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✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2018*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4 February 2018	World Cancer Day	Melaka, Malaysia
11 February 2018	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Melaka, Malaysia
20 February 2017	World Day of Social Justice	Melaka, Malaysia
11 February 2018	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ GAMBIA: MAKE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GAMBIAN YOUTH

Banjul, 18 January 2018 - IT is good reading the report of a strategically placed youth leader calling on government, the public and private sector players in the country to give a serious leg up to youth of the nation.

Members of the Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce (GYCC), in their ongoing week-long first-ever regional youth exhibition, underway in North Bank Region of Farafenni have made a strong and passionate call on government and other stakeholders such as the private sector to realise the youth demographic dividend by investing in the empowerment and education of young people.

The GYCC chief executive officer has advanced some fundamental reasons why such support must be given

to the youth, considering the fact that more than 64% of the population of The Gambia comprises youth, with about 38% of them unemployed.

This nagging statistics of our progress in youth development calls for some serious and calculative action and plans to turn such a worrying situation around.

We are therefore adding our voice to this call for a rethink and course of action towards investing more in empowering the youth, especially in the direction outlined by the CEO of the GYCC, which is: creating public entrepreneurship space, preparing, developing, nurturing and supporting the establishment of functional youth-led micro enterprises and creation of employment opportunities across the

country.

In other words, the youth are calling for entrepreneurship promotion, as there are hundreds of thousands of them who are potential entrepreneurs and can contribute substantially to the growth and development of the country through such enterprising drive in order to transform the economy of The Gambia, create more employment and alleviate poverty and hardship in the country.

Furthermore, giving the youth the opportunity and upper hand to become successful entrepreneurs now and in the future, would contribute massively to not only to the country's economic growth but also to curbing the fatal greener pasture dream and mass exodus of the youth to Europe via the dangerous

Mediterranean Sea route, otherwise referred to as 'The Back-way'.

As a nation, government and stakeholders in national development, let's place strong focus and give substantial support to meeting the entrepreneurship aspirations and development drive of our youth, as the GYCC continues to call for such line of direction from the government and the private sector.

It is a course of action, which when taken and implemented properly, can only be of great help to our national economy and human development; nothing less. So let's do the right thing to chart a brighter future for our youth in The Gambia.

[The Point]

✓ MOZAMBIQUE: MOZAMBIQUE TARGETS 170,000 YOUTHS IN MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

Maputo, 2 January 2018 - Mozambique's Ministry of National Defence (MDN) is targeting 170,000 Mozambican youths of both sexes, during a two-month military conscription which kicks off on Wednesday until February 28, APA can report on Tuesday.

A Defence ministry media statement seen by APA announced that the nationwide conscription will take place in all administrative areas and educational establishments.

"The military conscription will take place from January 3 to February 28 this year throughout the country, and will cover around 170,000

Mozambican youth of both sexes", read the statement.

Projections from the 2007 population census conducted by the National Statistical Institute (INE) indicated that some 583,000 young people are expected to reach the age of 18 in 2018.

Therefore, the number of young people that the MDN intends to register corresponds to only 29 percent of the eligible population.

The campaign, to be launched on Thursday, covers all Mozambican citizens of both sexes, born in the year 2000, as well as those who have not been

able to do so previously, provided they have not reached the age of 35.

Abroad, registration will take place in the diplomatic and consular missions of Mozambique.

To register, candidates are required to provide identification document, certificate or declaration of educational qualifications and the declaration of residence issued by the officials of the respective area.

National Defence Minister Atanásio Salvador M'tumuke will preside at the launch ceremony in the district of Chiúre, in the

northern province of Cabo Delgado, which will be replicated in all provinces.

[The Herald]



✓ NIGERIA: COMBATING YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN NIGERIA

Abuja, 9 January 2018 -

THE words 'youth restiveness' have become a cliché to Nigerians over the years. This epidemic which has undoubtedly become endemic has been given different colourations.

However, I view it as the uncontrolled, violent and unpleasant ways by which youth communicate their dissatisfaction to the government or people in authority over a perceived neglect of their demands and expectations.

The origin of this menace could be traced to the oil rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria, where the youths felt that the government of the day was not living up to their expectations and yearning, and as a result took to arms, vandalism of oil pipelines and kidnapping of expatriates just to drive home their points.

This strategy, however, took a negative turn on the economy as oil companies relocated their headquarters to Lagos and other parts of the country while expatriates ran for their lives, thereby crippling growth and development in the region and the country at large because the Niger Delta region is the region that generates the largest revenue for the Federal Government.

Today, we have experienced the proliferation of many restive groups in the country. Apart from the Niger Delta militant groups, there exist MASSOB, OPC, OMBATSE, the defeated Boko Haram and many

more groups avenging one grievance or the other. Granted, these restive groups had or are still perpetrating unwholesome acts and gaining government's attention wrongly, one cannot pretend not to agree with the fact that life is all about cause and effect and to every inaction, there is an action; to every reaction, there is a responsive reaction.

This then brings us to the big question; 'what could be the causes of these unwarranted restiveness or are they actually warranted?

After much pondering and wondering, the following factors were deduced as the possible causes of youth restiveness.

Unemployment: This factor has become a protracted ailment in Nigeria. There are over 20 million unemployed youths ranging from graduates, skilled to unskilled teeming youths who have been denied the opportunity to make a meaning out of their lives.

