advice for others like her was to not "do what your parents do" and to

"know that you can get all your help" from Roseberry.

Mission Australia's youth homelessness survey reported that over 112,000 people aged under 25 years sought assistance in 2014-15 from specialist homelessness services.

53,301 of these young people seeking help were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

"One in seven young Australians responding to the survey had spent time away from home because they couldn't return.

The vast majority [84%] of these young people had done so on more than one occasion and some [8%] had typically stayed away for periods longer than six months," the survey found.

[Gladstone Observer]

### ✓ FIJI : STATE PLAN FOR YOUTH

**Suva, 1 February 2016** - DESPITE the limited resources, the Ministry of Youth has plans to improve the involvement of youths in development projects.

North divisional youth officer Taniela Tuinaceva told stakeholders at a recent meeting in Labasa that despite the limited manpower to work with about 56,000 youths in the North, his team was ready to help young people rise above their challenges.

"One of the major areas we are looking at is the Tunuloa District in Cakaudrove which is known for drug cultivation," he said.

"The ministry has started working with youths in the district through workshops and introducing to them programs such as the Northern Development Program.

"These are some

Government initiatives that youths can make use of to help them run small businesses and farm."

Mr Tuinaceva said they would also work with youths in ensuring their various clubs registered with the ministry.

"This is important because it enables us to identify with them the different projects they want to work on.

There are also a lot of youth

clubs that need to be re-registered so this is another major area we will focus on.

"The North has a lot of potential and we are positive that youths will make a change and participate in development projects in their communities."

[The Fiji Times Online]



### ✓ GUAM: BECOME A MENTOR, HELP ISLAND'S YOUTHS REACH POTENTIAL

**Hagåtña, 2 February 2016** - THE island community joins Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam in recognizing and thanking the local volunteers who help make a difference in the lives of youth through mentoring.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam kicked off February as “Guam Mentoring Awareness Month.”

During a proclamation signing at Adelup, the nonprofit paid special recognition to two outstanding local volunteers and a local high school for its efforts to help Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Carlos Mesa, a school-based mentor and Personal Finance Center employee is the 2016 Big Brother of the Year; Ameka Mmoh, a community-based mentor and Air Force airman, is the 2016 Big Sister of the Year; and Father Duenas Memorial School, a school partner whose students have been mentoring with the organization for over 10 years, is the 2016 Community Partner of the Year.

We commend the two mentors and Father Duenas students for being positive influences in the lives of our youths.

Our youths need a solid foundation to nurture them as they learn and grow to become productive and caring Guam citizens.

That’s why it’s so important for our young people to have mentors.

Mentoring provides youths with a consistent and reliable relationship with adults.

The support and guidance mentors provide can help youths build self-esteem and confidence so that they may reach their full potential.

We encourage the

community to get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The nonprofit will host a series of events and activities to promote the positive effects of mentoring and to recognize individuals and community partners who support the program through their time, talent and resources.

We urge interested adults to become involved as mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters or other local nonprofits that provide mentoring programs.

*[Pacific Daily News]*

### ✓ NEWZEALAND: YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME SEEKS EMERGING YOUNG WRITERS

**Wellington, 2 February 2016** - SECONDARY school students will each have the opportunity to be mentored by one of New Zealand’s best professional authors in order to develop their craft and hone their writing skills.

The NZSA Youth Mentorship Programme 2016 offers these aspiring young writers (aged 15-18)

a mentorship, from May to November, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge.

The intent of the mentor programme is to foster and develop emerging writing talent with the support of established authors.

Madeline Dew of Opotiki was partnered with children’s and young adult

author Tina Shaw for her 2015 mentorship and she found it to be an invaluable experience that validated her as a young writer.

‘The relationship and communication with my mentor was amazing. All the goals I set were personally settled upon which allowed for great project development and personal achievement’.

The NZSA has run a highly successful mentoring programme for writers since 1999, thanks to support from Creative New Zealand.

*[Booksellers.co.nz]*

### ✓ SOLOMON ISLANDS: YOSI MAGAZINE SHINES LIGHT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

**Honiara, 24 February 2016** - THE latest issue of the Youth of Solomon Islands (YOSI) magazine features an inclusive participation theme and showcases stories of young people with disabilities.

Available now, the third issue of YOSI also contains a special feature on Malaita province, where the Pacific Community (SPC) and its partners are rolling out the popular Youth@Work

initiative this month. Included are stories from Malaita of young people who have struggled with their small savings to start small businesses and used their skills to help their communities and families.

YOSI provides a platform where young, talented artists can share their stories through art forms, as it welcomes submissions to be featured in upcoming issues.

SPC’s Youth@Work coordinator, Rose Martin, said she was impressed with another job well done, in particular the response of youths who contributed to the magazine.

“I am proud to witness this magazine, as intended, becoming an avenue for voicing out aspirational stories either about, or written by, youth.”

The magazine is currently seeking contributions from

young people aged 13 to 30, and is running a competition for feature writers, journalists and photographers.

Winners of the competition will have their submissions published in YOSI and receive a writer’s prize pack. The deadline for submissions is 4 March 2016.



Martin added that she would like to see this not only as an ongoing practice, but as a regular new avenue for youth to publically share their views, their stories and their expressive natures on topics of importance to youth of the Solomon Islands.

provinces, with assistance from its partner ministries.

*[Saipan Tribune]*

“I would like to encourage youth to tell their stories in the next issues as it would be our honor to have their stories printed,” Martin said.

After reading the magazine, Dailen Derol, 27, said he really enjoyed even just browsing through the material and liked the story of the young guitar instructor the most.

YOSI magazine hard copies are available at the Youth@Work office now temporarily located on Tandai Highway a little bit beyond Good View shop while renovations of their Art Gallery office are taking place.

Youth@Work is implemented by SPC, in partnership with the Solomon Islands Ministry of National Unity, Peace and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.

Youth@Work is an initiative to tackle youth unemployment in the Solomon Islands and is funded by the Queens Young Leader’s Programme in Honiara and the Australian Government’s aid program in the

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