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### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 June 2017	<b>Global Day of Parents</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
5 June 2017	<b>World Environment Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
17 June 2017	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 June 2017	<b>World Refugee Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
26 June 2017	<b>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



## ✓ BOSTWANA: NGOS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN BOTSWANA'S DEVELOPMENT

**Gaborone, 15 May 2017** - NON-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) of northern Botswana are scheduled to assemble in Maun and Selebi Phikwe this winter to review the role of NGOs in Botswana's development and consider issues to be discussed at the 2nd Annual Stakeholder Forum organized by the NGO Council.

At a meeting in Francistown on 25th April, a planning group met to plan the agenda for the District Dialogue.

Comprising of both NGOs and Community-Based Organisation (CBOs), the meeting enjoyed the support of both government and the Botswana Coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO).

The participants were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of Francistown City, Honorable Mr. Godisang Radisigo who described himself as a strong believer in the potential of NGOs to meaningfully contribute to a better Botswana.

From his welcome remarks the Assistant Mayor said NGOs should network to promote experience sharing with other organizations' as well as providing assistance to members on issues relating to bonding, capacity building, and information dissemination.

He said effective and informed consultation is the best way of linking citizens with government in addition that he would like to see youth working in NGOs and CBOs and excelling. He

said they should be challenged, especially those in major positions, in running organisations.

"Youth are dragging their feet because they are not given a chance to prove themselves and I am encouraging you to work together to achieve a common goal", said Mr. Radisigo.

He requested to include the local government in the next ASF II which will be held on the 20th to 23rd June 2017.

He also said limited access to information is a major challenge in Botswana therefore involving Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development will be a step ahead since their presence will give them a true perspective of what is happening.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs and Co-chair of the NGO Council, Mr Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa officially opened the meeting.

In his official opening, Mr Montshiwa said "In an effort to address sustainability of NGOs, a new era of collaboration and partnership building between the Government and the NGOs was established by way of appointment of the NGO Council; a structure derived from the NGO Policy".

The purpose of the National Non – Governmental Organisations Policy is to provide a framework to guide relations, including

the institutional and administrative structure and processes for overseeing these relations.

The NGO Policy represents government's commitment to work with NGOs as the relationship has been rather informal in the past.

He defined an NGO as an apolitically formed autonomous organization that is only involved in the socio-economic development of its constituents, that possess nonprofit status and whose primary motivation is to pursue an identifiable set of interests of public, community and or group significance as defined in its constitution or deed of trust.

He also stated that the NGO policy seeks to provide a framework to achieve and promote overall efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery; to promote mobilization and utilization of resources between key stakeholders in national development and to promote partnership and collaboration between NGOs, the government and other stakeholders.

NGO Council Coordinator Ms. Diana Meswele said another purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the upcoming District Dialogue fora in Maun, Kang, Molepolole and Selebi Phikwe, which will be attended by civil society, government, local authorities, private sector and other relevant partners.

She said the district level meetings will seek to nurture trust and shared understanding of critical development issues in each

district as well as progressively building a common platform for action across different actors.

From the feedback on the 2015 Inaugural Annual Stakeholder Forum Dr. Gaontebale Mokgosi, a Board Member of the NGO Council, stressed the aim of the forum as being to open dialogue around the need to forge a rejuvenated partnership for sustainable development between CBOs, government and the private sector.

Such a partnership will be a critical enabler to address issues of concern such as poverty and widening a gap between the rich and the poor and even unequal opportunities for children and youth.

She invited the participants to review the recommendations made during the inaugural Annual Stakeholder Forum (ASF) of 2015 and reflect on the achievements made to-date in the implementation of the recommendations of ASF 1. She said most of the people who work hard in making these organisations are striving towards winning.

"From the meeting, there was harmony and that is a clear guideline of knowing what we are here for, we shall see change," said Ms Matseka.

Motlhatlosi Kgosintwa works for the Kalahari Conservation Society.

*[Weekend Post]*



### ✓ KENYA: OPINION : UNLEASHING AFRICA'S YOUTH FARMPRENUERS

**Nairobi, 16 May 2016 -** ACROSS Africa, the appetite for farming and venturing into farming as a business is evident.

From Namibia to Zambia to Botswana, young people are flocking into agribusiness.

Governments and business entities are responding to their interest.

In Nigeria, for instance, the federal government, in partnership with the African Development Bank, is preparing to launch an ambitious 280 million Enable Youth Program.

It is an initiative that hopes to fund over 1000 youth-led agricultural enterprises in an effort to continue making agriculture attractive to youth.

We need more efforts like this.

Youth are a key demographic upon which to focus, as they make up 70 percent of Africa's population.

Africa's youth are innovative, tech savvy, creative, optimistic and entrepreneurial qualities that can help transform African agriculture and serve as the foundation needed to build a sustainable, strong 21st century youth-led agriculture economy.

Africa should be excited that this generation still cares about farming and sees a future in farming.

Continent-wide, the age of farmers has been increasing.

Therefore, there is need to

entice more young people into farming, to ensure that there is enough food grown to feed the growing population.

To best capitalize on the younger generation's interest in farming, Africa needs to build strong mechanisms to support youth-led, agriculture-focused ventures.

First and foremost, there is a need for new youth farmers to go through adequate training on the ventures they are launching.

Trainings should include in-depth information on best practices, including writing solid business plans and ongoing mentoring to ensure that they are on track.

These trainings can be done by country governments, NGOs, universities and private companies that are involved in the agriculture value-chain.

These trainings can be marketed through national newspapers and other media channels, including radio, television and social networks.

At the moment, there are several organizations that work hand in hand with young farmers to ensure that they have access to valuable current information that they need to carry out profitable ventures.

Techno Serve, for example, is an initiative that trains and equips young people in East Africa with the skills and tools they need to succeed in their ventures.