Every electioneering period, politicians and political parties would acknowledge that youths need jobs; they would promise an overnight creation of millions of jobs in their manifestoes, but once they get into power, it becomes mission impossible.

These youths who have worked and hoped for a transformation, on the assumption of office of their leaders, would be kept in the waiting room without attention until the tenure is over.

This frustration and neglect drive the youths from the waiting room to the emergency room in search of a quick solution.

Since the government always acknowledges this factor to the point that they reflect it in their manifestoes, they should rise up to the occasion and do the needful to create job opportunities. Although the Federal Government is gradually stepping on the pedal, the state governments are expected to synergise.

Corruption: The fact that Nigeria is corrupt is now stale news. Nigeria is now globally renowned for corruption to the point that a search for the word 'corruption' on the internet will likely pop up the suggestion 'corruption in Nigeria.'

That Nigerians are a striking example of the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty is now a cliché. Although, some patriotic Nigerians may be in a haste to point out that Nigeria is not a lone ranger in this wilderness of corruption.

But unlike in other countries where corruption is peculiar to the ruling class and high ranking public officials, corruption in Nigeria is a horizontal cankerworm that is clinging to the fabric of all, from the ruling class to the ordinary Nigerian.

Corruption is everywhere in Nigeria, even in the air we breathe. Who will then bell the cat? However, I think there is still hope for Nigeria

especially now that the current administration has made fighting corruption its major agenda.

Nevertheless, I urge the government to look into the following suggestions for possible solutions to this menace;

Firstly is the value reorientation of the youths. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) should embark on massive sensitization and re-orientation of the youth, acquainting them with their rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great country.

Secondly, government should continue to show serious commitment to the eradication of corruption by ensuring speedy trial and punishment of corrupt persons to serve as deterrent.

Nigeria today is fighting to survive from the clutches of economic recession or retrogression as I choose to call it.

This economic downturn from all indications was occasioned by the way and manner previous administrations, starting from the days of tyranny under the reckless regime of late Gen. Sani Abacha, to the immediate past administration, mismanaged the country's fund with reckless abandon.

[The Tide]



✓ UGANDA: YOUTH TOLD TO EMBRACE SKILLS TRAINING

Kampala, 22 January 2018 - THE only way to deal with the influx of job seekers is to give practical skills to school leavers and mothers who stay at home to enhance job-creation in Uganda.

Aidah Tumuheirwe, the director of United Innovations Development Centre (UIDC), said some primary and secondary school leavers at a productive age commit crimes because they waste time during holidays.

She said the skills they are imparting help one start a small business.

Tumuheirwe made the remarks during the launch of the short time skills-training for school leavers and holiday makers to help improve incomes through job creation at UIDC in Kampala recently.

“Once a person gets such a skill, they can easily start his or her own business,” Tumuheirwe said.

The training targets Senior Six and Senior Four leavers,

women and youth in general. The hands-on training lasts two weeks, depending on the applicant’s choice.

A number of women from Wakiso district have been trained in briquettes making as well as making paper bags from agricultural waste. They were also trained in making candles and jewelry.

Speaking at a recent function, Godfrey Korinako, the assistant director at UIDC, said the

only way to go about lack of employment is to acquire practical training in entrepreneurship.

“Most small businesses do not need a lot of capital to start. You only need between sh100,000 and sh200,000 to start,”

Korinako said. He added that the training of this kind is a better intervention for young people.

[New Vision]

✓ ZAMBIA: GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO EMPOWERING YOUTHS IN ICTS

Lusaka, 18 January 2018 - MINISTRY of Youth, Sport and Child Development has remained resolute to empowering both rural and urban youths country wide in Information and Communication Technology (ICTs).

Director of Youth Development Collins Mulonda says the Ministry is actively implementing the ICT Business Empowerment Scheme for young people.

Mr. Mulonda told ZANIS in an interview that the project is one of the quick win projects for the young people as outlined in the 2015 National Youth Policy.

He emphasized that ICT business scheme empowers young people with knowledge and equipment to enable them come up with business centers, stating that rural youths connected to the National Power Grid are among the beneficiaries.

“It’s a quick win project and rural youths connected to the national power grid benefit also. We already launched the project and we are currently pursuing phase one,” he stressed.

The Director of Youth Development affirmed that youth groups from 60 districts six districts per Province will benefit from the ICT loan empowerment.

Mr. Mulonda asserted that the identified youth cooperatives on the Copperbelt Province had their leaders trained in ICT empowerment Scheme.

He explained that each identified youth Cooperative is provided with five desk tops, printer and an internet connector among others to enable them establish a business center.

Mr. Mulonda further urged youths with interest in ICTs to apply through the Provincial offices for the loan.

[Lusaka Times]



✓ BRAZIL: BRAZIL TO INVEST R\$157 MILLION IN PROGRAM FOR RIO'S FAVELA YOUTH

Rio De Janeiro, 14 November 2017 – BRAZIL's federal government launched the Emergency Program for Social Actions in Rio de Janeiro on Monday, announcing investments of R\$157 million to stimulate the participation of young people in sports, cultural and technology activities and keep youngsters away from crime in some of Rio's poorest favela communities. "When I see the preparation of those who now practice sport and who find in sport a means of social integration, I see that the basic idea is the idea of peace," declared Brazil's President Michel Temer, who along with Rio's

governor Luiz Fernando Pezão and Rio's mayor Marcelo Crivella participated in the ceremony.

