



✓ *In Today's Bulletin*

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AFRICA
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INFO

✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4 February 2017	World AIDS Day	Melaka, Malaysia
11 February 2017	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Melaka, Malaysia
20 February 2017	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	Melaka, Malaysia
21 February 2017	Human Rights Day	Melaka, Malaysia
26 February 2017	International Migrants Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: YOUTH BLOG THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

Mahalapye, 5 January 2017

- IN recent years, the business of blogging has been tremendously growing and giving way to a lot of people to start effective online businesses.

Locally, the likes of Gaona Tlhasana with her 'Gaona Live, Gaone Mothibi and Tsholo Dikobe of the Gatsh Fros among others have been operating successful blogging businesses on entertainment, fashion and lifestyle.

Being passionate for travel and tourism, Olerato Keegope and Ndadaboka Bengani saw it fit to introduce their own blog,

Etla Gae Travel and Tourism.

Co-founder of Etla Gae, Bengani said that Etla Gae was set up to sensitise people on responsible travelling and give their audience an insight on local tourism.

Bengani told BOPA in an interview that most people tend to believe that it is better and much fun to travel to and tour foreign countries instead of locally when in actual fact it is just as much fun or better to tour local destinations.

"Most Botswana seem oblivious to the fact that there are many places to

visit in Botswana, not just the likes of Chobe and Okavango, but also the urban lifestyle and exploring urban tourism as an alternative to other kinds of fun, which is why we intend to do all we can to promote local tourism," she added.

The two were recently invited to be panelists at the Third annual Southern African Women in Tourism conference in South Africa hosted by the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa.

Bengani and partner Keegope were discussing access to the market

through social media marketing and digital marketing.

She said that they learnt a lot from people who have been in the tourism industry for a while and the information they got will help them in growing their business.

Bengani further explained she is glad that the platform will not only benefit their business, but will also be a way to promote and market local tourism to the world at large.

[Daily Botswana News]

✓ NAMIBIA: KOSIS YOUTH WANT EMPOWERMENT

Kosis, 6 January 2017 -

THE youth at the small settlement of Kosis in the Berseba Constituency want government to empower them with knowledge and skills to enable them to generate income for themselves.

Many of the youth at the settlement are Grade 10 and 12 dropouts, who mainly end up sitting at home waiting on their parents or grandparents to provide them with food and other basic needs.

In some cases the elderly, who depend on government grants of N\$1 100 a month, have to take care of the unemployed youth's children too, using the grants meant for pensioners.

Kosis resident and community activist Anna Josef says the situation is worrisome and has become a huge burden for many pensioners, who must not

only provide for the youth, but also live in fear, as some youth take away the little the elders get from the government and spend it on liquor.

Some of the youth New Era spoke to indicated that many of them have no choice but stay at home with their parents after failing their respective grades, saying they won't be accepted anywhere with their low points, while jobs are hard to come by with the few points many obtained.

They thus feel the only way out for them is to be empowered with the necessary skills, so that they can do something with their hands, which will enable them to generate an income and become independent.

One of those optimistic youth is Beauty Swartbooi, 18, who first failed her Grade 10 in 2015 while

schooling at Suiderlig High School.

Subsequent attempts to improve on her subjects at Namcol last year were unsuccessful, as she again failed with a miserable 14 points, but she says if her love for needlework is nurtured, it can secure her an income.

She says she has a gift for dressmaking and her wish is to get further training, so that she can acquire a certificate or diploma that people can trust that she knows the work.

Many youth also said they feel left out, as many of the training opportunities aimed for the youth are only offered in towns and rural youth are not catered for.

Josef narrated to New Era that the youth are ready to do something with their lives and it is up to the necessary stakeholders to help.

"They want government to provide them with the necessary skills and equipment to do projects, such as brick making," she said.

She further said providing such opportunities will not only enable the youth at the settlement to make a living, but will also bring relief to their parents, whom they depend on.

Josef added that empowering the youth will also reduce the scourge of alcohol and drug abuse in the area, which tend to proliferate as many young people at the settlement have nothing constructive to do.

[New Era]



✓ NIGERIA: ROYAL FOUNDATION TO EMPOWER MORE NIGERIAN YOUTH

Lagos, 10 January 2017 - ROYAL Foundation International (RFI), the youth-led organisation, has reiterated a pledge to grow the economy while reducing the scourge of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria.

This would be done locally and neighbouring countries by promoting individual effectiveness and wealth creation.

