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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 April 2017	International Day of Sport for Development	Melaka, Malaysia
7 April 2017	World Health Day	Melaka, Malaysia
21-23 April 2017	Global Youth Service Day	Melaka, Malaysia
22 April 2017	International Mother Earth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
23 April 2017	World Book and Copyright Day	Melaka, Malaysia
28 April 2017	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ KENYA: STATE SPENDING TO NURTURE YOUTH IN ARTS AND CULTURE

Nairobi, 20 April 2017 - THE government will allocate more funds to promote and nurture talents among the youth.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Tuesday said talents, culture and art are priority

areas for his administration, saying they are important economic assets that must be promoted.

He said the government has focused on areas that generate income for the youth to reduce

unemployment. Uhuru made the remarks when he hosted the 58th National Drama Festivals State Concert in Kisumu.

He was accompanied by, among others, Head of Public Service Joseph

Kinyua, Sports CS Hassan Wario and Education CS Fred Matiang'i, Education PS Belio Kipsang and Governor Jack Ranguma.

[The Star]

✓ MALAWI: SRH INFORMATION VITAL TO YOUTHS

Lilongwe, 4 April 2017 - TEEN pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections are some of major challenges facing the youth in the country because of lacking Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information, it has been observed.

This was revealed during interface meeting with key stakeholders in Karonga organised by Kachila Youth Resource Center.

Speaking in an interview, Kachila Youth Initiative Executive Director William Matchona Ngwira said youths in Karonga are lacking accurate SRH information which lead them to contract STIs and HIV/AIDs.

“Youths are dominating the population of Malawi and still they are lacking information related to Sexually Transmitted infections and HIV/Aids,” said Ngwira Kachila Youth Resource Center under the funding from Tilitose has embarked on campaign to provide youths with SRH information in Karonga.

The organization has recruited 45 peer educators in the areas of Mwenhimba and Mwenyumba with the aim of providing information of Sexual

Reproductive Health (SRH) to youths and help youths to access condoms and contraceptive methods.

“We heard outcry of youths who are demanding unrestricted access to SRH interventions within their reach to curb unintended pregnancies and HIV infections.

“So we are empowering youths with SRH knowledge and providing contraceptive methods within our catchment areas so that young people should not travel long distance to access contraceptives,” said Ngwira.

Survey conducted by Kachila shows there is no room for youth friendly health services at Karonga District hospital. Ngwira expressed dissatisfaction with the Karonga District Hospital which has no youth-friendly services room where youths can find services feely.

“We are looking forward to our hospital (Karonga district hospital) to provide safe space for youths such as youth-friendly services as one way to reduce school dropout rates, early pregnancies, obstetric fistula and HIV infections among youths,” Ngwira said.

He added that his organization conducted interface meeting with duty bearers and community leaders to find the solution to this problem.

Kachila Youth Resource Center has trained 45 peer educators in August 2016 within their catchment areas and has managed to reach 2482 girls and 3048 boys.

Meanwhile, Ngwira has called on parents to be talking about sex and sexual issues with their children.

“You know in Malawi openly talking about sex issues it looks as a taboo but high incidence of HIV and Aids are among youths.

We also approach religious leaders, traditional leaders and other community leaders so that they should be open to discuss issues concerning Sexual Reproductive Health,” he said.

In his response, Oswald Kalinga from Karonga Hospital said Karonga district hospital still faces a challenge since there is no fund allocated for Youth Friendly Health Services Programs since the funding is prioritized for other activities.

Among participants who

attended the meeting were chiefs, FPAM personels, District Health Officer, Karonga District hospital officials, Ombudsman and youth clubs in Karonga.

[Malawi24]



✓ NIGERIA: WORKPLACE CENTRE LAUNCHES MAIDEN YOUTH INEST INITIATIVE

Abuja, 16 April 2017 - TO reduce unemployment by impacting youths with the required skills to enable them become entrepreneurs and also become employable, Work Place Centre Limited in partner with Oracle Academy has come together to launch a maiden edition of Youth Invest Initiative, by offering 25 Nigerian youths a free four days training on SQL Database.

Speaking at the event, the chairman of work place youth initiative, Mrs. Mojisola Olateru Olagbegi, said, "this program has helped us know the need of helping young scholars.

Basically, we believe in our young people, and we have decided to help them in some skills, to be ready for

the market place, and to help them as far as they can to get a job.

Although, this is our first move, we have been operating for over three and half years, but we did not take any step, not until now that we decided to make a move, because we saw that there was a need to do that.

"We were able to get the 25 students we needed on line, because close to two

hundred of them applied for the training but only twenty five were picked, and they are all unemployed graduates.

It is a technical training, it is purely for science and technology, and because we found out that we do not have enough skills in that area, when we look at countries that are into

technology, they build, make research and are good in all aspect of technology.

And so we decided to invest in this young people.

"We got sponsorship from Oracle Academy and from Smile Communication.

Oracle provided their free tubes, Smile provided their Internet, while we provided the environment we use for the training and the facilities too.

We believe that with God by our side, and with all the support from our sponsors, we will achieve our goal.

"Also, we would like to connect with the government and private sector, to help us improve in Nigerian youth, the skills and the passion of

becoming an entrepreneur and to help us reduce unemployment in the country, because with the rate at which things are going in our country, so many youth are going into stealing, arm robbery, kidnapping and so on.

So, if our youths are given opportunities like this, all this things that are mentioned above would be on a low rate.

Government should also help us to encourage our youth to do something with their hands, making them learn more skills and providing funds for them to start with," She said.