The DAIN Network is another initiative that helps train early-stage, youth-led agri-businesses across Africa, and equips them with the resources they need to be successful.

Secondly, new young farmers need to be connected both regionally and across regions to other youths that are engaged in similar ventures.

Social networks including Facebook, Whatsapp groups and other online forums are some of the most efficient ways in which new young farmers can network and keep up with other farmers.

Across Africa, there is no dearth of such networks. Mkulima Young, for example, is a digital platform that allows farmers to connect with each other.

Young Professionals for Agricultural Development is another example of a global online platform with active members drawn from many African countries.

Through this platform, young farmers can interact, swap stories and openly share about their daily challenges and breakthroughs.

By connecting with other youth farmers through these platforms, they can access and exchange real time information on best agricultural practices and recent seed varieties information they can use and apply in their newly formed agricultural businesses.

At the same time, new farmers can access new

markets for their products.

Mary Gitau, one of the successful new young farmers in Kenya, uses the Mkulima Young platform to find markets for her products, for instance.

Thirdly, new youth-led farming ventures will require access to capital to engage in meaningful ventures. Recently, the MasterCard Foundation, in partnership with Michigan State University, launched a \$15 million initiative that will help young people from Tanzania and Nigeria to access funds needed to support and grow their ventures. More efforts like this can greatly benefit youth-led farming ventures.

Fourthly, there is the need to continue showcasing successful youth-led agriculture efforts.

This can happen through television shows or other forms of media. In Burkina Faso, for example, InoussaMaiga is tapping into the power of television to showcase successful youth-led agriculture ventures, while inspiring others that are considering venturing into farming. Digital newspapers across Africa also showcase successful youth-ventures.

Finally, new farmers need to insure their new agriculture enterprises. More than ever, climate change necessitates that first-time young farmers have access to insurance.



This will allow them to sustain their ventures even when unseen situations crop up.

If Africa wants to see young people succeed and sustainably continue farming, there is a need to find innovative risk

management strategies.

Of course, youth-led agriculture ventures alone cannot meet Africa's growing food needs. But tapping into the youthful generation that is willing to pursue farming and investing in them will

help produce food, create jobs and give African agriculture a new makeover. Africa should continue supporting youth-led, agriculture-focused ventures.

Doing so will help feed Africa's growing

population, fight poverty and curb youth rural-urban migration. It will also help unleash the power in our young farmers.

[The Star]

### ✓ MALAWI: MALAWI YOUTH URGED TO PUSH FOR CHANGE

**Lilongwe, 1 May 2017** - YOUTH in the country have been told to start taking leadership positions and use them to push for socioeconomic change.

The call was made by the Generational Leadership Initiative (GLI) during a summit that was organized to train youths on how to succeed in leadership and business in the country.

According to Ndagha Sikanda who is a member of GLI, youth holding positions in various sectors like government and private sectors or the ones who are entrepreneurs need to be pushing for change.

When we are saying youth leadership we are talking of the people between the ages of 25-45, those who are holding positions both in government and private

sectors or those who are working actively as activists should be pushing for change," said Sikanda.

"It has been over 50 years since independence but some of the government departments are not working as how we need them to be working on social and economic development.

We should not always be blaming the government or lack of donor funding but the youth should be the ones that must be providing the change by providing constructive ideas on what we want to see," she added.

She further told youth in the country to recognize themselves as leaders as they have a role to play in developing the country. "We should recognize ourselves as leaders for

change and not always blame the government for not giving us what we want.

We should be the ones taking initiatives ourselves and push for the change that we want to see," she said.

Speaking at the same function, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism spokesperson Wiskes Nkombezi said the problem with youth in the country is that they fear taking risks in business.

According to Nkombezi, young people who want to be successful in business must be risk-takers and willing to work in cooperatives.

"Don't be afraid of taking risks by doing businesses that you don't know if either you will succeed or not. Taking risks is part of

business and you will overcome that you will be successful," Nkombezi said.

He also urged youth in the country to be working in groups so that they may be sharing skills and making strides in business.

"Youth must work in cooperatives because that's the only way to go.

For example you can come up with a welding centre owned by more youths and in so doing success can be achieved because you may be sharing skills," he said. Nkombezi further advised youth to start using social media as a platform of contributing towards development of the country.

[Malawi24]

### ✓ MOZAMBIQUE: UNESCO AFRICA WEEK TO FOCUS ON YOUTH

**Maputo, 16 May 2016** - INVESTING in the youth of Africa is the theme of the 2017 edition of UNESCO's Africa Week, which will be held at the Organization's Headquarters from 22 to 24 May under the patronage of Alain Claude Billie-By-Nze, Gabon's Minister of the Digital Economy, Communication, Culture and the Arts.

The event featuring

concerts, film screenings, exhibitions and round table debates is organized by the group of African Member States of UNESCO under the chair of Mozambique.

The three-day celebration of African culture will include fashion shows by young designers Diana Magesa from Tanzania and Tatenda Sipula from South Africa on 22 May at 4 pm in Hall Ségur.

Fine leather craft will be on display in a workshop organized by the Maison Andridz of Madagascar on 23 May at 2.30 pm in the Miró Room, where it will be followed by a recital of traditional African stories by FoumaTraoré of Burkina Faso at 3.30 pm.

A children's programme featuring drums, dance and masks is scheduled for 24 May at 10 am at Ségur Hall,

where Patricia Essong of Cameroon will give a concert at 4pm.

Roundtable debates on the role and prospects of Africa's youth will be held on 23 and 24 May in Room IV with the participation of academics, entrepreneurs and representatives of both government and civil society.



Swirl in Bamako, a feature film directed by Dominique Philippe will be screened on 23 May at 6 pm in Room IV.

From 22 to 24 May the

young Congolese chef Dieuveil Malonga will take command of UNESCO's restaurant which will serve his creative interpretation of African gastronomy.