“Leadership and entrepreneurship are necessary skills Nigerian youths should have in solving 21st century

challenges through education.

We believe these challenges need to be addressed sustainably in making the future better for the next generation,” said Kayode Babarinde, Co-founder of RFI.

It was established in October 2013.

That year, RFI hosted a business and leadership summit for youths in Abeokuta and it featured a business plan challenge that provided the winner with a token support as seed

capital.

This was done in partnership with Centre of Entrepreneurship Studies (CENTS) of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and School of Business and Success International, Ota and since then.

Over 5 000 people in Nigeria and Ghana have been reached.

RFI utilises amazing innovations and cutting edge technologies to package fellowship programs, internships, boot camps, summits and educational support services for young people to equip

them with Leadership and Entrepreneurship skills. Part of which is, Teens Enterprise Development Fellowship (TED-F).

TED-F is a 12 weeks intensive entrepreneurship fellowship packaged for 50 Teens resident in Abeokuta and Ibadan.

The programme commences in February.

[News24 Nigeria]

✓ ZAMBIA: 75 BUSES FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME TO BE IN THE COUNTRY

Lusaka, 3 January 2017 - GOVERNMENT has said 75 buses meant for the youth empowerment programme would be in the country this year once everything had been done.

Youth, Sport and Child Development Minister Moses Mawere said when he paid a courtesy call on Eastern Province Minister Makebi Zulu in his office in Chipata yesterday that the Government was committed to youth empowerment.

He said this was because the youth possess a wide variety of talents that the Government was nurturing and developing for their benefit.

Mr Mawere said this would help the youth to identify, cultivate and positively utilize their talents once empowered.

“We are expecting 75 buses for the empowerment of the youth not only in the provinces across the country

but even in some districts. As a Government we want to exploit these talents to ensure that they benefit the youth economically,” he said.

Mr Mawere who is accompanied by Chief Sport Development Officer Raphael Mulenga said Government would continue setting aside funds for the benefits of the youth empowerment programme.

He explained that his ministry had come up with another empowerment programme of tricycle motorised which would assist the young people to travel from one place to another without facing any challenge.

Mr Mawere also appealed to the provincial minister to help find land for the youth resettlement scheme.

He said once the land was found, Government would empower the young people so as to enable them engage

in decent and honest income generating ventures. And Mr Zulu said he was happy that Government programmes in the province were going on well.

He said he was also happy that district agricultural coordinators and extension officers were monitoring any effects of army worms in the province adding that the pesticides have already been distributed.

Mr Zulu said there was need to extend the youth empowerment fund to all districts in the province stating that youth had the potential to foster tangible developments once empowered.

The Youth Minister was currently in the province to meet various groupings among them traditional leadership, party officials and beneficiaries of the buses.

[Lusaka Times]



✓ **ZIMBABWE: FOREIGN , LOCAL PARTNERS BOOST SKILLS OF 12, 000 ZIMBABWE YOUTH**

Harare, 3 January 2017 - SINCE January 2015, over 12,000 Zimbabwean youths have benefited from expanded economic opportunities through the second phase of the Zimbabwe: Works project.

The Zimbabwe: Works project is supported through funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

In a statement, these organizations said the project, implemented by the International Youth Foundation, strengthens local non-governmental and private sector organizations to provide training services and products to increase employment opportunities for young Zimbabweans.

This alliance, called Zimbabwe: Works, is in its second phase and seeks to assist 22,000 youth to acquire entrepreneurship skills, gain valuable job experience and build professional networks between January 2015 and December 2017.

“This partnership builds on the initial success of the first phase of the project, implemented from 2012 to 2014.

The second phase of Zimbabwe: Works has provided 8,500 young people with entrepreneurship and business skills and trained 3,700 youth in financial literacy.

“About half of those trained in financial literacy subsequently accessed loans from microfinance institutions to start or expand their businesses, resulting in net profits of over \$12 million.”

USAID/Zimbabwe Mission Director Stephanie Funk stated, "Zimbabwe: Works has achieved impressive results in a shrinking economy that is increasingly informal.

The activity has made a notable difference in the lives of thousands of Zimbabwean youth the majority of them women."

Annabel Gerry, Head of DFID Zimbabwe, said "I am proud of the UK's support to the young people of Zimbabwe, making sure that they have jobs and increased incomes in the future."

Maria Selin, Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, noted, "Zimbabwe: Works has prepared thousands of Zimbabwean youth for productive careers.