[Guardian]

✓ TANZANIA: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE BIG CHALLENGE

Dar es Salaam, 11 April 2017 - TANZANIA's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to growth and the government must address it.

Among ways recommended include connecting them to the banking sector for them to access credit and engage in agricultural production.

The governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), Prof Benno Ndulu, said this yesterday at the launch of the World Bank's 9th Tanzania Economic Update.

He said the country had abundant resources, which created a lot of opportunities for skilled youth possessing the right digital technology.

"To address the unemployment crisis, the government needs to provide a better environment for the youth to engage in sectors that support its industrialisation drive, including agriculture.

The on-going rural electrification process would open opportunities to them," he said.

He stressed that the youth, who form a large part of the population, could be a challenge if they were left without engagement.

Prof Ndulu further argued that the government's industrialisation drive required clarity and predictability of policies in order to really support the private sector

He also said that Tanzania's economic growth remained stable unlike most other African countries because, among other things, it had made huge strides in infrastructure development. For her part, the managing partner of Rex Consulting, Dr Hawa Sinare, argued that the country's economy has the potential of growing at the 11 per cent rate from the current 6.6 per cent provided the private sector potential is unlocked.

She noted that in 1996 the economy was growing at 4 per cent rate, but the then administration worked closely with the private sector and took macro aspects seriously to enable the economy to grow at 6 per cent rate.

"The country's labour

market receives thousands of skilled youth annually, but there are no jobs for them, so intervention measures are needed to address their predicament," she argued.

She explained that the country had numerous tourist attractions, but only one million tourists currently visit the country annually.

This means there is a growth potential in the sector for job creation. She noted that agriculture was another sector that can create jobs if the government addressed constraints such as the numerous levies, land disputes and even costly credit facilities.



For his part, an economics don with Mzumbe University, Prof Honest Ngowi, said despite the country having some 50 banks, these need to provide their customers with good

deals. "The banking sector is growing, but it does not reach out to the rural dwellers," he observed. For her part, the deputy minister for Finance and

Planning Meanwhile, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, said the launch of the report highlighted the importance of financial inclusion for poverty reduction and mobilising savings towards

productive purposes.

[The Citizen]

✓ ZAMBIA: GOVT TARGETS RURAL YOUTHS

Lusaka, 11 April 2016 - GOVERNMENT intends to construct community sports facilities in rural areas across the country.

Minister of Youth and Sport, Moses Mawere, says the move is aimed at enhancing the participation of youths in rural areas in sporting activities.

Mawere disclosed the development in an interview with ZANIS in Kasama.

He said the community sports centres will also serve as strategic places for the National Sports Council of Zambia through its agents to identify talent which can be nurtured to professional level.

Mawere further encouraged upcoming sports men and women in rural areas to exercise determination if they are to make it to greater heights.

[ZNBC]

NEWS



✓ BOLIVIA: YOUTH VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DON BOSCO PROJECT

Sucre, 21 April 2017 - SALESIAN missionaries in Bolivia encourage youth volunteerism as a way to give back to local communities.

Each year in January, youth come together with a desire to serve others.

This year, 54 youth gathered in the city of Santa Cruz as part of the Don Bosco Project. They met initially to obtain their volunteer assignments, learn more about being a volunteer and get to know each other.

The youth then spent the following two weeks volunteering with children playing games, facilitating leisure activities and working at the Salesian-run organizations of Hogar Don Bosco.

Young volunteers also provide great role models for younger children in Salesian programs.

With the high number of street children in Salesian programs in Bolivia, it's a good example for youth to see how much older youth who came from the same circumstances have been able to accomplish."

The Don Bosco Project provides comprehensive rehabilitation and vocational training programs that bring social inclusion and meaningful employment to their students.

Extending beyond emergency shelter, clothing and nutritious meals, the project brings together psychologists, social

workers, healthcare staff and teachers who work together to address the needs of close to 2,000 children who access primary and secondary schooling and vocational education.

There are several ways in which youth connect with the programs provided at the Don Bosco Project.

A free overnight shelter brings youth in off the streets and connects them with adults who show genuine concern and offer support.

The shelter provides a safe environment, nutritious meals and a support network that can be life changing.

A daytime program is also available for youth who are ready to escape their current situation and explore new opportunities.

Here, Salesian staff offers tutoring to help youth catch up on basic studies and return to school as well as information on specific trades.

In addition, there are opportunities for participation in sports and other constructive group activities.

For young people age 15 and older who have demonstrated a commitment to leaving the streets behind, there is the opportunity to study at the Michael Magone House.

Youth learn trades such as carpentry, auto mechanics and hair dressing that lead to stable employment and provide the opportunity to

escape poverty and give back to the students' communities.

The Don Bosco Project helps youth in Bolivia to see all that life has to offer and provides them the practical skills to leave life on the streets behind and connect with the educational and social resources to lead a more productive life.

"The Don Bosco Project is now beginning a new phase in its history building off the accomplishments of the last 25 years," says Father Octavio Sabbadin, a Salesian priest involved with the Don Bosco Project.

We have specific objectives that still need to be achieved with the support of our Salesian community in order to best provide programs and services to youth in need."

Don Bosco House also brought together 1,300 youth who were hosted in the 32 centers within the Don Bosco Project network. The theme of the event "Don Bosco makes us Family" served to promote the family spirit among youth who have been deprived of their biological family, but who found a sense of family in the Salesian program.

