

YOUTH BULLETIN

August 2011

Bringing Youth News From Around The World

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UPCOMING EVENTS—SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
15 Sept 2011	International Day Of Democracy				
21 Sept 2011	International Day Of Peace				
1 - 5 Oct 2011	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICPSD)	Republic Of Sudan	General Sudanese Students' Union (GSSU) and WAY	PEACE FOR ALL	General Sudanese Student's Union Jamma St. South of Friendship Hall P. O. Box 44499 Khartoum, Republic of Sudan Fax: +249 183 775260 Email: lcpds@hotmail.com / sudanstud@yahoo.com Website: www.sudanstudents.org

BOTSWANA: Lack of education hampers Constituency leagues

Gaborone, 10 Aug -

THE Government through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has a mammoth task ahead to fully convince the nation on the usefulness of constituency leagues. It emerged during the weekend workshop aimed at reviewing it, that people have been participating in it without fully understanding its main objective.

Preliminary findings of the Task Force show that a lot more needed to be done in order to workshop individuals on the objectives of the programme. It further said that "the youth simply play, get tired and go to sleep. The games are not used as an opportunity to educate them on life skills and even to empower them economically."

The Task Force found that it will be important for a nationwide tour to be

undertaken to workshop players and administrators in one seating as to what the objectives, rules and regulations of the program are.

The Impact Study Report further suggests that many felt that the tournaments would be of much help if the participation in the games comes as a package for their development. It also said the tournaments could make youth more useful if there was a plan for their graduation from it, unlike at the moment where one plays until they are forty and still remain unemployed.

The other challenge was the untrained administrators who run the programmes. "It is important to have training programme for referees who will help officiate the constituency sports program," the report reads. It further explained that the

constituency sports programme needs to find a way to harmonize with formal sports.

Some of the challenges include among others mass movement from national leagues to the constituency leagues, favoritism among officials and constant conflicts over prize money. It has emerged that the tournament is run by unqualified coaches and officials.

The report states that among the objectives of the tournaments was to curb alcohol abuse amongst youth, but there is still beer being consumed at the tournaments.

In its recommendations, participation could be improved by including drama, poetry and arts because not all youth are into sports. It further said sports games that originate in Botswana such as

morabaraba should be included.

The Task Force, which is coordinated by Zwide Mbulawa, consists of Dr Joseph Tsolope, Jacob Sesinyi, Mapula Keaiketsi, Letsholo Letsholo, Solly Reikeletseng and Professor Ignatius Onyewadume. The consultative workshop was attended by constituency regional administrators, representatives from the Botswana Football Association, Botswana National Olympic Council, Botswana National Sports Council and Botswana National Youth Council.

[gazettebw]

GAMBIA: NEW APRC Youth Mobiliser Begins Familiarisation Meeting

Banjul, 04 Aug - THE newly appointed APRC youth mobiliser, who is also a nominated councillor at the Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC), Baboucarr Gaye Sonko, on Sunday, 30th July 2011, began his familiarization meeting with the youths of West Coast Region, Kanifing Municipality and the Greater Banjul Area at the APRC Political Bureau in Kanifing. Speaking at the occasion, the minister of Health and Social Welfare, Fatim Badjie, expressed delight to be associated with such an initiative. She said youths should fully

participate in national development, as they are the future leaders. According to her, in other countries, youths are not given attention like in The Gambia. This due consideration by government, she stated, is all possible due to the commitment, care and concern that the Gambian leader has for the young people of this country.

"Government has done a lot for Gambian youths; it is now time for the youth to actively participate in national development," she emphasised. Minister Badjie went on to state that every youth should have a dream

and work towards achieving his/her dream. She however commended the youth for accompanying the president during his 'Dialogue with the people' tour. "The president is not a politician but a nation builder, whose dream is to see The Gambia developed. We should really thank God for giving us such a dynamic leader," she remarked. She finally urged the youth to appreciate the new national youth mobiliser and work with him for the development of the country. For his part, Babou Gaye Sonko, thanked God the Almighty for giving him such a responsibility, as

it in line with national development. He also thanked President Jammeh for the trust and confidence bestowed in him. He called on the youths to cooperate with him and work for the development of the APRC party and the country. The newly appointed mobiliser however called on the youth to unite and vote massively for President Jammeh in the forthcoming November presidential election

[allafrica]

GHANA: Government Committed To Support The Youth With Skills

Accra, 03 Aug -

Nii Armah Ashietey, Greater Accra Regional Minister, on Tuesday pledged government's commitment to support the youth with skills to enable them to contribute their quota to national development.