"We have a huge military force helping to deal with organized crime," said Social Development Minister Osmar Terra during the announcement ceremony. "(But) If we do not change the social structure; we do not improve people's lives, this has a temporary effect," added Terra.

According to officials approximately 50,000 children and youths, from 6-17 years of age, will benefit from the program. The objective is to reduce violence in these

communities, located in the capital and throughout the metropolitan region through activities such as dances, games and courses.

Officials say the investments in sports will help with the purchase of sports equipment, uniforms, hiring of teachers and monitors, improvement of facilities and food to beneficiaries until December 2018. For education, efforts will be increased to identify children and adolescents who are out of school and bring them back to the classroom.

"When I see the preparation of those who now practice sport and who find in sport a means of social

integration, I see that the basic idea is the idea of peace," declared.

Brazil's President Michel Temer, who along with Rio's governor Luiz Fernando Pezão and Rio's mayor Marcelo Crivella participated in the ceremony.

Among the ten favela communities contemplated to receive the funds are Rocinha, Complexo do Alemão, Complexo da Maré, and Complexo do Salgueiro (São Gonçalo). In recent months the people in these communities have reported increased criminal activities and drug gang wars.

[The Rio Times]

✓ CANADA: CANADA INVESTS \$50 MILLION TO TEACH YOUTH TO CODE

Owatta, 23 January 2018 - THE federal government is investing \$50 million to teach the next generation coding skills.

The money will fund the government's new CanCode program.

CanCode is a federal program that will invest \$50 million over two years into supporting the development of coding skills for young Canadians.

The goal of this funding is to equip youth with the skills to enter the competitive digital economy.

Western Engineering Outreach will receive a portion of the CanCode funding through Actua, a STEM outreach network, to promote youth digital programming.

Western Engineering Outreach will use the funding to expand community programming to reach more youth in the London area.

The program aims to assist youth, specifically underrepresented groups, with the ability to prepare for jobs of the future.

The new program was announced Tuesday by Kate Young, Parliamentary Secretary for Science and Member of Parliament for London West.

"Teachers of the future and students of the future need to have the necessary skills in this new digital age.

Coding and digital skills are really becoming the new digital skills and it is imperative to make sure that our young people have the digital literacy.

This temporary funding program will assist 63,000 teachers in learning to teach digital skills and coding.

Young hopes that the program will get the ball rolling for a future with permanent coding classes.

"This will make Canada a world leader in digital technology.

The jobs of tomorrow will include digital skills that will include coding, especially when talking about the STEM programs," Young said.

That is needed in the types of jobs we will have in the future," Young said.

[The Gazette]



✓ JAMAICA: YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE TRAINED FOR JOBS IN MANUFACTURING AND EXPORT

Kingston, 26 January 2018 - HEART Trust and the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA), have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) geared towards providing on-the-job training for apprentices in the manufacturing and export sectors.

At the signing on Tuesday (January 23) at the JMA boardroom, downtown Kingston, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Dean-Roy Bernard, commended the entities for coming together to assist the nation's youth who are in need of training and experience to secure employment.

"Today's signing represents a significant step forward in the efforts to address the shortfall of skilled, semi-skilled, technical and professional labour in the manufacturing sector.

This will also allow for job creation and greater

contribution to Jamaica's economic output and increase in international competitiveness," he noted.

JMA President, Metry Seaga, said he is elated about the MOU, for which discussions started in 2016.

He informed that several members of the JMA have already expressed an interest in the programme and have committed spaces for apprentices.

Mr. Seaga said the agreement seeks to address one of the persistent issues faced by manufacturers that of finding skilled labour for production and other key areas of businesses.

He noted that the sector employs 77,000 persons.

Citing a recent study done by the University of the West Indies (UWI), he indicated that 78 per cent of manufacturers have difficulty hiring skilled staff, and up to 90 per cent of the micro and small firms

experience problems hiring qualified staff.

"This is the case even when Jamaica's youth unemployment persists over 20 per cent," he pointed out.

Mr. Seaga noted that manufacturing contributes over eight per cent to Jamaica's gross domestic product (GDP) and the sector will be better strengthened by having young people with the talents to sustain and grow businesses.

He gave the JMA's commitment to doing its part to giving its members a competitive edge and providing Jamaica's youth "the opportunity for employment and self-actualisation".

HEART Trust/NTA Chairman, Edward Gabbidon, for his part, said the agreement will take the underserved youth from a situation of untrained to employment.

"Our greatest resource is our human capital. We have youngsters who are very good at doing things (so) let's capture that level of ingenuity and skill sets and turn (the youngsters) into being useful citizens of this country," he said.

Among other things, the agreement sees the reintroduction of the apprenticeship programme to the manufacturing and export sectors; the provision of jobs for apprentices who complete their programmes; business development support for improved productivity within firms; and greater opportunities for matriculation through a strengthened National Qualifications Framework.

[Jamaica Information Service]

✓ PANAMA: LEAD COALITION OF BAY COUNTY WORKING TO REDUCE YOUTH VIOLENCE

Panama City, 8 January 2018 - FOR one local group, there isn't just one answer to putting a stop to violence in the area, but they do believe reaching the youth with positivity can help.

Voices Against Violence meetings draw out locals to talk about improving neighbourhoods, some where parents don't feel comfortable letting their kids play outdoors.