[Mission Newswire]





✓ CANADA: CANADA WORLD YOUTHS VISIT TO CHINESE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA

Ottawa, 6 April 2017 - CHAIRMAN of the Board of Directors of Canada World Youth (CWY), Mr. Rob Norris, along with President and C.E.O. of CWY, Ms. Rita S. Karakas, met last night with China's New Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Lu

Shaye, at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa to bolster Canada and China ties.

East China Normal University (ECNU) and CWY have partnered to create the China-Canada Young Leaders Program.

This new 5-year program, aimed at Canadian students interested in an innovative study abroad experience, provides opportunities for Canadian students interested in combining educational study with a volunteer service learning placement.

The first group of Canadian students will be leaving for China in early September 2017.

[Daily Mail]

✓ JAMAICA: YOUTH GROUP ENGAGES COMMUNITY ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

Kingston, 6 April 2017 - APPROXIMATELY 40 young persons from the Exchange SDA Community Youth Group participated in a march against drug abuse in the community of Exchange, St. Ann on Global Youth Day (March 18).

As the young advocates made their trek through the community, they issued

flyers and brochures on substance misuse.

The youth took the time to speak with community members about the dangers of drug abuse as they journeyed across Exchange.

Upon completion of the march, the youth distributed meals and clothing to less fortunate members of the community.

The activities were hosted in partnerships with the Northern Regional Health Authority (NEHRA), who also offered basic health care such as blood sugar and blood pressure checks to community members.

The Exchange SDA Community Youth Group is a newly-formed youth club in St. Ann.

The group, which was started by Senior Youth Empowerment Officer Anisa Wilson-Smith, is on a mission to engage youth, and positively impact the community of Exchange.

[Jamaica Observer]

✓ PERU: LABOUR LAW SPARKS FROM ENRAGED YOUTH AMID CALLS FOR REPEAL

Lima, 22 April 2017 - THOUSANDS of young Peruvians have marched through central Lima, chanting: "We don't want to be cheap, exploited manpower", in the latest protest against a controversial labour law which demonstrators claim robs them of basic rights, but which the government argues will boost employment. Thursday's march, which was joined by trade unionists, ended in a violent standoff with police, who fired tear gas at the protesters. About 20 people were arrested and 16 officers injured, according to the interior ministry. There was no immediate information on whether any protesters were injured. Dubbed the "Ley Pulpín", or Pulpín Law, the youth employment law's

derogatory moniker has its origins in a brand of fruit juice that is targeted at children and often carried in school lunch boxes. The term "Pulpín" has come to mean an innocent or immature young person who can be exploited. The law came into effect in mid-December and has been opposed bitterly by many of the 18-24-year-olds it is intended to benefit. The protest in Lima was mirrored in 10 other cities, and there has been an outpouring of criticism on social media.

The law aims to foster the creation of jobs by lowering costs for employers who hire young people. Holiday entitlement will be cut from 30 to 15 days, social security and life insurance will be reduced, and two annual bonuses and severance pay will

disappear.

The government insists the law will enable many young people to join the formal economy because companies will be encouraged by the lower costs to create more jobs for young workers who lack experience. But many of those targeted say the legislation simply allows companies to exploit young people.

[Vail Daily News]



✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: YOUTH ORGANISATION: GROOM FUTURE LEADERS NOW

Port of Spain, 18 April 2017

- FRESH leaders must be groomed from today even before they assume leadership roles. This is the view expressed by Arima- based youth NGO, the Caribbean Youth Development Network (CYDN), at its Youth Leadership Conference last week at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine.

The event was held in association with UWI's Institute for Critical Thinking and the United States Government's Young Leaders Initiative for the Americas.

CYDN head Nelicia Adams said that while many say youth are the future, they can surely also make a difference in the present.

She urged the dozens of youngsters present to each open up themselves to challenge and understand the value they have as young leaders by the simple act of being themselves.

"Leadership development cannot start when persons assume leadership positions.

It is the experiences and training and the opportunities that come before that create good leaders." Echoing former US president Barack Obama, she said, "Don't wait for change - create it." Edghill Messiah said everyone can learn to become an authentic leader, as he urged those present to be authentic, be yourself, dream big and embrace their opportunities. He said an authentic leader is one who is

results-oriented, who is constantly growing and who others want to follow. Messiah gave five attributes of leaders.

Firstly, they have purpose producing passion which shows up as passion. Secondly their values are reflected in their behaviour which in turn guides their action. Their relationships show connectedness which in turn engenders trust and commitment.

Self-discipline creates consistency which sets high standards, accountability and continued growth. Heart reflects compassion and empathy.

Monique Armstrong, head of Indianapolis- based NGO Motivate Our Minds, gave guests practical hints on how to develop their leadership skills, advising, "Don't let your youth be considered a flaw." Urging the young guests to not wait on a better world but to create it, she repeatedly told them, "You are excellent." She recalled having to overcome criticisms of "You're a woman, you're too tall, you're black and you're too young" to be named head of the NGO at age 24. Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Daryl Smith said Government is drafting a new youth policy and invited those present to give their suggestions. He urged youngsters to look at agriculture as a livelihood that could both earn revenue - streams and "give back" to the country.

[Newsday]

NEWS



✓ INDIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT BUCKS INDIA'S RAPID GROWTH

New Delhi, 21 April 2017 - THREE years ago, Reshma Kathuria decided she was fed up with the number of children leaving the school where she worked in north Delhi and not being able to find decent employment so she decided to do something about it.

Sample the FT's top stories for a week you select the topic, we deliver the news. Select topic Enter email address Invalid email Sign up By signing up you confirm that you have read and agree to the terms and conditions, cookie policy and privacy policy.