He noted that provision of the training would help curb crime, indiscipline, internet fraud as well as ritual murders in the society.

Nii Ashietey made the pledge at the opening session of the Third Anglican National Youth Camp (ANYC) in Accra.

It is on the theme: "The Church and Politics in Ghana – The Role of the Christian Youth," to bring youth in the church together and empower them to become useful citizens in the country.

The annual event organised by the Anglican Diocesan Youth Council would also equip the youth with leadership skills, career planning, entrepreneurship, financial management as well as inculcate the spirit of discipline in them.

Nii Ashietey expressed concern about the attitude of

the youth to get rich quick through cyber fraud, dealing in hard drugs and occultism which were a threat to their future and society. He urged the youth to demonstrate a high level of responsibility in their attitude towards development and avoid creating insanitary conditions in their community.

Nii Ashietey advised the youth to demand accountability on issues affecting the nation because they constituted the majority in the country and anything undesirable would affect their future.

He commended churches for their vital role in providing education and health facilities as well as teaching good moral values for national development.

Dr Kwame Addo-Kufuor, Former Minister of Defence, urged the youth to help ensure that Election 2012 was conducted in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner and not engaged in any acts that could jeopardise their future.

He noted that discipline was the bridge between goals and

accomplishment because no effective implementation of any initiative would be possible without discipline.

Dr Addo-Kufuor called on the youth in the various political parties to team up to address issues confronting the nation's development.

He said the youth who constituted about 50 per cent of the population must be given the chance to participate in decision making since they were directly affected by the political, social and economic decision taken by policy makers.

"The youth should be a adequately prepared for the roles they are expected to play in the socio economic development of the country.

They bring fresh thinking, energy and idealism to the political process which is beneficial to the society," he added.

Dr Addo-Kufuor charged the youth to learn from the experiences and qualities of the elderly in society to guide them in their decision making for the future.

He called on the youth to avoid practices such as

occultism and homosexuality in the society and help fight it.

Right Reverend Dr Daniel Yinkah Sarfo, Anglican Bishop of Kumasi Diocese, called on parents to assist teachers to instil discipline in the youth for a better future.

He said the camp was held annually to motivate the youth to take up the cross of Christ to evangelise to the society for a change.

Rev. Yinkah Sarfo called on Christians and the citizenry to respect leaders and promote love and unity in the country.

He said instead of using negative comments to judge each other, it was important for Christians to preach virtues of righteousness and holiness to address the challenges of society which the church had taken upon itself.

Rev. Yinkah Sarfo urged the youth to avoid unnecessary criticisms and provide their leaders the necessary support in whatever they did since God chose them for His work.

[ghanabusinessnews]

NIGERIA: 2011 IYD: Youth Task Govt On Education, Employment

Abuja, 13 Aug -

YOUTHS, under the aegis of National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) have tasked leadership at all levels to take proactive step in addressing issues of education, employment and youth participation in decision making processes.

The President of the council, Wale Ajani who stated this in his message to mark this year International Youth Day, noted that the power of youths is unlimited to turn things around and whenever it is used negatively, the consequence is always grave.

"We are currently witnessing the sweeping revolution championed by youths in the Arab world. This is a manifestation of the strength and power of youths", he said.

His words, "to the political elites, it is the right time you accept reality and give the rightful place to the youth of your nations; especially the Nations in Africa and more importantly, Nigeria, since lack of such acceptability is a time bomb that must not explode.

"Hence, the need for both the

political and economic elites to wake up to the reality that any nation that cannot provide for the many that are poor cannot protect the few that are rich, therefore proactive step must be taken to address issues of education, employment and youth participation in decision making processes. The rights and dignity of the youths must be respected and protected."

Our hope and aspiration is that the participation of youths in the political and socio-economic issues of all

countries of the world will be the utmost concern of all international organizations and nations of the world.

"In the past and recent time, Nigerian youths have attempted and succeeded in stamping their foot of relevance in the political and socio-economic affairs of the country.