We believe that partnerships and investments that can bring young people and in particular young women into the productive sectors are incredibly important for the economic and social development of any society."

The International Youth Foundation, in partnership with local Zimbabwean organizations, implements the Zimbabwe: Works program in eleven areas: Bulawayo, Gweru, Kwekwe, Harare (including

Chitungwiza), Kadoma, Masvingo, Mutare, Goromonzi, Bubi, Umzingwane, and Lupane. For more than 30 years, the American people, through USAID, have contributed over \$3 billion in assistance to Zimbabwe.

Current projects include initiatives to increase food security, support economic resilience, improve health systems and services, and promote a more democratic system of governance.

DFID Zimbabwe works to deliver a more democratic, stable and prosperous Zimbabwe, focusing on helping the country's poorest people.

[VOA Zimbabwe]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 9 January 2016 - THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

The YDZ is a community initiative launched in 2011 that offers services to the youth population living in North East Hamilton. Family Centre provides YDZ with child and family counselling and, by end of last September, had worked with 77 families. In addition to counselling, Family Centre helps to coordinate other services for YDZ children and their

families, including collaboration with Bermuda Police Service, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, Bermuda Coalition, Workforce Development, Salvation Army, Mirrors, Team Street Safe and a local church representative. According to a press release, these efforts help to ensure that social services are more accessible to residents living in the North East Hamilton area.

Martha Dismont, executive director of Family Centre, stated: "I would like to thank Argus for being a loyal supporter of the

Family Centre year after year. For us to be accessible to the communities that we serve, we rely on generous donations from sponsors. Without them, we couldn't have the impact that we do."

Lauren Bell, executive vice-president of Life and Pensions at the Argus Group, and a member of the Argus Group's Charitable Donations Committee, stated: "Our core values include integrity, fairness, excellence, respect, professionalism and teamwork.

We believe that it is only fair for everyone to have access to professional services like the counselling that Family Centre provides.

"Their YDZ programme involves teamwork with partners throughout the community to ensure families who otherwise would not have access to important services can do so.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: TRUCKING HR CANADA LAUNCHES YOUTH IN TRUCKING SURVEY

Ottawa, 4 January 2017 - TRUCKING HR Canada has launched its Youth with Drive survey in an attempt to develop a national employment strategy for youth in the trucking industry.

The goal of the survey is to gather information about young people (18-35) currently employed in the trucking industry from both an employer and employee perspective.

The survey questions cover

three main themes, including; attraction, engagement and challenges.

Millennials are now the largest cohort in the Canadian workforce, yet are still largely under-represented in the trucking industry.

A recent study prepared for the Canadian Trucking Alliance predicts a driver gap of 34,000 by 2024, and the ratio of younger to older workers continues to increase.

The average age of a

Canadian truck driver is 47.1 years, four years older than the average Canadian worker, and less than 15% of drivers are between 25-34 years old. With the growing need for drivers, technicians, safety personnel, managers and more, the trend is concerning.

"We need to identify ways to better attract, recruit and retain young people in the trucking workforce" said Angela Splinter, CEO of Trucking HR Canada.

"We want to hear from industry so that we can assess and ultimately address what some of the challenges are."

The online survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, is fully anonymous, and is open to employers and employees of all ages, who are currently employed in the trucking industry.

[Truck News]

✓ DOMINICA: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY REVIEW COMPLETE

Roseau, 11 January 2017 - THE review of Dominica's National Youth Policy, which was launched in August 2016, is now complete.

GIS news spoke exclusively with lead consultant for the policy review, Henry Charles.

He is satisfied that the policy has addressed all the

necessary areas. We have a draft and we are doing the final editing now before it is submitted to Cabinet.

The policy covers the general areas. When we look at the recommendations, the concerns, the issues, challenges and opportunities as expressed by young people throughout

the consultative processes as well as through the youth household surveys that we did and bearing in mind the emerging trends in terms of youth development globally and regionally; we also had to consider some of the international and regional frameworks and protocols. Taking all this into consideration, I think the policy is a fairly good representation of what a

modern framework for youth development should include." Charles described the new policy as a framework for the empowerment of young people which will position them at the center of Dominica's development strategy.



“When you go through the policy you will see reference is being made to [Dominica’s] Growth and Social Protection Strategy.

The policy cannot run separate from that, it has to be linked. You would see references in the policy being made to the theme for this year’s [national] budget which is ‘Rebuilding Dominica’s Resilience’.