Ms Kathuria, a maths teacher at the Kulachi Hansraj Model School, set up a young enterprise scheme to help pupils set up their own businesses and gain some real-life experience of the skills they might need in the workplace.

The scheme was operated under the auspices of Teach a Man to Fish an international non-governmental organisation that sets up similar programmes across the world.

It is hard for many of these children to find a job in India," Ms Kathuria says.

"Those who are good academically will try and get a good job with a corporate or in government but, even then, many of them fail because they lack the skills they need and cannot get past the interview.

With two-thirds of its 1.2bn people under the age of 35,

India has the world's largest youth population something that is both a blessing and a curse for the nation.

The more optimistic predictions about the future of the economy cite the potential of this army of young and relatively cheap labour, which is helping to propel the country's growth.

At a time when many nations are looking after ageing populations, the proportion of dependants in India among the population as a whole is forecast to fall until 2040.

But this so-called "demographic dividend" will only amount to a boon if there are enough jobs for the nation's young people.

And those jobs are proving difficult for politicians and businesses to provide. In a recent survey of about 6,000 young people aged between 15-34, New Delhi's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) found that 18 per cent of respondents cited unemployment as India's biggest problem, while 12 per cent mentioned poverty and inequality.

More than 70 per cent said they were anxious about their own job situation.

India does not measure youth unemployment on a regular basis, but the latest data available, from 2012, show that just over 10 per cent of Indian people aged from 15 to 24 were out of work.

This figure does not capture the very high percentage of workers in self-employment and

informal labour, however.

A 2016 survey from the labour bureau found that almost 80 per cent of India's total labour force was either self-employed or working as casual labour.

The CSDS study also found that self-reported unemployment rates are higher among graduates than among those without degrees.

Experts are beginning to worry that India's rapid growth its GDP is increasing by around 7 per cent per year is coming without any significant addition of jobs.

"We all know that not enough jobs are being created," says Dharmakirti Joshi, chief economist at Crisil, the Indian rating agency.

India will have to focus on moving up the value chain in terms of the products that are being manufactured."

Over the years, successive Indian governments have launched schemes to both increase the number of new jobs being created and young people's ability to do them.

One of the largest of these is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which guarantees 100 days of work a year to every adult in a rural area willing to perform unskilled manual labour for the public sector.

Other schemes are more focused on specific skill development, such as the Skill India Mission,

launched by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, which aims to provide training to 400m people by 2022 through various government initiatives.

But for all the policy activity, experts say that young Indian workers still do not have the kinds of skills needed to give them the kind of high-value manufacturing jobs that will help to increase people's incomes.

"Today most youths are absorbed in low-paid jobs in the informal sector. They have little education to get higher-paid jobs in the organised [economy]."

Ms Kathuria says it is often left to volunteers to provide the kind of job training the state struggles with: "youth are being trained to pass exams, but they are still not getting the kind of skills training they need to satisfy job requirements."

[Financial times]



✓ JORDAN: EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME AIDING YOUTH TO FIND JOBS

Amman, 5 April 2017 - FOR Amer, Sandi and Mohammad, finding an employment organisation dedicated to catering to the needs of fresh graduates and equipping them to enter the labour market made a world of difference.

Similar to hundreds of thousands of Jordanians who graduate from universities in different specialisations, they found it difficult to find job opportunities in their field of study, mostly due to their lack of basic skills.

“I did not know at the time how to market myself and show my abilities, especially during interviews,” said one of the beneficiaries of the Jordan Education for Employment (JEFE), a youth employment organisation affiliated with the Education for Employment (EFE) Network.

For about three years after graduating in hospitality management, Sandi Haddad said she had given up hope of working in her field of study, before deciding to take a different approach and enrolling on one of the JEFE programmes sponsored by Al Waleed Philanthropies.

“After leaving home to work in hospitality industry, which I have always been passionate about, I became a teacher for around two-and-a-half years, but I then decided to pursue my dream and it took me a while until I found a course with JEFE that refreshed my knowledge,” she said on Tuesday.

Haddad is now the housekeeping manager at a five-star hotel. At an event held to

celebrate the efforts of EFE and its supporters, attended by HRH Princess Rim Ali, youth and employment experts underlined that ambition and motivation are not what Jordanian youth lacks, but instead the skills that enable them to meet the competitive needs of the market.

“Unemployment in Jordan is still high; almost twice the global average. According to a 2014 ILO [International Labour Organisation] study, Jordan’s youth face numerous challenges when it comes to moving from education to the workplace,” said Mohammad Bataineh, CEO of Agri-Jordan and chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce. Bataineh cited another survey conducted by the Department of Statistics that showed that approximately 60 per cent of youth in Jordan are inactive or not in the labour force, making the transition from school to the workplace extremely lengthy.

“Youth often takes up to three years to find stable or satisfactory employment, if at all. The total unemployment rate in 2016 is about 15.8 per cent; 13.8 per cent [among] men and 25.2 per cent for women,” he noted, adding that the Kingdom’s official unemployment rate hovers around 30 per cent, while 85 per cent of women in all age groups are not participating in the local labour force.

Bataineh highlighted that around 80,000 jobs are needed to be created each year in the Kingdom to avoid high levels of unemployment and poverty.

Senator Samir Murad, JEFE chairman, noted that “we often hear about the employed and unemployed, but what we do not hear about is the vastly bigger number of the unemployable”.