"For the first time in the history of the country, youths had come together to draft and present a document (National Youth Manifesto) that captures the expectation of the youths from the current political leaders.

The document is an obvious indication of the ability of the youths to articulate their need and aspirations. The President “enjoined all the Youth especially in Nigerian to continue to peacefully advocate for our rightful place for the betterment of our nation as

our voice must be heard always bearing in mind that we are the link between the present and the future and we have the duty to protect them”.

[vanguardngr]

RWANDA: Youth Train in Human Rights, Democracy

Kigali, 22 Aug - OVER 50 youth representatives from various parts of the country, yesterday, completed one-week training on trainers' course in human rights and democracy.

The youth who are mainly district representatives of the Rwanda National Youth Council (RNYC) and members of youth associations from 10 districts were trained by a local NGO, Never Again Rwanda (NAR). Addressing reporters at the end of the training, the executive director of Never Again Rwanda, Joseph Nkurunziza, said that the trained youth will in turn be facilitated to train over 150 youth in their respective districts.

"Rwanda is a country that has gone through turbulent times

especially the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. For this not to happen again, we need to equip the youth with knowledge and skills because they are the leaders of tomorrow," Nkurunziza said. "We need to have future leaders who know what human rights and good governance are if we are to have a peaceful, united country-a country with democracy. It is this critical thinking that we equipped the youth with."

Nkurunziza noted that Genocidal regime, misguided the youth, fed them with wrong propaganda, eventually leading them into committing the genocide. He noted that Never Again targeted the youth because according to a recent survey done by the National Institute of Statistics, the youth form

67 percent of the population, hence forming the core of the country and the need for empowerment.

The training covered among other things, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Human Rights Charter, children and genders rights, freedoms of expression and participation. Patrick Ndayisaba, the RNYC representative in Rwamagana said that after the training, he is able to know that where one's rights end, is where the other person's rights begin.

"I was able to know what my rights are and what democracy is and the most important thing is that I will share this knowledge with others. I fully understand my role in the development of my country and I can say I

gained a lot over the past one week," he said

"We, the youth, know we are the engine of our nation and promoting human rights and democracy is our duty. We cannot leave this to our leaders alone," said Chantal Mucyo Karerangabo from Kigali's Gasabo District." Never Again Rwanda (NAR) is a youth-based human rights and peace-building organisation founded by three university students in 2002. It received legal status as a Rwandan non-governmental organisation in 2008.

[allafrica]

SIERRA LEONE: In Sierra Leone, British Council, Other Celebrate Youth Day

Freetown, 17 Aug - THE British Council and Global Change Maker have celebrated on August 12, 2011 the International Youth Day and as they addressed the problems presently affecting the youths all over the world.

The theme for this year is 'Change our World' which expresses the level of impact that young people have strived to achieve. At the British Council Auditorium International Youth Day, the

National Coordinator, Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities CCYA, Ngolo Katta said they have charged with lot of challenges to reducing youth unemployment in Sierra Leone.

Ngolo Katta went on to say that the UN has hosted a high level of meeting on youths from the 25-26 July 2011 which consists of an opening session and two thematic panel discussions.

The discussions on the first

day addressed two themes: "Strengthening international cooperation dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty." Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development were also discussed.

Ngolo Katta said the meeting adopted resolution A/65/L.87 which 100 youth-led organizations contributed during the negotiations leading up to its adoption. He said in Sierra Leone, youth unemployment situation is still precarious and has the potential of undermining the peace, safety and security of the country.

He noted: "As we are preparing for our general elections in 2012, it is critical

that we make it a matter of urgency to start addressing the youth unemployment situation. And it is very important to note that the establishment of National Youth Commission and the subsequent appointment of a professional commissioner and deputy is an opportunity to set the stage for the holistic tackling of the perennial problem.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology

Dr. Lansana Nyalley in his statement, said he is grateful to the organisers, planners and sponsors of this event. Dr. Nyalley went on to say commemorating a worldwide event has many advantages in life. It helps to keep the issue of youth unemployment active, sensitive, participatory and to keep it on headline news in the media. Also, it helps to bring together interested parties to debate discuss and exchange new and

fresh ideas, ways and means of reducing youth unemployment. And it may present the opportunities to invigorate our efforts, review, revise and customize successful approaches and practices that have worked in other countries.