"It's when we come together and we talk about our

concerns," Janice Lucas, Executive Director of the LEAD Coalition of Bay County said, "about reducing violence in our community, particularly youth violence."

The public forum, formed by the LEAD Coalition of Bay County is focused on a younger demographic.

Through discussion, community members came up with the "Count Me In" truancy program at Jinks Middle School and Everitt Middle School.

"Some of the violence that's occurring in our community is happening because of the youth," Lucas said.

Count Me In works alongside the after-school program at both schools. Students learn and participate in activities with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. "Students are able to see these things that maybe pique their interest," Jinks Middle School Principal Britt Smith said. "It gives them an opportunity to

begin to develop their academic portfolio."

Piquing their academic interest in hopes of keeping them off the streets and instead, with their heads in the books.

"Every Monday we do a grade check where they check our grades to see where our strong suits are and what we need help in," Jinks Middle School student Cyntherria Turner said.



Turner and another student, Noah Justice both received an award from Count Me In, encouraging them to stay in school.

"Anything that they're struggling in, we have them email their teachers right

there in front of us," Mitch Kelly, Site Coordinator at Jinks Middle School said.

In the after-school program students even learn through karate classes and the Girl Scouts to teach kids important life lessons,

hoping to steer them from going down the wrong path.

"[The instructor] teaches us discipline and some karate moves. I did it last year with him and during the summer," Justice said.

You can visit LeadABetterLife.org for more information about the LEAD Coalition of Bay County.

[The News Herald]

✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: OVER 2000 GRADUATE FROM YTEPP PROGRAMME

Port of Spain, 26 January 2018 - A total of 2038 young people graduated from the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) on Wednesday at the University of Trinidad and Tobago's O'meara campus, after receiving training in areas of Cosmetology, Barbering, Braiding, Welding and other professions.

Delivering the feature address, Minister in the Ministry of Education, Dr Lovell Francis, expressed satisfaction that YTEPP is fulfilling the mandate of the Ministry by adding value to the lives of young people.

"We need you and that's a fact, Trinidad and Tobago needs you so much that we spend a lot of money trying to educate you and it is money well spent and money well worth it because you add value to our society at a time we need you most."

Dr Francis cautioned the grandaunts and others in attendance to acknowledge that Trinidad and Tobago has entered into a new paradigm and certain skill sets are critical to take the nation out of its existing economic difficulties.

"We need people who are skills trained, we need people who are technicians,

we need people who are joiners, people who are entrepreneurs, nail technicians, barbers, hairdressers, mechanics, technicians, we need welders. "

A statement from the Ministry of Education noted that this cohort of young professionals reaffirmed the Government's commitment to invest in technical and vocational skills in order to meet the development needs of the country.

Education Minister Anthony Garcia was also in attendance.

YTEPP's flagship industry partnerships include the Caribbean Dockyard and Engineering Services Limited (Caridock) Metal X Engineering, Hydrotech and VMCOTT among others.

In 2014 YTEPP entered into a partnership with the Vancouver Island University to establish the Institute of Cosmetology, which now serves as a Centre of Excellence, not only for Trinidad and Tobago but also serving the CARICOM region.

[Loop Trinidad & Tobago]





✓ BANGLADESH: INSPIRING YOUTH THROUGH STORYTELLING

Dhaka, 18 January 2018 - AFTER an eminent event last year, this year's follow up "Rise Above All 2018" thrived to amaze the participants.

Held in Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, "Rise Above All 2018" took place on January 12, 2018.

The event was organised by Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy and kicked off at 10 AM with Corporate Trainer and Life Coach G. Sumdany Don's crowd-engaging ice-breaker.

One of the most captivating moments from the event was when Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, Honourable State Minister, ICT Division,

shared stories of his life and all the endeavours he had to face. "Don't work to get something in return, rather, work for doing something great," he declared.

Rise Above All 2018 allowed successful people from over the nation to deliver top-notch speeches. Reaz Uddin Al Mamoon, MD of Epyllion Group, was the first to deliver a speech, followed by Mahboob Zaman, MD of DataSoft Systems BD Limited; Qamar Uz Zaman, MD of RAK Paints; and Hasan Benaul Islam, Industry Promotion Specialist of LICT Bangladesh, before the lunch break.

The audience broke the silence into rounds of applause after 10 Minute School Founder Ayman

Sadiq delivered his speech along with Communication Strategist Solaiman Shukhon; YouTuber Salman Muqtadir; and renowned photographer Prito Reza.

"Keep quiet, you might get into trouble by talking too much," said YouTuber Salman Muqtadir while giving his speech.

The event was even more exciting with speeches from renowned comedian Naveed Mahbub; Sabbir Nasir, ED of Shwapno; Professor A K Enamul Haque, ED of Unisel BD; Bibi Russel Productions; Tanjim Haque and Asha Sultana, Founders of Ecstasy; Shehzad Munim, MD of BATB; and last but not the least, Atiqul Islam, former president of BGMEA.

Many young talents around the nation performed in between speeches to keep the crowd entertained.

"Rise Above All 2018" also provided employment opportunities to job hunters by asking them to drop their CVs in booths of some of the leading firms of Bangladesh.

With the opportunity of networking with various people and learning about the stories of hardship faced by national icons, "Rise Above All 2018" turned out to be a success overall.