“The unemployable are people who have gotten to a certain place in life where they do not have the necessary skill set to get the job, whether because they were not fortunate enough to go through a certain educational journey, or because the educational path they took was not able to provide them with the necessary skills for the job,” he said.

He noted that JEFE provides a “tactical” training and job matching.

“We go to employers and understand what they need in terms of human resource requirements and at the organisation we develop the necessary training when youth is placed in these jobs, they are able to perform and deliver, creating a win-win situation,” said Murad.

More than 200 leaders in the private, public, education and civil society sectors took part in Tuesday’s event, which focused on innovative solutions for youth employment amid changes to the nature of work.

Discussions also covered the significance of creating economic and job opportunities and the role businesspeople can play in supporting such an endeavour.

Ron Bruder, founder of EFE, shared a briefing on the establishment of the organisation and how it

flourished to become the leading network linking unemployed youth to tangible job opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The year-long regional campaign, in partnership with MBC Al Amal and other partners, will highlight inspirational “first job” stories from business leaders and EFE alumni to boost opportunities available to youth.

Over 2,300 companies, foundations, government ministries and education institutions partner with the EFE Network.

Tuesday’s event was held as part of a week-long series of workshops and activities aimed at enhancing economic opportunities for youth in the MENA.

Attendees of the week-long event are focusing on strategies for youth employment, as well as innovations in the use of technology to enhance the reach of job training and placement programmes offered across the MENA region by EFE.

[The Jordan Times]



✓ NORTH KOREA: YOUTH IN NORTH KOREA SCORN STATE JOBS, OPT FOR MARKETPLACES

Pyongyang, April 4 2017 - YOUNG North Koreans who are being harassed by local authorities to report to work at state-owned enterprises are increasingly reluctant to follow orders, sources in the country say.

It may be a sign of the growing importance of marketplaces where about 1.6 million North Koreans now work daily, and earn more income than at stalled or unproductive state-owned plants.

A source in Yanggang Province told South Korean news service Daily NK local wardens are "going

from door-to-door and asking residents why they are not reporting to work." Locals are viewing the house calls as harassment, the source said, adding the younger generation of North Koreans mocks those who still work for the state.

Many have made a living for themselves without the assistance of the Kim Jong Un regime, the source said.

"You have to eat in order to go out and do your job," the source said, adding local authorities are being ungrateful by continuously harassing residents who do not receive state benefits

but still choose not to "betray" their country despite the current situation.

The source also said punishment for those who did not report to state firms was "heavy" until 2016, but because of the "deteriorating food situation" in 2017 young people are "responding aggressively or choosing market activities over reporting to their designated workplaces.

Workplace absenteeism is a serious issue for the state, and in January Kim issued an edict to review and prepare measures to address

"unemployment," according to the source, adding the state has been in arrears in payments to workers.

Pyongyang may be turning to the markets for a source of income and legitimacy.

Last week a South Korean government-run think tank said North Korea has legalized more than 400 markets, most likely to expand its influence.

[News & Observer]

✓ MALAYSIA: DON'T GO CHASING AFTER TITLES, KHAIRY TELLS YOUTH

Kuala Lumpur, 18 April 2017 - THE young should not actively seek titles but should first show that they deserve it by contributing to the state or nation, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

The Youth and Sports Minister was asked to comment on the lavish lifestyle of the 21-year-old Datuk Muhammad Saiful Muhamad Ali, which has caught the attention of netizens.

"My personal view is that you have to do something before you are recognised.

"However, it is up to the discretion of the institutions that bestow titles, whether it is the state governments, royalty or the Federal Government," he told reporters at a press conference after a dialogue with youth entrepreneurs at the TN50 Bumiputra Bertaraf Dunia programme here Tuesday.

He advised the young to show restraint in their desire

for titles.

"Even me at 40, I do not feel that I have achieved anything, what more somebody younger," he said.

He noted that even 29-year-old Azizulhasni Awang did not seek his help to get a title after winning a gold medal at the recent Track Cycling World Championships in Hong Kong.

Khairy said it was different for Datuk Lee Chong Wei and Datuk Nicol David, who were bestowed titles after achieving excellence in their respective sports. Muhammad Saiful's postings on his Facebook and Instagram accounts seemingly depict a life of luxury, especially a video he posted on his 21st birthday.

In the video, Muhammad Saiful and an older man, presumably his father, are seen descending from a private jet, getting into a Rolls Royce, flanked by an

escort, and being driven to his birthday party held in a hall, featuring musical and dance performances.

Based on a picture he posted on his Instagram account, Muhammad Saiful received the Darjah Indera Mahkota Pahang award, which carries the Datuk title, in 2015.

According to his Facebook account, he is the director of a number of businesses including scrap metal, convenience stores, a car wash and a recording studio, among others.

[The star online]



✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH BULGE: PAKISTAN MUST LEVERAGE ITS YOUNG POPULATION

Islamabad, 6 April 2017 - WITH the youth making up over 60 per cent of the country's population, it provides Pakistan with an opportunity to leverage its strategic position and enhance the country's economic growth.

The policy dialogue was followed by an interactive session.

[The Express Tribune]

This was the main focus of speakers at a university town hall on "Pakistan's Youth Bulge: Breaking the Growth Ceiling" organised by the Jinnah Institute at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Qazi Azmat Isa from the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund indicated that Pakistan has not invested in citizens, and has failed to provide them with basic services such as education and health.

He added that the main predicament facing the nation's growth was the exclusion of women and minorities from actively partaking in the state's economy.

PIDE Vice Chancellor Dr Asad Zaman asserted that each individual must work independently for social gain, in order to collectively make a difference in Pakistan's growth.