Dr. Nyalley stressed the role of the Education Ministry in Youth unemployment in Sierra Leone and said they at the Ministry were fully aware of youth unemployment in

Sierra Leone and in the whole world. And they subscribe to the urgent global call to resolve or minimize it. He ended up saying they believe that the rising youth unemployment is both a national and a universal problem which demands all of us to provide a national and universal lasting solution.

[news]

SOUTH AFRICA: DA Launches Youth Wage Subsidy Campaign

Cape Town, 25 Aug -

IF the National Treasury had implemented the youth wage policy subsidy on April 1 2010 it would have already benefited almost 200 000 young people and created more than 80 000 new jobs, says the Democratic Alliance.

Nobody disputed that South Africa had a crisis of youth unemployment, DA MPs Tim Harris and Lindiwe Mazibuko said in a statement at the launch of the party's "youth wage subsidy now" campaign.

"The rate of joblessness in our country is among the highest in the world, and 71% of the unemployed are under the age of 34.

"We know that the youth wage subsidy policy is not a silver bullet for youth unemployment, but it does represent the best way to start lowering the cost of

employing young people without affecting conditions of employment or wage levels," they said.

The policy was first floated in October 2009 in the medium-term budget policy statement and formally announced by President Jacob Zuma on February 11 2010.

Opposition parties, analysts across the spectrum, and South Africa's second biggest trade union federation, the Federation of Unions of SA (Fedusa), all supported National Treasury's policy.

"But loud opposition from Cosatu [Congress of SA Trade Unions], on completely spurious grounds, delayed the discussion document by ten months.

"It now seems likely to delay implementation beyond the target date of April 1 2012 --

and perhaps forever -- as they use their veto power at Nedlac [National Economic Development and Labour Council], where the policy currently sits."

Treasury calculated that the subsidy would benefit 423 000 young job seekers over a three-year period at a cost of R5-billion.

Numerous analysts had confirmed the viability and cost-effectiveness of this intervention, most recently the Centre for Development and Enterprise in a comprehensive report.

"If Treasury had implemented the policy on April 1 2010 instead of caving in to pressure from Cosatu, it would today have already benefited almost 200 000 young people and created more than 80 000 net new jobs."

The DA campaign – calling on government to implement

the youth wage subsidy now – tracked the real cost of the delay in this policy and showed just how damaging further delays would be.

"We call on all South Africans to join the DA in asking the President to reject any further delays and start tackling the crisis of youth unemployment today."

It was up to Zuma to take the tough decisions in the interests of the unemployed and marginalized, but so far he had failed to cut through the widening ideological divide between those ministers aligned to Cosatu and the left, and those open to more pragmatic solutions to the severe and worsening economic problems, they said.

[timeslive]

TANZANIA: Chadema Youth Wing Faults AG Over "Plan" To Restrict Demos

Dodoma, 01 Aug -

CHAMA Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) youth council (Bavicha) yesterday challenged attorney general (AG) Fredrick Werema's remarks that the government would amend a law on demonstrations.

Addressing a press conference in Dar es Salaam

yesterday Bavicha chairman John Heche said the move was intended to stop his party from conveying its message to the people.

He explained that Chadema's demonstrations across the country helped the party to get its message across on issues that hindered the country's development.

He mentioned some of the issues which had been addressed by the party during demonstrations as the power crisis, the high costs of living, illegal demolitions, human rights and depletion of national resources like minerals.

"The demonstrations have prompted the government to

reduce the sugar price which was very high in previous months," he said adding that Chadema would continue with its peaceful demonstrations.

The Bavicha chairman said he was taken aback by the AG's remarks on the government's intention to introduce the law limiting

demonstrations while there were many bad laws which needed urgent amendments but the government ignored them.

He explained that the government would be denying people their constitutional rights if it restricted peaceful demonstrations as that would contravene the right to freedom of expression and association.

Heche noted that Chadema planned to organise another demonstration if the government continued with its plans to restrict peaceful demonstrations which raised

public awareness. Meanwhile, the Bavicha chairman told Deputy Speaker Job Ndugai and Chama Cha Mapinduzi MPs to be careful while making decisions in the National Assembly because they were lowering its credibility.