Considering issues facing countries like Dominica

with respect to climate change and environmental issues, disaster mitigation you would see issues related to that in terms of young people’s role.”

Charles informed that the policy includes recommendations from organizations such as the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce, the Dominica Association of People with Disabilities and the Kalinago Youth Council.

He says if embraced, the policy has the capacity to transform the nation into a modern society more resilient to global economic and social challenges.

Charles says the process of reviewing the youth policy has revealed that Dominica’s youth are resourceful, resilient and dynamic.

“They have ideas, they know what they want, they know where they want to go

and they are looking for the opportunities.

They are looking for support in terms of providing the enabling environment for them to be able to achieve not just for themselves yes they want to achieve for themselves but they also want to achieve for their family and for their society.”

[GIS Dominica]

✓ ECUADOR: OPTIMIST CLUB RECOGNIZES YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Quito, 25 January 2017 - THE future is in good hands judging from the sampling of students recognized at the annual Optimist Club of Collingwood’s youth appreciation night.

More than 30 students from elementary and high schools in the Southern Georgian Bay area who have been involved in their schools, community clubs or sports teams were recognized for showing commitment to community service and leadership.

“We are really happy to do this evening to celebrate the accomplishments of youth

in our region,” said John Houser, chair of the event. “It really is interesting to see the diversification of what the students are doing and the impact of what they are doing is having on their communities here and around the world.”

The audience heard of successes in sports, the arts, community services both home and abroad, with projects as diverse as working with robots to multiple wins in national science fairs.

“From a young age I was taught the importance in giving back to the community and

empowering youth from all over the world to get an education,” said Franco.

“I guess the fulfilment you feel inside when you give back to a community, give back to young people that need help you see that they are excited to learn; they just don’t have the means.”

”I have the means to help get the education they deserve and want.”

Franco has already looked at studying bio-chemistry at university, and then hopes to obtain a medical degree.

“From there, I would like to

be travelling to countries like Ecuador (that) don’t have adequate medical care and giving that to them,” said Franco.

The initial trip to Ecuador was arranged through an application process from me to we, a social enterprise founded in by Canadian brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger, an organization a lot of the evening’s recipients were associated with.

[The Whistler]

✓ JAMAICA: WORKSHOPS HELP GUIDE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE POLICY

Kingston, 4 January 2017 - AN increase in the number of young female professionals becoming engaged in farming, as well as a call for more technical support in the agriculture sector are just two of the preliminary findings from four youth in agriculture policy workshops conducted last month. The workshops were mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to get the perceptions,

experiences and recommendations of Jamaica’s youth farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and agricultural students between the ages of 15 and 35 in order to provide the strategic framework for the Government’s youth in agriculture policy. According to Rose, in looking at the information gathered by way of questionnaires and focus groups from the first three workshops, there have been

some notable constructive feedback from young Jamaicans involved in the sector, with most expressing their desire for mentors or clearer direction on how to get started in the sector.

“Some of them don’t know where to go, some of them don’t even have any skills from which to start, so some of them have a little issue with respect to knowing where to go.

That came out in the

discussions in Linstead, but in Manchester they were more aware, so it depends on who and where in Jamaica they are,” RosShe said that ideally, to register as a farmer one needs to go to the Rural Agricultural Development Authority for assistance and if someone is a student the person should seek help from the Jamaica 4-H Clubs, which will provide the necessary training opportunities. e explained.



“Sometimes people will want government assistance with agricultural enterprise, but some of them don’t, so we asked them about that, how do you think the Government can assist you.

Some people weren’t interested, they say they just want to know what to do and when to start,” the policy consultant said.

“More people are also doing organic farming, but more people want to access hotel markets and supermarkets they have to be more prepared to do so and produce at a certain quality standard,” Rose said.

“The challenge is, of course, payment on time for supermarkets, as there’s the issue of spoilage, so some supermarkets you have to take it back.

Those are some of the issues, so that’s why people say they prefer the export market.”

“People are interested, we are not losing youths as some may think, they are interested, and professionals who have no idea about agriculture, they are the ones that want to make some real money out of it and they are putting in their savings,” Rose stated.

“There is the issue of getting credit and land.

Ready access to land is a problem, but a lot of them are very innovative; they go and talk to other farmers and they rent or lease land, so they are much empowered.

[Jamaica Observer]

NEWS



✓ BANGLADESH: BE CHANGE AGENTS AGAINST GRAFT, CVC TELLS YOUTH

Dhaka, 6 January 2017 - CENTRAL Vigilance Commissioner K.V.Chowdary has called upon people to be part of anti-corruption movement and youth to become change agents.