[The Daily Star]

✓ INDONESIA: UNICEF GRANTS FUNDING AWARD TO YOUTH MOVEMENT IN INDONESIA

Jakarta, 15 January 2018 - YOUTH-LED movement Streetizens is one of two organizations worldwide that were selected by UNICEF to receive the San Marino-Alexander Badin Foundation Children's Award.

The funding award aims to support youth-based organizations in promoting children's rights.

Inspired by photo blog Humans of New York, Streetizens intends to break the stereotype of children who live in Jakarta's slums by using film and social media.

It also aims to improve their living standards through education. Currently, Streetizens consists of around 60 students coming

from four different schools in Jakarta, such as Sekolah Pelita Harapan, Jakarta Intercultural School, Bina Bangsa School and Springfield.

"Streetizens' philosophy is in line with what UNICEF stands for in Indonesia equality," said Valerie Crab, innovation lead at UNICEF Indonesia, during Streetizens' New Year's Celebration on Saturday in North Jakarta. She later added that both organizations have the same vision to break the stigma and make the voices of the children heard. Moreover, the grant itself lasts for a year.

"We're really honored to be recognized by UNICEF; [it's] such a prestigious recognition," said Sabrina

Hartono, one of the core members of Streetizens. At the same time, they also partnered up for the U-Report initiative, which is UNICEF's social messaging tool that enables "U-Reporters" (users of the platform) to speak out about certain issues and participate in policy and decision-making processes.

Some of the topics covered are job skills and how to handle epidemics. Prior to Streetizens, UNICEF has also worked with other student organizations for U-Report, such as AIESEC.

Founded in 2015, Streetizens has visited Tanah Abang in Central Jakarta, Pulo Gadung in East Jakarta and Muara Baru in North Jakarta.

Several of the movement's weekly activities include teaching the children math and English.

They also emphasize the importance of improving the children's life skills and character development.

Each session lasts for two hours, which includes an ice-breaker at the beginning and a closing session at the end.

Children should be at least 5 years old to join the activities. "Actually, there are many younger children, but if they don't yet have the capability to understand the lesson that we hold, they will be confused and they won't enjoy the activity," Sabrina explained, adding that they teach more than 160 children in total.



In the beginning, Streetizens used their private funding to continue the movement.

They also actively joined school bazaars by selling

food in a booth to raise funds.

Timothy, another core member of Streetizens, said for now they would rather focus on Pulo Gadung and

Muara Baru first.

“But then in coming years, if we have the resources to expand, we will definitely do that,” Timothy said. They also will make a

documentary series that will be uploaded to YouTube every three months starting from April.

[Jakarta Post]

✓ MALAYSIA: JOHOR YOUTH ORGANISE PROGRAMME TO NURTURE SKILLED WORKFORCE

Kuala Lumpur, 18 January 2018 - IN line with the aspirations of the Federal and State governments to make Johor the southern economic powerhouse of the country, the state’s Barisan National (BN) Youth has taken the initiative to implement a programme for each branch in the state to nurture at least one skilled youth.

State BN Youth Chief Hahasrin Hashim said the programme aimed to prepare the youths in the state to embrace the rising

economy in the state, and indirectly create skilled employment opportunities for them.

“So what we want is when the time comes (Johor becomes the southern economic powerhouse of the country) the youths would be ready to take up the jobs on offer,” he said when contacted by Bernama here.

Hahasrin, who is also Johor Umno Youth chief, said the programme which was organised in collaboration with Johor Skills, offered free courses in various

fields according to the respective areas or industries.

“For example, Pengerang, which will emerge as an oil and gas processing hub, it will require relevant skills such as underwater welding and pipe fitting, while in Nusajaya, there is the Pinewood Studios (Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studios) which requires a workforce in the creative industry,” he said. According to him, the programme, which was aggressively initiated early

this month, had already received 50 registrations, and some of the participants had already received jobs after undergoing the courses.

He said the programme would be implemented throughout the year, and continues in the years to come, as and when required.

[Malay Mail]

✓ PAKISTAN: YPF LAUNCHES ‘YOUTH CONNECT PROGRAMME

Islamabad, 3 January 2018 - NATIONAL Assembly Member Shaza Fatima Khawaja while speaking in Islamabad on Wednesday said that the Young Parliamentarian Forum (YPF) has launched the “Youth Connect Programme” aimed at the young generation to equip them with the knowledge and skills to become better lawmakers.

Shaza Fatima who is also the general secretary of

YPF said that the purpose of the forum is to provide an opportunity to young legislators with leadership skills to act as a catalyst for change in Pakistan’s political system and as pioneers of meaningful reforms.

She further informed that YPF has taken a number of initiatives to ensure participation of youth from both private and public sector educational institutions from all across

Pakistan in different capacity building programmes.

Shaza said under the Youth Connect Program (YCP) initiative, youth would be provided the opportunity to visit National Assembly.

“A number of projects for promoting interfaith harmony are in progress and YPF has also worked for the welfare of transgender community during the current year,” she further

stated and added that, “Such projects will be discussed in the upcoming meeting of YPF after January 12.”

The YPF general secretary strongly felt that sustainable democracy and sound democratic institutions in Pakistan are not possible without the involvement of youth in the democratic and political process.

[Pakistan Today]

✓ QATAR: ROTA OPENS REGISTRATION FOR EMPOWER YOUTH MEET

Doha, 21 January 2018 - EDUCATION Above All (EAA) Foundation’s programme, Reach Out to Asia (Rota), has opened registration for its Empower Youth Conference 2018, through its official website at ReachOutToAsia.org.