Africa Week is held every year to showcase Africa through the wealth of its cultural and artistic heritage.

It marks the anniversary of

the establishment on 25 May 1963 of the Organisation of African Unity, which became the African Union in July 2002.

[Mission Newswire]

### ✓ SOUTH AFRICA: ZUMA URGES AFRICAN YOUTH TO PARTAKE IN AGENDA 2063

**Johannesburg, 4 May 2017** - SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma on Thursday urged the continent's youth to participate in the realization of the African Union's (AU's) Agenda 2063, saying that it was in the youth's hands to shape the future in which they wanted to live.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa in Durban, Zuma said young people needed to partake in all spheres of society, including politics, as he had done so himself by joining the struggle for freedom before he turned 20.

South African President Jacob Zuma participates in a discussion at the World Economic Forum on Africa 2017 meeting in Durban.

"It is absolutely important not to believe that for us to succeed, it is other people who must build.

The youth itself must participate, very seriously, to change the future for themselves together with the elders," Zuma said.

"The critical point is that you are able to identify the destination and commitment, and then work on what is the best vehicle or methods to achieve that would help you best shape the future."

Zuma was fielding a

question from a young Global Sharper from Mozambique who wanted to know how to speed up the ideals of Agenda 2063 and make youth partake in decision making processes because young people are impatient.

Agenda 2063 is the AU's strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years.

It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

About 70 percent of the continent is under 30, and WEF on Africa said this figure would rise even in so-called fragile settings.

WEF on Africa said the continent's population of roughly 1.1 billion is expected to double by 2050.

Zuma also reiterated his message that his recent cabinet reshuffle had given younger members of Parliament a chance to contribute their energy, experience and expertise to government.

"Not long ago I had a reshuffle of government, particularly implementing that idea of evolving government.

The reality is that we should not just talk about youth participation but we should involve them.

I have seen them coming in a number of governments and organisations," Zuma said.

"I think it's a question of us harmonising our thinking, and therefore having our plans and programmes to implement them.

When one or two or more are put in very serious and responsible positions, they must demonstrate their energy, imagination and innovation, and they will reach a point."

Zuma said the youth had been given more opportunities even in the AU Summit in the recent past to express their ideas, adding that governments must do more to open those doors for young people.

[African News Agency]





### ✓ BARBADOS: YOUTH CHALLENGE BEING ADDRESSED

**Bridgetown, 9 May 2017** - ONE of the challenges confronting the agricultural sector is the lack of young persons involved in it as the average age of persons is over 50.

Chief Agricultural Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Lennox Chandler, made mention of this as he delivered remarks on Sunday night at the Graduation and Opening Ceremony for the Youth in Agriculture Programme Phase 10 at the Ellerton Community Centre, Ellerton, St. George.

“I must admit that agriculture and its development in Barbados is not without its share of challenges, including an ageing farming population and a noted decline in youth involvement in agriculture.

Indeed, the Ministry has observed that the average age of persons in Barbados actively involved in agriculture was over 50 years and was a great cause for concern.”

He said that the Ministry aimed to rectify this matter by actively seeking out ways in which they could get the youth interested and invested in this sector through various programmes and initiatives.

“The Ministry and its supporting agencies therefore sought to remedy this issue by intensifying efforts to encourage younger persons to pursue careers in agriculture and facilitate training programmes to educate our youth, whether they are provided by Government or by non-governmental organisations.”

Chandler said that their

efforts are proving to be successful with the average age of farmers registered for their Youth in Agriculture Programme being 38 years old.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to say that our efforts are bearing fruit.

The Ministry of Agriculture can report that the average age of registered farmers in 2015 was 38 years.

And thanks to the Youth in Agriculture Programme and other targeted initiatives, we are making inroads in engaging our youth and seeing them becomes more involved in agriculture.”

Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office, Senator Patrick Todd, agreed.

“The programme has been facilitated through a plot of land located in the

compound of the Animal Nutrition Unit and managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management.

It began on May 13, 2008 with six participants and soon rose to 25 participants including three females.”

He continued, “It has been carrying out an invaluable task.

It is aimed at inculcating agricultural skills within the youth, while building a cadre of young farmers that will continue the legacy of food production for the citizens of Barbados.

Approximately 35 participants per year have benefitted in each year of this ten-year programme.”

*[Barbados Advocate]*

### ✓ CANADA: SUPPORTS YOUTH ON COMMUNITY- BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

**Fredericton, 23 May 2017** - THE Government of Canada is committed to providing support for youth that have been in conflict with the law and who struggle with substance abuse issues.

Matt DeCoursey, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, on behalf of the Honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, today announced that Partners for Youth Inc. would receive \$280,800 through the federal Youth Justice Fund to develop a substance abuse treatment program for youth who are leaving open and closed custody in New

Brunswick.

The Youth Justice Fund provides grants and contributions to projects that encourage a more effective youth justice system, respond to emerging youth justice issues and enable greater citizen and community participation in the youth justice system.

This pilot project will encourage participants to gain hands-on learning focused on treatment, continued support and intervention related to substance abuse issues. Partners for Youth Inc. will involve youth in the development of a program

that is responsive to their cultural needs and sensitive to the trauma that they have endured, while using community supports and services.

A key part of this program and its supports will be the mentorship that will be available to all participants.

Over the duration of this three-year project, participants between the ages of 12 and 17 will be supported in their safe transition back into their communities and in maintaining a new substance-free lifestyle.

"There is no greater investment that we as a

society can make than in the futures of our youth. By providing opportunities to those who participate in this program, we help them re-build and transition safely and successfully back into our communities.

As part of the larger transformation of the criminal justice system, the government will look at how to improve treatment for offenders with mental illness or addictions issues and how to address gaps in services to these vulnerable groups."



"By supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our society, we improve our community and invest in our collective well-being.