Addressing a three-day international symposium on “Social business for sustainable development,” organised by Andhra University and Yunus Centre, Bangladesh, here on Friday, he said people should speak out against corruption even

when it did not involve them.

Speaking on “Integrity Participation of public in anti-corruption movement,” he said the CVC accepted whistle blower complaints by taking the content and after ascertaining whether the complaint was actually lodged by the person but the identity was kept confidential.

On the magnitude of the task, he said the Commission received

general complaints against corruption of about 80,000 a year and about half of them did not concern it, he said.

Around 2,000 to 2,500 complaints were workable and in the normal process it should take a maximum one and a half years but was taking eight to nine years.

As many as 3,500 CBI cases were pending for more than five years and 500 for more than 20 years.

If the State governments

and other cases were included the task would be much more difficult, he said.

Policing everyone which he called “jasoosi system” was not going to run and hence people should participate in the movement against corruption, he said.

[The Hindu]

✓ KUWAIT: KUWAIT TO DEVELOP NEW PROJECTS FOR YOUTH

Kuna, 2 January 2017 - KUWAIT is continuously developing the talents and skills of youth in all fields, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Kuwait aims to allow youth to express their creativity on

local, regional and international levels, said Sheikh Salman in a statement released by the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) on Monday, on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of its board of directors.

The authority has approved projects on scientific development, self-

confidence and promoting ethics, he added.

On his part, PAY's Director General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi in a press statement said that the authority regularly holds discussion sessions with youth, to learn about their needs and ideas on projects and programs.

During the celebration of the International Youth Day on August 12 last year, PAY has adopted a five-year plan to develop activities and projects for youth.

[Kuwait News Agency]

✓ MYANMAR: YANGON REGION DRAFTS YOUTH POLICY

Naypyidaw, 10 January 2017 - THE support team to draft youth policy for Yangon Region has been formed, and will include experts in youth policy, it was announced this week.

The youth policy drafting team cooperated with youths in Yangon and held the stakeholder meetings on January in Yangon, in which the draft of Myanmar youth policy was discussed at length.

The meeting was aimed to inform the public about the preparation of the policy.

Shin Thant, a member of the youth policy drafting team said: “How can we

assist drafting youth policy?

The information, suggestions and resources need to be accessed in drafting youth policy.

What's more, there are two kinds of suggestions after we get advice from technical experts; we need to take suggestions for each and every step of the draft.

After that, we held a stakeholder meeting in which we can make structures and action plans for the supportive team”

She continued that the youth policy drafting team in Yangon will be free from influence of political parties.

[Eleven Myanmar]



✓ OMAN: TRAINING YOUTH TO BECOME ENVIRONMENT AMBASSADORS IN OMAN

Muscat, 10 January 2017 - OMAN's next generation is being trained and educated to become environmental ambassadors of the future.

The Environment Society of Oman (ESO), in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), continues to spread awareness about sustainable practices through a campaign designed to inspire the next generation to be responsible environmental stewards.

Started in 2016, the programme aims to cover more than 100 middle schools in several governorates, empowering thousands of students aged between 11 and 14 years by imparting them knowledge about conservation

techniques, sustainable practices, climate change and the importance of biodiversity.

The 2016 agenda covered the themes of 'Energy Saving' and 'Oman's Biodiversity,' to be followed in 2017 with 'Ecological Footprint' and 'Green Schools.'

The ESO will also be hosting its fourth 'Eco Summer' programme in July 2017, engaging children in environment-themed games, art and activities. With the help of volunteers, the ESO's Education Programme will feature highly interactive presentations, games, class discussions, field trips and competitions.

Jawaher Al Ghafri,

Education Coordinator at the ESO, said, "Educating our children on the importance of protecting their environment empowers them to play an integral role in making our schools, communities and planet a healthier place for us all.

"The Education Programme is a great opportunity for students across the Sultanate to learn about the natural environment and how best to preserve it. Through this initiative and many others, we are equipping the future of Oman to be leaders in sustainability."

Suleiman bin Mohammed al Mantheri, PDO's External Affairs and Communications Manager, said, "We are proud of our Social Investment

Programme that caters to local communities and the society at large. We are also pleased to work with the ESO in bringing environmental education to children throughout the Sultanate."

The Environment Society of Oman has been working with educational institutions at different levels to inspire students to adopt environmentally-sustainable lifestyles.