[ippmedia]

UGANDA: Rising Prices Not A Crisis, Says Museveni

Kampala, 15 Aug - DESPITE the increasing commodity prices, President Museveni has suggested that those complaining could be 'sick'.

While addressing a gathering at Arua Hill grounds on Friday evening, Mr Museveni said: "You are sick if you say there is a crisis in this country because of the rising prices. I do not see any crisis because the increased prices is for a good reason because we have new challenges and opportunities due to demand in South Sudan."

Resentment

However, the President's comments triggered criticism among a section of the public who gathered to attend the Youth Day celebrations at Arua Hill playground. While those mainly from NRM camp applauded the

comment, there were jeering and disbelief from a section of the public.

Skyrocketing have caused widespread concern, with many in the public complaining about inability to afford basics. The price of sugar, for example, has increased from Shs3,000 a kilogramme to Shs7,000 in less than a month.

President Museveni explained that the price was on the increase because of high demand especially in South Sudan and the DR Congo. "I do not take sugar and when we wanted to build a sugar factory in Amuru, members of opposition did not want. And these rioters, we shall deal with them," he said.

The government recently blamed the skyrocketing

price on the walk-to-work protest. However, President Museveni said he is not against peaceful demonstration but people who damage and loot shops during protests.

"We would have dealt with the rioter long time if they had guns. But our MPs should pass this strict law on bail," he added.

In Arua and some parts of West Nile, many households have resorted to taking tea with sweet potatoes because of the high price of sugar price.

"I do not think we are sick to complain and I think this is oppression. Now I have been forced to use sweet potatoes to accompany the (mukalo) tea without sugar because it is sweet," Ms Joyce Aniku, one of the people who attended Museveni's speech

told Daily Monitor.

Mr Museveni said the youth should be proactive and engage in economically viable activities. Giving hope to the severally unemployed youth, Museveni said they should maximally use education to develop skills in doing work.

But the Chairperson National Youth Council, Mr Samuel Kavuma, urged government to refocus on establishing vocational schools and job protection. "We have so many graduates languishing on streets without jobs because there are no laws protecting the issue of experience. How do you gain experience when you have just come from the university?" he asked.

[monitor]

ZIMBABWE: Statement On The Resolutions Of The MDC Youth Assembly

Harare, 02 Aug - FIRST National Council Herein Sitting as Continuation of 3rd National Congress to Deal with

Unfinished Congress Business and Other Matters Arising: 2nd of August 2011, Harvest House, Harare Determined to execute the

mandate afforded by the youth of Zimbabwe, the MDC Youth Assembly (The Assembly) held its inaugural National Council after the

3rd National Congress held on the 30th of April 2011, in Bulawayo. The National Council sought to deal with unfinished congress business

and other relevant matters arising.

After intensive debates and deliberation, the national council of the MDC Youth Assembly resolved:

1. That all political prisoners currently in detention and/or on bail pending trial be immediately and unconditionally released.
2. To defend the party, its leadership, members and the people of Zimbabwe against violence and all forms of oppression.
3. To engage in mass mobilization of all young people to register as voters, to vote and most importantly to defend the election outcome. In doing so, the MDC youth assembly will utilize and rely on non-violent strategies as far as possible.
4. To denounce all unconstitutional pronouncements by some members of the military. Of particular note, the Youth Assembly expresses its concern over the behaviour of Douglas Nyikayaramba, Augustine Chihuri, Jabulani Sibanda and other military personnel that continue to violate and/abuse their

constitutional obligations. We demand security sector realignment to meet the constitutional demands of this country; to abide by the regional and international protocols governing military conduct.

5. To reaffirm our commitment to stop, through disruption and other necessary means, any attempt to conduct an illegal election in Zimbabwe, as provided for by amendment 19 of the constitution.
6. To unequivocally support the SADC mediation process and call upon the speedy implementation of the Livingstone and Sandton resolutions respectively.
7. That Obert Mpfu should remit, with immediacy, all the proceeds from the diamond mines in Chiadzwa and Marange to the national Treasury to allow the Minister of Finance to address these pertinent challenges.
8. That the government must conclude the audit of the ghost workers with the precision of a butcher's cleaver to free the funds so as to direct them towards genuine civil servants.
9. To denounce in the

strongest possible terms the inaccessible and unsustainable empowerment policy of Saviour Kasukuwere. The assembly advocates for a national consultative forum to devise a pro-poor, non-partisan youth empowerment strategy that targets all young people of Zimbabwe without any consideration to their political affiliation.