The work that Partners for Youth is doing will empower these young

people to take back control of their lives and rebuild their futures."

"Partners for Youth Inc. is looking forward to engaging youth in contact with the criminal justice system across New Brunswick in

the design and development of a community based substance abuse treatment program.

The value of engaging and empowering youth in this project is significant and will lead to a successful and

meaningful intervention program.

We are also thankful for the funding from the Youth Justice Fund in order to help meet the challenges faced by youth at risk in New Brunswick."

### ✓ HAITI: SOCIAL: MOVING TRIBUTE FROM YOUTH TO OUR NATIONAL BICOLOR

**Port-au-Prince, 21 May 2017** - AS part of the ceremonies commemorating the 214th anniversary of the creation of the national flag at Arcahaie, nearly 600 young people from various schools in the City of the flag, supervised by technicians from the Directorate of Physical and Sports Activities of Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action (MJSAC) offered the officials and the

public a remarkable and moving show.

This show constituted, on the one hand, a historical reminder of the pre-Columbian era and, on the other hand, a staging of the Arcahaie Congress, the creation of the flag followed by the demonstration of platoons of honor, parades of flags and marching bands.

Very much applauded, the young people have distinguished themselves brilliantly by combining their talents as dancers, artists, energy and know-how, to present a spectacle worthy of the 214th anniversary of the creation of the flag.

Note that in the various departments of the country, several sporting and socio-cultural events:

parades of honor corps, majorettes and marching bands have been organized by the departmental directorates of the Ministry of Youth to enable all young people without distinction to join in the celebration of our bicolour, symbol of identity, sovereignty and unity of our people.

*[Haitilibre.com]*

### ✓ JAMAICA: YOUTH GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO BE INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE

**Kingston, 10 May 2017** - SCORES of youth will now have access to state-of-the-art innovation tools and technology to develop their software and entrepreneurial skills.

This will be provided through the Democratizing Innovation in the Americas (DIA) Project, which will facilitate the implementation of Youth Innovation Labs by the Institute of Law and Economics, in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the DIA Urban Challenge Ideathon on May 9, in Kingston, State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles Jr., said the project will give vulnerable youth a platform to use technology and their

creativity to solve problems. "I applaud this initiative, which supports youth participation in the development process, and I urge all participants to maximise this great opportunity to contribute to the development of our nation through your creative ideas and sustainable solutions," Senator Charles said. He said the US\$80,000 project, which is being funded by Citibank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will have a series of activities during the hosting of the two-day ideathon that will result in 20 young person's receiving US\$1,000 towards the development of their idea.

The ideas/solutions to the challenges will focus on five main areas crime and security; Participatory City; youth unemployment; cli-

mate change, environmental protection and renewable energy; and gender-based violence.

"The project will have 'high tech' labs that young people can use from morning until night, and be supportive in creating their philosophies.

Young people are being encouraged to go there and use the top-of-the-line equipment to create their ideas and keep them out of trouble," the State Minister said.

He further added that the youth have the gift of ingenuity, and encouraged them to have fun and use the opportunity and the tools provided to make inventions that will become solutions to the challenges facing the country. The Minister also applauded the stakeholders for their investment and commitment

to the project, and reassured them that their investment will assist the country in solving problems through the use of technology.

For her part, Project Director of the OAS' 'New Path' Project, Susan Ewerson, explained that the project is expected to create access to spaces for innovation and empower young innovators and micro-entrepreneurs. She added that it will create solutions that will open up opportunities at the community level and help advance national development.

Miss Ewerson noted that in the summer, all young people who have used the lab will be able to pitch their ideas to get funding to develop those ideas.

*[Jamaica Gleaner]*



### ✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: CONCERN OVER HIGH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Port of Spain, 20 May 2017** - ALTHOUGH T&T is reported to have full unemployment that is not the case among the country's young people.

A study released this week by the Caribbean Development Bank shows that T&T's youth unemployment rate, while below the world average, is still a source of concern.

The CDB report shows that among eight countries in the region the youth unemployment rate is 25 per cent the highest worldwide.

The report, presented earlier this week at the 45th Annual General Meeting of the CDB's Board of Governors in St Kitts and Nevis, was guided by the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) Decent Work Agenda and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Key elements of these global agendas relevant to region are creating jobs; social protection; skills for employment and entrepreneurship; and promotion of active participation in the labour market.

The definition of youth adopted for the study is 15-24 years of age, although the impact of unemployment on those up to age 29 was also analysed.

Data obtained by the T&T Guardian from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) shows that in the

15- 19 age group, the unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2014 was 19 per cent, while in the 20- 24 age group the rate was 6.8 percent.

Chief among CDB's findings is that there are gender differences in youth employment with female youth unemployment standing at rates over 30 per cent as against 20 per cent for young males.

The countries with the highest persistent youth unemployment are Guyana and Surinam. Their rates have consistently been above 30 per cent, with the rate in Guyana hovering around 40 per cent.

According to the CDB, unemployment in the eight Caribbean countries studied costs governments US\$900 million in 2013 alone.

The study finds that despite the existence of several core components for addressing youth unemployment across the Region, the overall system is fragmented and disjointed.

While there is recognition of the linkages between youth and youth-at-risk issues and unemployment, youth have become the remit of ministries concerned solely with social issues or those related to sports and culture, and sometimes education.

*[Trinidad & Tobago Express]*

NEWS



### ✓ BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH GOVT TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO 2.6 MN YOUTH

**Dhaka, 2 May 2017 -**

ABOUT 2.6 million young people in Bangladesh will receive employment offers from the country's government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target.

Steps will also be taken to establish rights of over 56.7 million workers.

This initiative aims to tackle the unemployment problem of Bangladesh and promote sustainable economic

growth.