Among its many initiatives are the Inter-College Public Speaking Competition (ICPSC), College Eco Clubs, as well as dedicated community outreach visits throughout the Sultanate.

[Times of Oman]

✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH LOAN SCHEME A ROARING SUCCESS

Islamabad, 13 January 2017 - THE Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme is a roaring success, said the Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Leila Khan on Thursday.

"The 93 per cent recovery of Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme is a big evidence of its remarkable success," she said while chairing a meeting of the National Bank of Pakistan's team working on the Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans Scheme here.

She expressed satisfaction at the momentum gained in disbursement of loans among potential entrepreneurs under the scheme.

It was informed that the National Bank of Pakistan has so far disbursed Rs17.1 billion among 17,045 borrowers across the country.

The recovery rate of the loans is 93%, which is a remarkable achievement in the context of banking sector average in this regard,, not only in the local market but internationally as well.

Ms Leila Khan appreciated the efforts of the National Bank of Pakistan in streamlining the loan application processing and disbursement process through a proactive approach under the Active Sales Model.

She hoped that the NBP would further capitalise on its achievements made,

especially in December 2016 when the bank distributed 6,669 loans worth Rs6.3 billion among the potential entrepreneurs.

"It is also heartening to note that the entrepreneurship culture is being promoted in the country as per the vision of the prime minister," he said.

[The News International]



✓ AMERNIA: ONLY 35.4% OF ARMENIAN YOUTH PURSUE PROFESSION

Yerevan, 25 January 2017 - GENERATION of Independence: Research Among Young People” found out that Armenia’s youth today is “vulnerable and incomplete”.

The study was carried out by the Armenian branch of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with Faculty of Sociology of YSU.

They surveyed 1200 people aged 14-29 from Yerevan and 10 marzes of Armenia.

According to the research, young Armenians have uncertainty in public life, and social activity is more characteristic for the males.

The youth don’t trust state agencies and display minimal political involvement.

“We initiated the research to understand young people in Armenia, as they are the sector of society that starts changes, moves forward and succeeds.

Our goal was to stress the importance of young people’s role in the society and political decision making,” Director of the FES South Caucasus Office Julia Blazius told the press today.

She noted that the research outlined main problems and

stressed certain points in education and employment.

The research discovered that one of serious problems is lack of financial resources for acquiring professional education. 24.3% of young people in Armenia don’t want to continue their education for that reason exactly.

On the other hand, professional knowledge doesn’t guarantee a job, and only 35.4% of the youth pursue their respective profession.

Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Armenia Karine

Harutyunyan attached importance to such researches.

“They raise awareness in the ministry about young people’s problems, help us plan the efforts and make targeted decisions,” Deputy Minister said.

According to her, those problems aren’t new, and the research contains important issues and stresses, such as lack of state funding for higher education and resulting low quality of education, etc.

[Armenian Weekly]

✓ AZERBAIJAN: AZERCELL DECLARES FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH

Baku, 25 January 2017 - AZERCELL CEO Vahid Mursaliyev met with the students who had obtained the title of Azercell scholars.

The operator reports that Mursaliyev stated at the meeting that in addition to monthly stipend from Azercell, the program will also provide the students an opportunity to enrich their knowledge about telecommunications, participate in Azercell’s

corporate events and social activities, receive various trainings, as well as take internship at the company. “Azercell has supported the youth and students since the company started its business activity. A number of student programs, internships and other projects have been carried out so far.

We also concluded cooperation agreements with the universities you study in. All these steps are

aimed to develop our education”, he stated.

The stipend winners currently study in Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, ADA University, Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Gafqaz University, Ganja State University, Nakhchivan State University, Baku High Oil School, State Oil and Industry University,

Azerbaijan Technical University, Mingachevir State University, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and Ganja Agrarian University. Azercell has conducted the Student Bursary Program annually since 2008. Over 130 students from various universities in Azerbaijan have benefited from the Program.

[Azerbaijan Business Center]

✓ GEORGIA: YOUNGSTERS CAN SHARPEN BIRD ID SKILLS

Tbilisi, 23 January 2017 – IT’s time for young birders to begin honing their bird-identifying skills as they prepare for the 12th annual Georgia Youth Birding Competition, set for April 29-30.

Registration is open and online at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC.

This fun, free competition has been connecting young people with wildlife and having a positive impact on conservation for more than a decade.

The reach extends even beyond Georgia, with Race 4 Birds Foundation (www.race4birds.org) using the event as a model for youth birding competitions

nationwide.