Highlighting the presence of an economic and demographic trap in the country, Haroon Sharif noted that demography alone does not lead to economic growth.

When compared to regional countries, Sharif said it was important to draft policies and bring reforms to maximise growth potential.

NEWS



✓ ALBANIA: OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ABROAD FOR THE YOUTH OF ELBASAN

Tirana, 13 April 2017 - THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with more than 10 accredited foreign Embassies in Albania, this time moved to the city of Elbasan, where yesterday was held the event "Open Day: Opportunities for scholarships for excellence students and young people in Elbasan District".

This event, which takes place under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ditmir Bushati, gathered the attention and interest of more than 500 young students and graduates of secondary

schools of Elbasan District as well as students wishing to be informed about the opportunities which not only neighbouring countries such as Italy and Greece, but also countries such as Sweden, Germany or China, offer at all levels of graduate and post-graduate studies.

Minister Bushati while having a conversation with the young participants, underlined that "Albania today has more young people who want to study abroad, yet much more young people who want to return to Albania.

We could not have an initiative for young people who want to study abroad without a project for those who want to return to their country after the studies"- he added.

This activity is part of the opening of the institution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for young people, a process which has already started 3 years ago, with the establishment of the Center of Excellence, a space of research and implementing projects related with projects of the Ministry, and beyond.

In addition, the MFA has continued to organize

similar activities to promote and support the Albanian youth, such as the wiki academy, a project that serves to train young people in the use of digital platforms.

After the interest which the activity of the Open Day regarding scholarships had aroused in Tirana and Shkodra, the activity of Elbasan highlighted even more the commitment of young Albanians towards goodwill to study and overcome any difficulties.

[SeeNews]

✓ ARMENIA: ARMENIA TO INCREASE YOUTH JOB PLACEMENT SUPPORT IN 2017

Yerevan, 11 April 2017 - ARMENIA will increase youth job placement support in 2017.

As of 1 March, 96,200 people of which 62,300 are women are registered in the regional centers of State Employment Agency (SEA)

of Armenia, the press service of the agency informed Armenian News .

Thanks to the efforts of the center, 1159 people have found jobs, nearly 950 people being involved in the SEA programs.

In the program of lump sum compensation to non-competitive employees, 264 people were involved in the 1st quarter of 2017.

The program lasted for a year. Instead of 751 people, it is planned to involve 4500 people in this program

in 2017, while the number of participants of support program to youth without experience will be increased from 477 to 1,200.

[Public Radio of Armenia]

✓ AZERBAJAIN: AZERCELL ANNOUNCES NEW COMPETITION FOR YOUTH

Baku, 19 April 2017 - AZERCELL Telecom LLC has announced a competition for the youth who wish to take part as a reader in "The youth is reading" project, designed for booklovers.

To join the competition, young individuals aged 18-29 with distinguished public speaking and reading skills are required to send a resume, photo, contact number and a voice sample to bookmate@azercell.com.

The applicant should read aloud 2-3 sentences from their favorite book. Voice samples can be recorded by

any recording device (cell phone, dictaphone).

The best readers will be selected by Azercell experts to read to an audience in Starbucks coffee shop in the frame of "The youth is reading" project.

The qualifying competition will be held on April 19-23, 2017. The winners are expected to be announced on April 26. For detailed information about the competition, please visit Azercell's official website or Facebook page.

"The youth is reading" project is aimed to promote

the culture of reading and national authors among the young generation, as well as give an opportunity for intellectual resting in our hectic lives.

During the reading days in Starbucks cafe, Ganjlik Mall the booklovers will be read the works of literature which are included into Bookmate application, launched by Azercell 2 years ago.

So far Azercell has conducted a number of projects to promote the culture of reading in the country.

Thanks to Bookmate application launched in 2015, Azercell subscribers can read books with no restriction in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, Turkish and other languages.

Over 690,000 books are available in the mobile library provided by Azercell.

The leader of the mobile communication industry of Azerbaijan and the biggest investor in the non-oil sector Azercell Telecom LLC was founded in 1996.



With 48% share of Azerbaijan's mobile market Azercell's network covers 80% of the territory and 99,8% of population of the country.

Currently, 4,5 million subscribers choose Azercell services. Azercell has pioneered an important

number of innovations in Azerbaijan, including GSM technology, advance payment system, 24/7 Customer Care, online customer services, GPRS/EDGE, M2M, Mobil Bank, one-stop- shop service offices Azercell Express, mobile e-service "ASAN signature", etc.

Azercell deployed first 4G LTE services in Azerbaijan in 2012. According to the results of mobile network quality surveys of Global Wireless Solutions Company and international systems specialized in wireless coverage mapping such as "Open signal" and

"Testmy.net", Azercell's network demonstrated the best results among the mobile operators of Azerbaijan.

[AzerNews]

✓ ROMANIA: BACAU TO BECOME THE YOUTH CAPITAL OF ROMANIA THIS YEAR

Bucharest , 5 April 2017 - BACAU Municipality and Young People Federation from Bacau, together with the Governance Board for Young People Capital, comprising the Young People Council from Romania, Young People Federation from Cluj and BCR, signed on Tuesday the agreement for the establishment of Bacau as the Youth Capital of Romania.

Bacau will hold this title between May 2 2017- May 1 2018, aiming to develop the city through the involvement of young

people and capitalize their potential. At the same time, BCR will grant the municipality EUR 50,000, becoming the first official bank of the program.