The conference’s 10th edition will be held at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Student Center from March 15 to 17.

It aims to promote a better understanding of youth

leadership, service learning and Global Citizenship, under the theme ‘Youth and Effective Citizenship’. Applicants, who register for and participate at the Conference, will have the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and

attitudes to take on leadership roles and make a positive contribution in society, to support Qatar National Vision 2030 and its focus on youth development as one of its key pillars.



Essa Al Mannai, Rota's Executive Director, said: "For a whole decade, the Empower Youth Conference has been at the forefront of youth development in Qatar, and has played a vital role in opening new horizons for the country's youngsters to evolve into responsible, capable and civic minded citizens who are actively seeking to make their community and the world a better place.

This year, Rota is carrying on this cherished legacy by building upon the success and outcomes of the Conference's previous editions and inspiring as well as mobilizing its young delegates to act on the main learning themes of this year's agenda, which are all geared towards equipping and enabling young people as responsible global citizens and empowered young leaders.

The Empower 2018 Conference theme which was selected by Rota Youth Advisory Board (RYAB) will focus on the concept of Youth and Effective Citizenship and its implications, including how youth can be empowered to meaningfully address challenges facing their nation." He added: "Following the success of previous Empowers, we opened the conference to the Region and youth from international countries.

And with this year's intensive and carefully-developed program that tackles the most important challenges and issues facing tomorrow's young leaders, we expect our 10th Conference to be another remarkable success for Rota and

the participants, bearing fruitful outcomes for the future of our nation, the region and the entire world.

We are really excited to go through the thousands of anticipated applications and get to know the young ladies and gents who will help us orchestrate a successful event that is poised to bring progress to the development of the country and its human capital."

Empower is the first youth led conference to focus on equipping young people in Qatar to take active roles in building their communities and having a voice on global issues.

Every year the conference intends to create a platform for a larger number of students to learn and engage in ROTA's youth development program in Qatar.

This year, the three-day event includes a combination of panel discussion, keynote speeches, small group workshops, seminars, off-site activities, exhibition, social program and youth artistic expression.

The Conference will see up to 450 young people between 16 to 32 years old including international participants discover their voice and build their knowledge, skills, and experiences, towards creating positive change for themselves and their communities, as well as effectively contribute to the progress and prosperity of their nations.

[The Peninsula Qatar]

NEWS



✓ ALBANIA: CONNECTING YOUTH

Tirana, 9 January 2018- THE Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI) in partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation, organized on the 9th November 2017, the side event "Connecting Youth: the other convergence engine of Western Balkans".

The side event was organized along the Third Tirana Conference on Berlin Process that CDI organizes on 9-10 November in Tirana, bringing attention on the youth of the Western Balkans region and specifically on youth connectivity.

The keynote speech was delivered by the Albanian National Coordinator for the Regional Economic Area, Dr. Milena Harito, who emphasized the importance of regional connectivity and

the cooperation at the political and youth level, being initiated by the Berlin Process.

Regional cooperation is an important tool that can bring youngsters together and increase their personal-development and access to the labour market. Following, Alida Vracic and Matteo Bonomi from Popolari Think Tank, presented their study "The rise of the underdog? Economy of the Western Balkans".

Their findings suggested that there is a gap between the youth of the Western Balkans and economics, where the youth in the region fails to access economic information, understand it or contribute to economic policies of their own countries. Thus, the research greatly contributes to the

socio-economic development debate of the region and to the promotion of a simplified communication of economics issues to the public.

Director of CDI Krisela Hackaj, and Milica Skiljevic and Dafina Peci respectively from the National Youth Councils of Serbia and Albania, both partners of this platform, presented the online platform of Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform (WBYP) run by CDI and aiming to contribute to the needs in increasing access to youth data and knowledge, networking and youth related activities and events related.

WBYP is a tool for youth organizations, informal movements or young

individuals to register, find partners in the region, suggest project ideas, get notifications for project calls related to WB6 youth or get notified for project ideas.

Illustrations on the main functionalities of the platform were made, and youngsters were encouraged to provide suggestions on how the platform could better serve the growing needs for youth exchanges in the region.

[Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform]

✓ ITALY: TRAINING SEMINAR ON COMBATING ANTIGYPSYISM AND ONLINE HATE SPEECH

Rome, 13 January 2018- THE Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnership with the National Office Against Discrimination of Italy and local partners are launching a call for Italian participants for a training seminar on

combating antigypsyism and online hate speech which scheduled to be held in November in Rome, Italy. The training seminar will bring together young people, youth activists, educators, youth leaders

working with Roma youth and others to raise their competences and develop proposals to effectively address discrimination, antigypsyism and online hate speech in the Italian context.

The seminar is organised under the framework of the Roma Youth Action Plan of the Council of Europe and the National Roma Platform of the Roma Integration Strategy in Italy.

[La Stampa]

✓ SWITZERLAND: PROMOTING YOUTH RIGHTS AT THE UN

Geneva, 8 January 2018 - BRINGING together representatives of ten youth organisations, the event aimed to give young people tools to access their rights and develop their capacity to fight for them. The participants met with government representatives, UN and civil society stakeholders to advocate for

youth rights. The capacity building focused on international human rights mechanisms and instruments including the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures, as well as the Treaty Bodies, which are responsible for monitoring States' implementation of international human rights

treaties.[1] The training was provided by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre) and UPR Info, organisations with experience in supporting civil society engagement in UN human rights processes.