Coordinator Tim Keyes of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is enthusiastic about the future.

“We will continue growing an enduring passion for birds and the outdoors with every year’s event in Georgia, and inspire a growing number of events

for a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Nongame Conservation Section.

He said the Youth Birding Competition has developed “amazing competitors” who have gone on to study biology in college.



Some former birding novices are now veterans, and bringing younger children under their wing in birding.

The event has inspired a young birders club, a growing network of young birders connected through social media and participation in American Birding Association and Audubon Society camps for youth.

The competition also continues to set state records for birding youth. The top team in 2016

identified 170 species, the second consecutive all-time high for the event. The fun gets going April 29-30 when the 24-hour statewide birdathon for teams varying in ages from kindergarteners to high school seniors returns.

The deadline to register is March 31. Complete information, including online registration, is at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC.

The competition and an accompanying T-shirt Art Contest are sponsored by DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, The

Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN) friends group of the Nongame Conservation Section - and others including the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies.

A banquet and awards ceremony will be held April 30 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield.

Teams register online in one of four age divisions and compete against other groups their age. Participants can also

volunteer to raise money for conservation organizations. The Youth Birding Competition is designed for youth of all skill levels.

Those new to birding can take advantage of mentoring opportunities offered through the competition.

As a voluntary part of the competition, teams also raise money for conservation.

This year's pledges pushed past \$20,000 the total raised over the event's 11 years.

[Coastal Courier]

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

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

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

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

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

Youth worker Sean McMullan, who is in charge of the project, said the project was much more than just a trip abroad.

"The young people learn so much throughout the year within the programme which benefits them whilst out in Romania," he said.

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

in homeless work and also learning a lot about themselves.

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

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

people.

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

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

[Belfast Media Group]

✓ SPAIN: SPAIN JOBLESS RATE TO 18.6PC, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT 43PC

Madrid, 26 January 2017 - SPAIN youth unemployment rate edged down to a seven-year low of 18.6 percent at the end of 2016, the National Statistics Institute reported today.

The number of young people out of work fell by 83,000 in the October-December period,

to 4.2 million. Over the year, the unemployment rate dropped by 2.3 percentage points, the institute said.

The jobless rate for young people under 25 years of age remained at a high 43 percent, down from 46 percent at the end of 2015. Despite recent

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

The conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has made reducing youth unemployment and boosting economic growth its main

goals since taking office in 2011.

[Socialist Alternative]



✓ AUSTRALIA: STRONG YOUTH ENTRY AT INTERNATIONAL DAIRY WEEK

Canberra, 10 January 2017 - IF you want people to be successful in dairy, you have to get them when they are young.

Lucas Grey might be just five years old, but his father Michael Grey said he already knew his way around the family's Port Macquarie dairy farm.

"We employ people on our farm, but dairy is hard to teach," Mr Grey said.

"The best ones are the ones who have done it their whole lives." Lucas takes care of the chooks in the morning and

makes sure the farmhands have been doing the right thing with the dairy cows. "He makes sure they have fed them the right amount. If they haven't done it right, he (Lucas) lets them know," Mr Grey said. A third-generation dairy farmer, Mr Grey has brought all four of his children to International Dairy Week at Tatura to ensure they learn what they can about the family trade.

He said he had fond memories of his father taking him along to agricultural shows when he was a child.

It's a tradition he hopes his children will continue with their own when they grow up.

The Greys are just some of the hundreds of dairy farmers who have made the journey to Tatura Showgrounds for the week-long expo, which showcases the latest developments in the dairy industry.

With showing dominating the early days of the expo, people have been busy clipping their chosen cows to ensure they are immaculate for the judges.

Ella Goldsmith from Sun

Vale Holsteins, a stud in Yarroweyah, said 23 of the best cattle from the stud were chosen from hundreds to come to Dairy Week.

"They are washed every day, put on special diets, it is a lot of work," she said.

In its 21st year, the event opened with youth trials on Sunday as the next generation of dairy farmers put their skills to the test.

[Huffington Post Australia]

✓ FIJI: ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTHS

Suva, 13 January 2017 - ELEVEN Fijian youths were fare welled yesterday as they prepared to leave for Japan to participate in the "Ship for World Youth Leaders" program.

Ministry of Youth and Sports permanent secretary Alison Burchell wished the youths the best and a safe trip.

"Represent the best of Fiji

and with all the other countries try not to show off but show off the Fijian warmth, hospitality, diversity and hymn through singing," she said.