The Government of Bangladesh is taking various initiatives to create employment opportunities on a large scale, said a Bangladeshi news agency quoting Mujibul Haque Chunnu, state minister for labour and employment.

Talking about the garment sector, Chunnu said that it employs over 4.2 million workers. Considering that readymade garment sector

is the biggest foreign currency earner in Bangladesh, the wages of garment workers have been increased.

A garment worker's wage has increased from Taka 1,600 in 2009 to Taka 5,300 in 2013, resulting in a 223 per cent increase, according to Chunnu.

They are also getting salary increment facilities of 5 per cent and a special welfare fund.

Bangladesh has close to 39.5 million male labourers and a female labour force of about 17.2 million, according to International Labour Organisation and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic.

About 87 per cent of the total labour force is involved in informal work and the remaining people work in the formal sector. (KD)

[Fibre2fashion.com]

### ✓ KUWAIT: YOUTH ARE GOVERNMENT'S REAL INVESTMENT

**Kuwait City, 1 May 2017 -** KUWAIT's Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled A Roudan has stressed that youth are the government's real investment.

Al-Roudan made his remarks on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the fifth Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition

last night organised by Kuwait Science Club (KSC).

The contest aims to create a competitive environment that benefits a large segment of the talented and to develop the creative spirit in the fields of technology and science, he noted, Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) reported.

Kuwait Science Club's Director Talal Al-Kharafi said the KSC held this competition as it pays more attention to the country's youth and seeks to help them achieve their goals, adding that the aim of the contest is to provide best ways on how to make use of leisure of youth.

The Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition is the country's largest

scientific contest organised by KSC and supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of State for Youth Affairs.

[Bahrain News Agency]

### ✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH'S ENERGY CAN DIRECT PAKISTAN'S NEW PATH'

**Islamabad, 18 May 2017 -** A five-year project aimed at economically empowering youth by providing sustainable livelihoods to 17,000 young people in district layyah was launched at a local hotel on Wednesday.

The event was organized by bargad organization for youth development, with support from oxfam in pakistan.

Empower youth for work a multi-country project designed to economically empower young people from disaster prone communities in district

layyah in punjab and district jamshoro in sindh by providing them with the opportunities to secure sustainable livelihood.

Under the project, bargad, oxfam's implementing partner in district layyah, will be providing entrepreneurship and skill-based training as well as access to finance to 17,000 young people, of whom 70 per cent are girls between the ages of 15 and 24.

Discussing the role of young people in Pakistan's development, Mohammad qazilbash, country director

of oxfam in Pakistan said, "while four million young people enter workforce every year in Pakistan, an estimated 60% of them are employed in low paid and unstable jobs.

Youth is the energy that will determine the direction Pakistan will take.

It is imperative that young people feel empowered in order to be able to influence the decisions that affect their lives while assuming their responsibilities as active citizens." he assured the audience that oxfam continues to prioritize supporting young people, in particular young girls, in

becoming leaders and to ensuring that their roles in pakistan's society and the economy are adequately valued and recognized.

under empower youth for work project, a rural hub will be formed in layyah, liaising youth with formal and informal job markets, multinational companies, small and medium enterprises, business development support providers & private sector organizations.



Chief coordinator, prime minister youth program Mr. makhdum adeel-ur-rehman advised youth to not only benefit from opportunities presented through the project but also explore new horizons of economic development which ultimately leads to strengthen the economy of pakistan.

He emphasized that the beneficiaries of this project can be linked to the prime minister youth loan program.

Director general cm's strategic reforms unit,

government of punjab Mr. salman Sufi said it was encouraging to see how through this project young people especially young women residing in the rural areas of district layyah will be empowered through entrepreneurial skills education to earn sustainable livelihood.

Secretary youth affairs, sports, archeology and tourism department Mr. nayyar iqbal appreciated the project and mentioned that it is need of the hour that youth is introduced in the job market and new opportunities are created to

economically develop youth of layyah.

This project of bargad is a timely initiative thereby youth can explore new horizons of success.

Young people attending the event were excited by the opportunities that the project will bring for them and participated enthusiastically by sharing their ideas.

Oxfam in Pakistan is part of oxfam international confederation of 19 independent non-governmental

organizations across the globe.

Oxfam in Pakistan works with young people and women, local communities, civil society and the government to promote social justice and equal rights for all.

We campaign so that the voices of the vulnerable and marginalized people influence the local and global decisions that affect them.

[The Nation]

### ✓ PHILIPPINES: \$300 MILLION LOAN TO HELP BOOST YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Manila, 24 May 2017 -** THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$300 million to support the Philippine government roll out services aimed at assisting Filipino youth find gainful employment, part of the government's job creation goal under the Duterte government's 10 point agenda and 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan.

The policy-based loan was approved today by the ADB Board of Directors as the first phase of the Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program being implemented by the Department of Labor and Employment in collaboration with other government agencies and cities and municipalities in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, according to ADB.

"The Philippines has a young population with an average age of 25 years," said Kelly Bird, Director for Public Management,

Financial Sector, and Trade Division of ADB's Southeast Asia Department. "Therefore, creating wage jobs for youth is vital to reducing poverty and income inequality."

Despite the Philippines' rapid growth averaging an annual 6.3% between 2010 and 2016 and with it a solid improvement in the job market, the country continues to have a youth employment problem stemming from a slow school-to-work transition.

Based on an ADB study, only one out of five high school graduates in Metro Manila and Cebu City found a job within a year of leaving school.

In 2013, one in four young people was not in employment, education, or training a rate second only to Indonesia in Southeast Asia.

The government has identified several constraints in the Filipino

youth's transition to work after school, including inadequate and underfunded government employment services and weaknesses in post-high school training.

In response to these constraints, the Philippines enacted a new law in 2015 that mandated the institutionalization of public employment services offices (PESOs) in local governments and secured funding for them.