The mission of Bacau is to support the young people's ideas by organizing local and national events and ensuring the infrastructure for activities for young people in different areas, such as education, culture, public participation, work and entrepreneurship, sport and health.

Both the municipality and

the Young People Federation from Bacau aim to organize between May 2 2017 and May 1 2018 over 100 events and over 1,500 activities for 344,000 beneficiaries as well as over 1,800 volunteers.

Young people are currently the main creativity source of Romania.

We have the duty of harness it and encourage it, to not lose it so easily.

We have to determine the young people to have faith that they can do something for the communities they

were born in and grew in, to actively contribute to the Romania's development. We are extremely proud to support for the third year in row the Youth Capital," said Dana Demetrian, vice-president executive retail and private banking of BCR.

Bacau is the second city from Romani that will become the capital of the young people after Timisoara.

[Daily Mail]

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

Madrid, 27 April 2016 - 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]



✓ AUSTRALIA: MISSION AUSTRALIA YOUTH SURVEY

Canberra, 3 April 2017 - ON Monday 3 April during National Youth Week (31 March-9 April), Mission Australia will launch its annual Youth Survey (2017) and will urge young people to actively express their thoughts, concerns and aspirations.

With nearly 22,000 participants having their say last year, Mission Australia hopes to surpass that record in 2017 as the community service organisation launches its 16th annual Youth Survey.

The survey is open to 15-19 year olds until the end of July.

Mission Australia CEO Catherine Yeomans said she encouraged young people across the nation to undertake Australia's largest annual nationwide

poll of young people.

We value the views of Australian young people. By checking in annually to find out what's really going on in their lives, it means organisations like ours have access to up-to-date evidence so we can advocate on their behalf for the services and broader policy changes that they need, and that are proven to work.

"A vast number of schools, community youth groups, sporting teams, community service organisations and church groups take part in the Youth Survey every year.

This year, we encourage more schools and groups to come on board and participate.

The more people that get

involved, the more inclusive, insightful and representative of the broader youth community the results will be," said Ms Yeomans.

In 2016, the top three issues identified by young people as most important in Australia today were alcohol and drugs and equity and discrimination, with mental health entering the top three for the first time in the 15 year history of reporting.

Concerns about mental health have doubled since 2011. In the survey, young people continue to nominate coping with stress, school or study problems and body image as their top three issues of personal concern.

Mental health issues were also increasingly identified as personal concerns for

young people.

Each year, the Youth Survey provides a valuable snapshot of young Australians and offers many important insights that inform Mission Australia's work and that of other community groups as well as Government decision making.

Mission Australia's 2017 Youth Survey is open to all Australian young people aged 15-19 years old.

[ABC Online]

✓ FIJI: YOUTH ISSUES

Suva, 12 April 2017 - THE Pacific Youth Council has identified that many indigenous young people are lagging behind in some sectors of youth development in the country.

Council representative Manasa Vatanitawake said the council was working to minimise this issue affecting the youths.

"We have found out that indigenous youths were falling behind in terms of business developments, entrepreneurship compared with Indo-Fijian youths who excelled in these areas," he said.

"What we are trying to do now is to exchange information and how do we

learn from them to progress further."

Mr Vatanitawake was present at the Pacific Region launch of the 2016 Global Youth Development Index (YDI) and Report in Suva last Friday and gave an opinion on how the YDI would support their work in the country.

"The YDI supports the work we are doing in the country not only internationally, but regionally as well.

We have to see how relevant the indicators are and how we are responding to it. We are supposed to respond to it in terms of young people being involved in," he said.

"The indicators help us to either support or are very critical to how young people develop as a whole."

Mr Vatanitawake said there were still some factors affecting the youths in the country.

"In Fiji, young people continue to acknowledge that youth employment is an issue in the country.

Other things like quality education, climate change, issue of resettlement and culture are also affecting them.

"The response from the youths and communities sometimes can be conflicting.

Our young people do take their time to do their own research in the village, they read the local newspaper, watch the television for what is happening around them, but others have a mind-set of living life as it comes."

[Fiji Times]



✓ GUAM: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES, FAMILIES FACE TOUGH JOB MARKET

Hagåtña, 15 April 2017 -

ALAN is a young man in his mid-20s and, like many born into the millennial generation, he is fascinated by technology.

He has utilized instructional videos and other tools to cope with his disabilities. Alan is autistic and is afflicted with dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

Like others in similar circumstances, Alan has also spent most of his adult life unemployed.

The Guam Department of Education and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) within the Department of Integrated Services for individuals with Disabilities (DISID) are charged with identifying students in need of transition services and collaborating with employers for pre-employment training opportunities.

DVR provides guidance to counselors in every school to assist with transition services.

DVR also works in conjunction with the local labor department and the American Jobs Center to train individuals and provide links to potential employers.

Edmund Cruz is a patient advocate and the director of the Guam Client Assistance Program (CAP). Between 40 to 60 complaints related to DVR reach his office every year.

About half of the complaints received in fiscal year 2016 were

resolved, according to Cruz, while others remained open over continuing disputes with "services not provided in a timely manner."

Individuals receiving services from DVR are given an individualized plan for employment.

This creates a pathway to employment, similar to how individualized education plans transition students out of school life.

But as parents and students with disabilities are entitled to transition services through federal mandates, they are held to eligibility requirements when seeking employment services, according to Ben Servino, the director of DISID. But Clifford's aggression had also become a liability for his employment.

He had displayed aggressive behavior while in employment training at DVR and Mendiola said division officials pushed her to close his case.

She signed documents in January 2016 indicating that his disability was too severe to benefit from DVR services in terms of employment.