Ms Burchell told the youths to return with a report of their experience and leadership qualities.

Japanese ambassador to Fiji, Takuji Hanatani also extended his well-wishes to

the Fijian delegation to the SWYL program and reminded them to participate in all the sessions actively, make new friends, learn about other cultures and jointly participate in on-board programs.

"The key objective of the program is to cultivate the spirit of international co-operation, building friendships and better understanding between the

youths and participating countries," he said.

Mr Hanatani said the program should help build a valuable asset for the future and become a bridge between Fiji and Japan.

The ship will have 240 youths from selected countries around the world.

[Fiji Times]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: GOVT TOLD TO TAX THE TOP TO HELP STRUGGLING YOUTH

Wellington, 6 January 2017 - MANY people could be prepared to pay more tax to help disadvantaged young people, the children's commissioner says.

Judge Andrew Becroft says inequality is one of the biggest challenges the country faces and it should be ashamed, embarrassed and worried about some of the statistics.

He said there were 85,000 to 90,000 under 18-year olds doing it tough, while New Zealand's over 65-year-olds were some of the most advantaged in the world. Judge Becroft said people in higher income brackets should be volunteering to pay more tax if it meant more help for those most in need.

"It may not actually be political suicide.

"If it could show that a small tax increase at the top level was going to be used to help the most disadvantaged in an effective I think many New Zealanders would sign up for it on the spot and say 'Go for it'.

He said there was no miracle cure in dealing with the issue of child poverty, and a broad approach was needed.

"The government will need to take the lead but we can't just to allow the government, or assume or tell the government they've got to solve it for New Zealand. It will involve businesses, it will involve the NGO sector, it will involve the whole community.

[Radio New Zealand]



✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA: YOUTH WASH CARS AS INCOME SOURCE

Port Moresby, 17 January 2017 - CAR washing is fast becoming a source of income for many unemployed youths in the nation's capital.

EMTV News met Joshua Pukari and Joshua Remi in the capital city, Port Moresby.

Both men are in their early twenties and have been washing cars to earn a living.

Joshua Pukari and Joshua Remi are both from Central Province and have spent most of their lives in the

Moresby South Electorate. Growing up, both aspired to be independent individuals who would support their families, in bringing food to the table. But due to limited spaces in the education system, the two men have resorted to washing cars for a living.

Similar to a working class person, the duo starts washing cars at 8 o'clock every morning and finish off at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. They have been doing this for six years now.

The idea of washing

vehicles for an income was at one point, a fundraising activity, which students from the University of Papua New Guinea, got into to raise money for their provincial groups.

However, starting in 2010, a number of residents in Port Moresby started washing cars for an income.

Since then, it has become a stable income source for many people living along the Badili to Sabama area in the Moresby South, Six Mile in the Moresby North East and Waigani in the Moresby North West

Electoralates.

For the Joshua's, they make up to K150 per day depending on the number of vehicles they wash. But they are not the only ones who provide car wash services.

There are a number of car wash stations at Badili, and the two always compete with others to wash vehicles for an income.

[EMTV Online]

✓ SAMOA: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE BACKBONE OF SAMOA

Apia, 11 January 2017 - LEADERS of today have a responsibility to prepare young people if they want a better tomorrow.

That is the opinion of a 28-year-old from the village of Salani Falealili.

Faleata strongly believes the youth play a vitally important role in our societies that they need to be recognised and prepared for it.

"It's not an easy job," he told the Village Voice.

"But it is very important. Within our families, our parents depend on us to do most of the chores in our families.

"That's the same for our villages as well.

Whenever we have meetings for our village council, the youths or the young men are always the ones doing all the chores for the matais.

"Our parents learnt how to do all the things they know now through observations.

"And to me, as a youth, if I want to become a great leader in the future, then the proper way to do this is to learn by observing the elders.

"Within our families, our leaders are our elders and our parents.

We should observe what they do and how they deal with problems.

We can learn so much just by serving them and talking to them.

"That's the same within our villages, we can learn from the high chiefs in the village not only on how to handle different issues within the villages, but also learn about the language and culture.

"Oratory is one important aspect of our culture and the house of the matai's is the

right place for you to learn everything you need to know about oratory."

He went on to say that one important thing we need to remember is to "listen and obey."

"That is where we get our blessings from," said Faleata.

"They may be wrong sometimes, but all we need to do is to listen and don't talk back to them."

[Samoa Observer]

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