The government also passed amendments to the Special Program for the Employment of Students Act that provides paid internships to poor students to keep them in college.

It also enacted a law institutionalizing and funding the nationwide roll-out of the JobStart Philippines Program that provides skills training and internships to out-of-school youth to raise their chances of productive employment.

The program will include a

series of government policy actions to raise the youth employment rate. It will support the government's efforts to restructure its PESO and labor market activation programs and roll out new services to assist youth and strengthen training and apprenticeship programs.

[The Financial]



### ✓ SINGAPORE: YOUTH RAISE AWARENESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

**Singapore, 16 May 2017-** AN amazing race with a difference will be held in August where participants will have to put themselves in the shoes of the mentally ill.

Participants will be asked, for example, to wolf down a large plate of food individually, to draw parallels to how mental health patients sometimes feel overwhelmed.

The group, consisting of Ms Adelyn Lim, 23, Ms Tricia Chua, 20, Ms Tricia Koh, 18, and Ms Tan Li Ying, 18, have something in common - all of them had experienced mental health issues before - ranging from anxiety, depression and personality disorder.

They are currently undergoing treatment."We started this project because of our own experiences.

Due to social stigma, we felt like we couldn't speak to our friends about mental illnesses, and learnt that others face similar problems," said team leader Ms Tricia Chua, who is studying for her private A-level examinations at MDIS.

Ms Chua and her teammates will also sell items, such as handcraft products made by SAMH clients, in the Orchard Road area. The team hopes to raise about \$8,000 in funds for SAMH.

The group was one of 100 teams in this year's Citi-YMCA Youth For Causes programme, which was launched on Tuesday (May 16) at the School of the Arts.

The initiative, which marked its 15th anniversary, was graced by President Tony Tan Keng Yam.

The launch was attended by YMCA delegates from 15 cities, which have adopted the Youth For Causes programme in their various countries.

Under the initiative, each team receives funding of \$1,600, in addition to resources such as training in financial management and marketing.

The team will promote and raise funds for a voluntary welfare organisation of its choice, for 15 weeks until end-August.

Other projects cover topics such as art therapy, social entrepreneurship, and children empowerment.

Ms Tan Li Li, executive director of SAMH, told The Straits Times that raising awareness is more important than fundraising under the programme.

"The scheme gives us a platform to engage youth about social causes such as mental health. When they hear about us, they'll know that there is an avenue to seek help."

*[The Straits Times]*

NEWS



### ✓ ALBANIA: WE SHOULD PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM LEAVING COUNTRY

Tirana, 21 May 2017 - PARLIAMENT Speaker, also President-elect, Ilir Meta on Sunday called for better youth policies so that young people become motivated by hope to build their life and to contribute in their homeland and

prevent young Albanians from leaving the country.

Addressing a meeting with supporter of the Socialist Movement for Integration in the village of Vaqarr on the

outskirts of Tirana, Parliament Speaker said “Albania should ultimately prevent young people from leaving the country and offer them the opportunity to build their future here in their homeland.”

“We should put an end to this phenomenon.

We should prevent young people from leaving the country by offering them well paid employment

opportunities and build a

future here together with their families,” Meta said.

The President-elect the country won’t progress without energy, enthusiasm and passion of the young people.

The Socialist Movement for Integration, LSI, has put youth policies and youth employment at the heart of its election campaign.

LSI has pledged support for

getting young people into work, education and training, promising more government spending on youth employment strategy, which the party claims will create 100 000 new jobs in various sectors of the country’s economy.

[Normangee Star]

### ✓ BULGARIA: BULGARIAN YOUTH ASK FACEBOOK TO COLLECT LESS PRIVATE DATA

Sofia, 4 May 2017 - YOUNG people in Bulgaria recently asked Face book to collect less personal data from users.

The teens also proposed that Face book, the most popular social media platform in Bulgaria, think about minimising the scope of friends' search.

About 30 young people from several schools participated in a discussion organised by the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre (SIC) and Face book which took place in Sofia, Bulgaria on 25 March 2017.

The discussion followed a regional meeting between Face book and civil society organisations from 10 countries in south-eastern Europe which had taken place the previous day, thanks to a long-term partnership between the Bulgarian SIC and the social media service provider.

During the meeting, Face book representatives Julie de Baillie court, Safety Policy Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa and

Gabriella Cseh, Head of Public Policy for Central and Eastern Europe, introduced the young people to face book’s safety policy and tools.

The teenagers then worked in groups with the objective of sharing their positive and negative experiences when using the social network. The teens reported the advantages of using Face book as providing easy and fast communication with friends and relatives, fast sharing of information, and entertainment and learning opportunities.

The negatives which the teenagers identified included fake news, spam messages and unwanted ads, notifications from unknown people, the amount of personal data gathered, and fewer account management options on mobile devices.

The Face book representatives answered the teenagers' questions and recommended that young people register with their real age in order to be able to use the provided protection tools and filters

for minors.

They also advised that children refrain from sharing their personal data publicly, and not to hesitate to report inappropriate content and behaviour on the platform.

The company's policy for content removal was also discussed with the teenagers.

Julie and Gabriella promised that Face book will look carefully at any additional feedback which the young people provide through the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre.

The idea for the Face book youth event was inspired by the key findings from a national representative survey, conducted by the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre.

Three out of four Bulgarian children aged 9-11 have their own accounts on a social network which means that the requirement for everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account is frequently violated.

Typically a false age of

more than 18 is declared by children; however this deprives them of the specific protections provided for consumers of between 13 and 18 years of age.

Face book is the most popular social media among Bulgarian children 71.7 per cent of them often use it. The percentage of children who have declared a false age has increased fourfold since 2010 from 10 per cent to 40 per cent. The survey also revealed that 33.8 per cent of children's Face book accounts are public, so everybody can access the profile content.

This means that children's personal data is not secured and young people are at risk of unwanted contacts.