"If they had the right personnel.

Maybe it's not personnel's fault that they're not trained. But if DVR had them trained, they probably would have understood his situation and not (provoked) him," Mendiola said.

The Guam Work Force Innovation and Opportunity Act state plan indicates that

minorities and individuals with severe disabilities are underserved by vocational rehabilitation programs in Guam.

An autism specialist and a clinical psychologist are desperately needed on island to assist with early intervention and help individuals with mental conditions cope with stresses in the work place.

Transition services with the local education department also need improvement. DVR finds that many students with disabilities need to take remedial courses as they pursue higher education necessary in a competitive job market. The division is also in need of staff. DVR served over 600 individuals with disabilities in fiscal 2015 with just 16 full-time employees. However, the division receives an average of \$2 million per year in federal dollars, but not all of the money is used.

RSA reported a little over \$48,000 in federal funding was relinquished by DVR in fiscal 2016. But the federal administration also reported that for the first time since 2008, more funds were requested than relinquished by the states.

Despite the case loads per year, Cruz said he believed there were many more parents and individuals on island that haven't sought his services. He is waiting on PEP to provide information on potential clients.

Rohr said parents may shy away from making their concerns public because

they fear repercussions, not just with DVR but with any agency that provides services to their child. "The way they're treated, sometimes they're afraid. Sometimes they feel their child will be picked on, sometimes the parents are bullied or told to stay out of it," Rohr said.

[The Guam Daily Post]





✓ NEW ZEALAND: \$100K IWI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Wellington, 5 April 2017 -

A new \$100,000 partnership will see around 120 young people from or affiliated to Waikato-Tainui, Ngati Maniapoto and Ngati Kahungunu supported to attend the Turongo me Maahina-a-rangi Leaders by Design Summit, Youth Minister Nikki Kaye announced today.

“This is about supporting more young Maori to become tomorrow’s leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs,” says Ms Kaye.

The three-day summit, at which Minister for Maori Development Te Ururoa Flavell will be guest

speaker, will be held in Ngaruawahia on 7-9 April 2017.

“Over the three days, participants will be informed, inspired and challenged to design and shape meaningful pathways for Maori and iwi,” says Ms Kaye.

“The summit involves interactive workshops, planning sessions and a panel of national and international speakers, who will address topics including innovation, co-design and te reo me ona tikanga, or language and custom.

“This investment is being made under the Partnership

Fund, which sees the Government co-invest with business, philanthropic, iwi and other partners to grow youth development opportunities.”

The Partnership Fund is contributing \$10,000, alongside funding and in-kind support from partners including Waikato-Tainui, Maniapoto Maori Trust Board, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Puni Kokiri, Mercury Energy, Trust Waikato, ASB, Tuhono and the JR McKenzie Trust.

“I want more young Maori to realise their potential and forge successful futures for themselves and others,”

says Ms Kaye.

“We have incredibly talented young people and future leaders out there, and opportunities such as this will give them a boost to take their aspirations and skills to the next level.”

New partnerships announced so far this year have seen around \$2.6 million invested to provide over 5000 new youth development opportunities across New Zealand.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOAN ENGINEERING STUDENT WINS NZ YOUTH CHAMPION AWARD

Apia, 14 April 2017 -

SAMOAN student is among the winners of the 2017 New Zealand Youth Champion Award in Wellington this week.

The annual awards recognise young leaders who make significant contributions to their communities.

Wesley Mauafu has been recognised for his notable work advocating for Pasifika youth in the area of wellbeing and suicide prevention.

The 2016 OECD report says New Zealand has the highest rate of teen suicide in the developed world.

And Maori and Pacific males in New Zealand have the highest suicide rate of any ethnicity.

Wesley hopes to encourage

the Pasifika youth to help combat this trend, says with this award he feels empowered to do so.

“The suicide prevention stuff and the wellbeing stuff just came from a passion for wanting to see my Pasifika community thrive, like planting the seed within them to want to make changes in their lives to empower other people.” Wesley was honoured to receive the New Zealand Youth Champion Award, but says this wasn’t his main drive for serving the community.

“When you’re working for your community or whatever community you’re doing it for, all these young people doing these things are very passionate with what they do and you don’t really do it for recognition.

You’re kind of doing it for

whatever purpose you are doing it for. Specifically my purpose is just trying to empower our Pasifika people”.

The Canterbury student is currently studying for a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours.

University of Canterbury Pacific Development Team Leader Riki Welsh is overwhelmed that Wesley was recognised for his hard work and leadership.

“We are super proud of Wesley, but actually proud of the fact that we have been able to honour Wesley by nominating him for this award and honestly since he’s been here, he’s been a role model, a worker, a volunteer, a casual, a staff member, everything you can think of helping us in our jobs.”

Josiah Tualamali’i says for young Pacific students not only to want to serve their community, but to also have a strong interest in suicide prevention is remarkable.

Wesley Mauafu was one of 50 recipients who were recognised and celebrated for their passion, success and commitment of young people to bring about change in New Zealand.

[Matangi Tonga]

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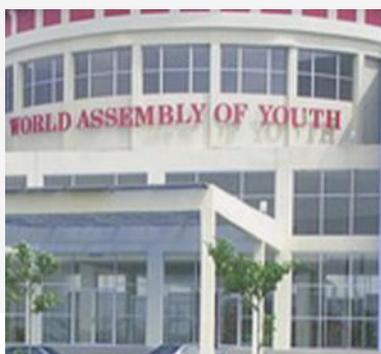
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