The Participants met with representatives of nine Permanent Missions (Austria, Estonia, Ireland, Finland, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Portugal and Romania) to raise two key messages.



The need for a greater focus on youth in existing instruments, for example through youth-specific recommendations. Advancing the youth rights

agenda via dedicated tools and procedures specifically focused on young people.

Furthermore, participants met with a representative of

the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), as well as YWCA World and IIMA Human Rights Office, two Geneva-based organisations.

[Le Matin]

✓ UKRAINE: YOUTH LEARNT INNOVATIVE PRACTICES OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Kiev, 7 January 2017 - YOUNG people from different regions of Ukraine learned to apply innovative approaches to carrying out local initiatives during intense study visits to Zakarpattia and to Chernihiv, held this weekend.

While in Zakarpattia, youth learnt best practices of democratization, and participants of the study visit to Chernihiv gained a unique insight into the core problematic human rights issues in Ukraine.

Local activists from the cities of Uzhorod and Perechyn, Zakarpatska oblast, discussed recent trends in civil society development in the field of democratization.

Journalists from the online media “Panorama” shared their experience of creating independent media and raising funds for its support. Sharing their experience, representatives of the Zakarpattia Youth Council and staff from Oblast library inspired participants to create projects in cooperation with NGO partner organizations.

Also, the youth learned directly from the founders about the innovative on-line project “Vynohradiv. Transparent Government”, which provides access to digitized records of decisions of councils (rural and urban) within the district since 1991.

Representatives of the Mukachevo City Council briefed on a unique system of e-tickets, combining both public transportation and Mukachevo dweller’s map with many discounts on visiting local museums, castles, festivals.

In Chernihiv, representatives from the NGO “MART” introduced the participants to the Human Rights Based-Approach (HRBA) in the activities of civil society organizations and initiative groups. Youth lively discussed burning human rights issues in their local communities, trying to find innovative solutions.

According to U-Report polls, 94% of respondents agreed that the opinion of young people and children should be taken into account in decision making.

These study visits were aimed at equipping young leaders with the knowledge and skills to build fruitful cooperation with local authorities and partner with civil society organizations, influencing policy- and decision-making in their regions.

[<http://www.ua.undp.org>]

✓ UNITED KINGDOM: YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO JOIN NEW UK DEVELOPMENT

London, 3 January 2017 - RESTLESS Development has welcomed the UK Labour Party’s inclusion of a youth representative on its new International Development Task Force.

The task force will advise Labour on the party’s approach to international development, producing a paper that sets out a strategic approach to tackling global poverty, inequality and climate change.

Valerie Brese, who volunteered with Restless Development on the

International Citizen Service (ICS) programme, will take on the role of youth representative.

The group forms a key strand of the party’s ambition to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Valerie studied Social Policy with Government at the London School of Economics and has been a social researcher for the Childhood Trust.

Her ICS placement was in Tanzania, where she worked across issues of sexual and reproductive

health and rights, as well as livelihoods, employability and civic participation.

Since returning to the UK, she has been a strong advocate for youth empowerment and currently works for LSE Residential Services. She said: “We have nearly one billion young people all across the globe entering the job market in the next 10 years. Young people need jobs.

We have teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, youth activists and academic professors ready and eager

to work.

They want to build their nation for a better future.

This is just one of many issues that I want to raise with the Labour Party. I hope to push young people to the very front of Labour’s agenda and ensure that young people are included in every aspect of their vision.”



Catriona Currie, Senior Campaigns Manager at Restless Development, added: “It’s fantastic to see the Labour Party take this important step towards ensuring young people are at the heart of their international development strategy.

Restless Development will continue to work with the UK Labour party and all other political parties to ensure that young people have the power to lead their own development.”

Chaired by Shadow Secretary of State for International Development Kate Osamor, the task force will meet regularly between now and March 2018, at which point the final paper will be published.

[Restlessdevelopment.org]

NEWS



✓ AUSTRALIA: TACKLES YOUTH ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION WITH \$110M PACKAGE

Sydney, 8 January 2018 -

The federal government has announced a \$110 million (Dh403 million) package targeting youth anxiety and depression, including \$46 million in funding to a beyond blue programme to teach students about good mental health in early learning, primary and secondary schools.

Beyond blue is an Australian, independent non-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety disorders and related mental disorders.

Online and phone support services including Kids Helpline and Reach Out will share an extra \$1.8 million in funding over two years, while \$13.5 million has been allocated to the Orygen National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

The executive director of Orygen, psychiatrist Patrick McGorry, said the funding

would help to maintain youth mental health services, including Headspace centres throughout Australia.

“The announcement shows that the health minister Greg Hunt has been listening to the sector and this funding will mean vital support services for young people can keep going,” McGorry said. “We are very grateful for that support because we need to keep this early intervention going.”

But he said only about 60 per cent of young Australians had access to a Headspace centre. The funding announced on Monday would not provide for any new centres, he said.

We need to finish the job of national coverage,” McGorry said. “Headspace centres are just one step towards improving youth mental health.

What’s really missing is expert, team-based care that organisations like Orygen provide, and which is in very short supply.

“So while a lot of young people get access to help through Headspace, one third of those who go to headspace are too complex for headspace alone, and they become trapped in a bottleneck in the system where they can’t get the specialised care they need.”