Four out of ten children aged 12-14 have public accounts, while 33 per cent of all children accept friend requests from unknown people.

[Focus News]



### ✓ DENMARK: DENMARK SET TO HOST YOUTH FASHION SUMMIT

**Copenhagen, 8 May 2017** - A Youth Fashion Summit will take place in Denmark from May 9 to 10, 2017.

This will attract students from around the world.

Young talents will engage in discussions about the industry they will soon inherit and how to address the major problems of fashion manufacturing and consumption.

They will draft and negotiate the first-ever United Nations resolution on fashion.

The resolution will be negotiated with industry leaders such as H&M and Swarovski and NGOs such as Greenpeace before being presented on stage at Copenhagen Fashion Summit on May 11.

Later this year, the resolution will be presented to the UN in New York. The Youth Fashion Summit is collaboration between Global Fashion Agenda and the Copenhagen School of Design and Technology in partnership with Swarovski. At last year's Youth Fashion Summit, students explored how the 17 UN Sustainable

Development Goals represent opportunities for companies to align their sustainability goals with broader societal aims: from gender equality and poverty reduction to responsible consumption and climate action.

Educators and fashion education leaders will meet prior to Copenhagen Fashion Summit for their respective events, Educators Summit and Academic Leaders Roundtable.

While Educators Summit is a platform for teachers to exchange ideas and

experiences on how to effectively teach sustainability and build a strong international network around it, Academic Leaders Roundtable convenes the most influential decision-makers from across fashion education, industry and nongovernmental organizations for an intimate discussion informing the development of sustainability in global fashion.

*[Hereford Times]*

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

10 May 2017 - ENGINEERING education should start at from an early age.

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

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

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

"This idea came up as we started 3D modeling and

prototyping intensive courses for schoolchildren, where participants get the task, a set of tools and materials for its implementation," says Polina Dyatlova, director of the Center for Scientific and Technical Creativity of Youth at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU). "Children would design models and adults cut future project parts on the industrial machines. Kids have always wanted to control the production process but it was too difficult and not safe.

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

The project is carried out in cooperation with LLC "Photomechanics" and supported by the

Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises in Science and Technology in Russia.

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

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

*[BBC News]*



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

**Madrid, 7 May 2017** - MORE than 4.2 million young people are unemployed in Europe today, with Spain among the worst affected countries. The EU launched the Youth Guarantee as an attempt to turn this situation around, but how does it work? Young people have borne the brunt of Europe's economic downturn.

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

Nowhere is this marginalisation more clearly illustrated than in the youth unemployment figures for the EU's southern member states. Greece (44.2%), Spain (42.9%) and Italy (40.1%) have the highest proportions of unemployment among people under the age of 25.

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

In his State of the Union speech last September, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said, "I cannot and will not accept that Europe is and remains the continent of youth unemployment."

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

NEWS



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: STATE ANNOUNCES MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON YOUTH CRIME

**Melbourne, 24 May 2017** - THE government of Australia's Victoria state announced a major crackdown on youth crime Wednesday, with teenage offenders to face tougher penalties for breaking the law.

Under legislation passed by the Victorian parliament on Wednesday, teen offenders on the run from police will be publicly identified while rioters within the youth justice system will have their sentences extended.

The new laws come as the state tries to counter a youth

justice crisis which has seen a number of riots and prison -breaks across the system.

"We're transforming the way our justice system works with the largest ever suite of legislative reforms. We're cracking down on violent offenders, overhauling our bail laws and prioritizing community safety," Martin Pakula, Victoria's Attorney-General, told reporters in Melbourne on Wednesday.

"Our reforms will make sure serious offenders are held accountable for their actions and punished for

their crimes, and ensure that sentences are more in line with community expectations."

In addition to the law reforms, the government also announced funding for a new "fit-for-purpose" detention facility in the state budget.

The need for the new facility arose after existing facilities were significantly damaged in riots.

In one such riot on Jan. 15, offenders escaped from the Malmesbury youth justice center, 96 km northwest of Melbourne, many of whom

stole cars and went on the run for more than 24 hours before being apprehended.

Under the new laws, offenders who attempt to riot, or escape, as those at Malmesbury did will face the possibility of having their sentences extended.

Offenders within the system older than 18 who riot will be charged as adults with the possibility of being moved to an adult prison.

[Xinhua]

### ✓ FIJI: YOUNG RURAL FARMERS GET TIMELY BOOST

**Suva, 17 May 2017** - THE young farmers of Nadanaivalu Youth Club of Navitilevu in Ra received a timely boost from the Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou, last Friday.

Mr Tuitubou, while handing over farming tools, said: "It is the wish of Government and the Ministry to witness young people develops by maximizing their land and resources.

"Government is providing incentives through such assistance to boost your investment in farming," Mr Tuitubou said.

"The Youth and Sports Ministry is fully aware of its long-term viability and security and that is why we are providing support to young farmers."

He said there were other associated benefits to farming especially for those in rural area.

The Nadanaivalu Youth Club received a plough, harrow, knapsack sprayers, weedicide, manure and vegetable seedlings.

The Ministry spent more than \$2000 for these items and Mr Tuitubou has urged the elders of Navitilevu to

support the positive initiatives taken by youths.

"Support from the community is vital if our youths are to progress in farming," Mr Tuitubou said.

"We are encouraging young people to move away from subsistence farming and slowly venture into commercial farming."

Nadanaivalu Youth Club leader Kaminieli Damedame said: "This assistance will boost the individual members and their production."

"We are grateful to the

Minister and Government for visiting us and for the great assistance especially when we are still recovering from the aftermath of TC Winston," Mr Damedame said.

He added that the visit by the Minister for Youth and Sports was also timely and was a great opportunity for them to discuss issues pertaining to their development.

[Fiji Sun Online]

### ✓ NEWZEALAND: \$260K FOR 800 NEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Wellington, 10 May 2017** - NEW partnerships with Netball NZ and 24-7 Youth work Trust will see \$260,000 invested to create up to 800 new youth development opportunities, Youth Minister Nikki Kaye announced today.

"These opportunities are about inspiring and growing the next generation of leaders and also supporting them to give back to the community," says Ms Kaye. "The partnership with Netball NZ will see \$152,000 invested in a pilot programme that will use

sport as a vehicle to enhance health and wellbeing, and provide mentoring, leadership and volunteering opportunities for up to 500 young people. "The pilot will involve secondary school students attending leadership workshops, then being

given the opportunity to lead, manage or coach a secondary school junior netball team or volunteer at a netball centre." Netball Northern Zone will deliver the pilot, in partnership with secondary schools and netball centres.



It will target Maori, Pasifika and other young people in the Mangere, Otahuhu, Manurewa, Howick, Pakuranga, Otara and Papakura areas of South Auckland.

“This is about giving more opportunities to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to receive mentoring or develop leadership skills, to help them develop skills and confidence to set them on a positive path,” says Ms Kaye.

“The partnership with 24-7 Youthwork Trust will see \$108,000 invested to enable schools in Auckland, Wellington and

Christchurch to provide more mentoring and leadership opportunities for up to 300 young people.

“This funding will support a range of youth development opportunities, from individual and group mentoring to targeted leadership training.

This includes supporting young people to organise and lead their own school events, such as festivals, and mobilise and coordinate other students to attend these.

“The investment builds on a previous investment I announced last August, which saw 24-7 Youthwork

Trust supported to provide youth development opportunities at various schools across the South Island.

“I’m constantly amazed at how many talented and community-minded young people I meet in my job as Youth Minister.

“Often all it takes is one opportunity to experience volunteering, mentoring or leadership development to set young people off in a whole new direction.

“These new partnerships will enable more young New Zealanders to access these opportunities, and build the confidence they need to take their

aspirations and skills to the next level.”

Both investments announced today are being made under the Partnership Fund, which sees the Government co-invest with business, philanthropic, iwi and other partners to grow youth development opportunities.

New partnerships announced so far this year have seen over \$2.8 million invested to provide more than 6000 new youth development opportunities across New Zealand.

[Radio New Zealand]

### ✓ SAMOA: TEEN CHALLENGE SAMOA GEARS UP TO HELP TROUBLED YOUTH

Apia, 7 May 2017 - THE newly established Teen Challenge Samoa (TCS) organisation is gearing up to help the troubled youth of Samoa, and it is moving to establish a partnership with pastors and church ministers as a network for its work.

“For the first time in Samoa, there is now an organization that deals specifically with substance abuse amongst young people,” said TCS Executive Director Eric Poe.

TCS noted the increasing number of youths involved in drugs and alcohol abuse and they hope to work together with different denominations in Samoa to help these young people.

“For many years, we focus on establishing Teen Challenges in the South Asia, and while we continue to work in South Asia, we focus emphasis now on the

Pacific Islands to establish Teen Challenge,” said Reverend Jim Lowans of TCS America.

Team Challenge Samoa works under the umbrella of the Assembly of God church.

Reverend Fa’afetai Fata Meafou, TCS Chairman said the reason why AOG wanted the programme activated here is because the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration always asked for letters of support for some of the youth cases before the Court.

“But even though these young people are in control of their own lives, the main target of TCS is to help them to stay away from drugs,” said Reverend Fata. “We’ve seen thousands of addicts that have their lives turned around and transformed through the Ministry of Teen Challenge,

it is a terrible addiction, and it takes a lot of effort by a lot of people to make somebody walk free of their addiction,” said Reverend Lowans.

He said 85% of those who go through the entire TCS programme do not return to their past ways.

He also believes that no other ministry or organization has that high level of success rate, so it is why he believes that having TCS in Samoa is going to have a positive impact on the growing drug culture. “We are very excited to be part of this and to finally see the realization of a long time vision of the Executive Committee.

He said any programme that builds up or restores the life of young people should be encouraged and supported as they deserve every chance they can get to live a full life, free from addiction

of any kind.

There were fifty Pastors from different denominations in Samoa who attend today’s session.

“It’s the same perspective I have on this Teen Challenge programme and I respect their every move just to save the souls of young people,” says Reverend Danny Epati of the Congregational Christian Church at Sa’anapu.

Teen Challenge has more than 1,100 rehabilitation centers in 120 countries around the world and Samoa is the third Pacific country where it now operates.

It is funded under the United Nations Development Programme.

[Fiji Times]



### ✓ SOLOMON ISLANDS: IT'S ON AGAIN TOMORROW, YOUTH EVENTS

Honiara, 12 May 2017 - Y@W will host a Youth Market tomorrow at the Art Gallery Grounds starting 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

The theme for this Youth Market event is "Exposing Solomon Islands youth to the world; Accessing Information and Opportunities."

The main focus of the event is connecting local youth entrepreneurs in the informal sector to the public market; build their customer networks, promote their products and access vital information that all youth can take advantage of to grow their business ideas.

The National Provident Fund's (NPF) YouSave team will set up an awareness booth at the event to promote their saving product for young entrepreneurs.

Team Leader for Youth Market and Business Support officer, Wallex Rilifia, encourage all youth who are currently running a business or is planning to start a business to take advantage of this free platform.

Another highlight of the day will be a speech contest with the theme "Herem vois blo mi", where phase 11 participants of the Y@W programme will have the chance to voice out their concerns and highlight youth issues to the public.

Finally, a dance contest will be held in the afternoon and Wallex encourage young talented entertainers and dancers to claim ownership

and use this opportunity to promote their talents.

The young Y@W team pledges to make this day packed with fun as well as informative for everyone.

*[Pasifik News]*

NEWS

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