He said further funding was required to meet complex care needs.

The 10-session cap on allied mental health sessions should be lifted, he said, and funding was needed for mobile and home-based interventions.

“So Greg Hunt deserves a big tick for this funding today, but it should be seen as funding that is setting the scene for the next wave of reform, and I very much

hope he will support that next phase,” McGorry said.

The chief executive officer of headspace, Jason Trethowan, told the ABC the funding for school-based programmes was particularly welcome.

“When students are feeling a little bit down or have issues at home, often they go to a teacher for support,” he said.

“We will be there on the front line, working with those school communities to help them work with those young people and families.”

[gulfnews.com]

✓ FIJI: CASH BOOST FOR YOUTH FARMERS

Suva, 24 January 2018 -

YOUTHS, in Navola, Vatukarasa in Sigatoka have set their sights on income generation and cash crop farming to curb unemployment.

The umbrella body for young people in the area, Navola Youth Club, received a financial boost of \$2500 from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation to help with their project.

Youth leader Waisale Rerega said they hoped to farm yaqona, banana and dalo.

"The money will be used to purchase a chainsaw, farming implements, yaqona suckers and other seeds," said group treasurer Selina Siqadrodro. According to Mr Rerega, the chainsaw would help clear farmlands and boost their project to generate greater revenue.

"This support will make our work easier and faster and will also enable us to generate bigger revenue so we can contribute to our village," he said.

According to youth member Misiwata Lete, produce from the farming project

would be supplied to nearby hotels and the Sigatoka market.

[The Fiji Times online]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: NEW NGO TARGETING THE TALENTS OF KIRIBATI YOUTH

Wellington, 16 January 2018 - A new youth non-governmental organisation in Kiribati is planning to use performing arts to reinforce messages of a sustainable future for Kiribati.

Kiribati Got Talent has

begun consulting with councillors on the Tarawa Urban Council about using music to deliver the council's plans to communities.

One of the advisors to the NGO Ngaina Teiwaki said they were also working

closely with the Phoenix Island Protected Area to promote their message on how a clean environment helps improve people's health.

Ms Teiwaki said they had also started promoting themselves to the outer

islands in North Tarawa and are working on their plan for the year.

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ SAMOA: UNIVERSITY MOVES TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Apia, 21 January 2018 - STUDENTS can now register for the Preliminary Certificate in Technical Vocational Educational and Training (P.C.T.V.E.T.) at the National University of Samoa (N.U.S.).

N.U.S. Vice Chancellor, Professor Asofou So'o Leapa'i, made the announcement during a press conference at the Oloamanu Center on Friday.

The P.C.T.V.E.T. programme is aimed to provide a tailor made second chance open formal learning opportunities to the disadvantaged youth and adults who intend to pursue further studies at the Post School Education (P.S.E.T.) level in Samoa.

According to Tauvaga Vaai, the Senior Professional Development and Curriculum Coordinator for the National University, the initiative was raised by the Oloamanu Center to alleviate youth unemployment and also for students who do not qualify to attend the university.

"There is a high rate of youth unemployment and this is one way of alleviating that problem, which is through

education," he said.

There will be six courses offered for the P.C.T.E.V.T. programme for the whole year.

For students who cannot read or write properly, Tauvaga states they are looking into getting suitable people who specialise in this area.

"We are looking into getting people who are well trained in the area with students with special needs, but not so much under that category.

"They do have the ability to learn, but it is because they missed out on their opportunity during their time to grasp onto this level of opportunities.

"We go down to level zero, we get people with limited ability to read and write, but also for those who don't make the marks for getting into different programmes and courses so that is what the P.C.T.V.E.T. Programme is about," he added.

One of the courses is Communication and this course about is about getting students into basic reading and writing skills.

"If you look at the framework of any learning pathway, it begins with level one right up to level 10, for our purpose we go below level one." Tauvaga affirmed that they will not be training the students for employment straight after, but equipping them for continuing on with their learning pathway to education in particular.

Talking to the Samoa Observer, he said they had also deducted the cost for the P.C.T.V.E.T. courses.

"We have already dropped the price of the courses due to their economic background, we assumed their economic backgrounds.

Per course would be \$250 that is besides registration fees.

The normal price was \$330 but now we dropped it."

He mentioned even those with criminal backgrounds can register since there are some youths who hesitate to enroll due to their criminal records.

"This is one way of alleviating those social problems, yes as long as the case is closed and they are back to society as normal.

We do accept them to have access to education."

The P.C.T.V.E.T. will be based where Oloamanu Center is located and there will be three classrooms available.

[Samoa Observer]



✓ VANUATU: VANUATU HOPES OF BATTLING YOUTH CRIME ON NATIONAL IDS

Port Vila, 18 September 2017 - Vanuatu is cracking down on underage drinking and youth crime by introducing national identification cards.

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

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

[Radio New Zealand]

NEW

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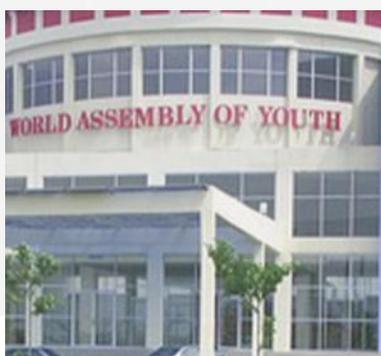
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