10. Advocates for a transformative social development agenda to uplift the lives of our youth
11. Articulate our concern with the conduct of the Zimbabwe Youth Council and its failure to be accessible to all young people.
12. Determined to achieve change, the assembly reaffirms its commitment to work with other progressive youth formations fighting for the democratization of Zimbabwe and the dignity of all Zimbabweans.
13. Denounce the recent attacks on Parliament, parliamentarians and Journalists by rogue elements. We insist on the need to respect and uphold the dignity of our national institutions.

Conclusion

The MDC Youth Assembly is concerned with the slow pace of the full implementation of all the provisions of the Global Political Agreement, completion of the constitution making process and the adoption of the roadmap to free and fair elections. We call upon all progressive youth formations and all young people of Zimbabwe to support the MDC's endeavour to complete the democratic struggle for the good of our people. The assembly remains committed to deliver the democratic change that we have promised the people of Zimbabwe. Drawing from the March 2008 election, the MDC led by Morgan Tsvangirai is the only party that carries the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe.

**Together to the end,
Building a youth with a
difference...**

[thezimbabwean]

MOROCCO: Moroccan Youth Push for Political Representation

Rabat, 26 Aug - WITH three months to go until legislative elections, Moroccan young people are seeking increased representation in parliament. Young political activists in Morocco recently formed a new group to press for reform and to urge the creation of a national electoral list reserved for youth ahead of the November 25th legislative elections. Members of the newly created "Moroccan Youth Movement for Political Representation Now" met with Youth Minister Moncef Belkhayat on Tuesday (August 23rd) in Rabat to advocate for a national list reserved for young people, half men and half women. Twenty-nine youth organizations and 17 civil society groups are affiliated with the movement. The youth list will guarantee young people's representation in the Chamber of Representatives while at the same time encouraging "a renewal of the elite and inject new blood into institutions", according to the activists. The movement also proposed the creation of a national fund to support young people

that will protect their interests. Youth Minister Belkhayat gave his support to the national list proposal, citing a recent royal speech that stressed the need to foster the emergence of new political elites among young people. The youth initiative follows lobbying by the women's movement, which has pushed for a list to be reserved solely for women. The interior ministry previously proposed the adoption of a 90-seat national list for young people and women. According to Abdelkader Kihel, general secretary for young people with the Istiqlal Party, the government's proposal was welcomed by young people but attempts have since been made to hijack it. "Political parties have a problem with young people. There is a huge gap between what they say and what they do," he said. The youth movement's goal is to bring about a full-scale renewal of the elites, which are one of the driving forces of democracy, according to Ali El Yazghi, secretary-general for young

people with the Socialist Union of Popular Forces. He said that this renewal must happen immediately with election lists reserved for young people. Young people from the movement say they are determined to achieve their goal of rejuvenating the political elite and accuse parties of having no clear vision on the issue. If the movement's demands are not met, they plan to step up their campaign with protests to call for young people to be represented in the legislature. The idea of a national list is an issue on which no consensus has yet been reached, government spokesman Khalid Naciri told reporters August 18th. He stated that there are differences of opinion between those who want it to be reserved solely for women, those who want it to be reserved for young people, and those who believe there is no point in implementing it. "You must put yourselves in the shoes of the Ministry of the Interior, which is trying to establish a consensus by

consulting political parties," Naciri said. The ball is now in the court of political parties, which have differing views on the matter. The president of the National Council of the Party of Justice and Development, Saaddine Othmani, said that his party proposed that a third of the list be reserved for women, a third reserved for young people and the remainder for Moroccans living overseas. In his view, young people should set up bodies of their own to solve the problem of representation as there cannot be several national lists. As for the women's movement, the national co-ordinator for the Movement of Egalitarian Democracy, Khadija Rebbah, said that the national list should be reserved for women only. She said positive discrimination has historically focused on the sex with the least representation, whereas young people are an age-based category.

[zawya]

NEPAL: AYON Calls For Youth Council

Kathmandu, 07 Aug - THE Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON) has called for the establishment of National Youth Council for the implementation of the National Youth Policy, 2009 introduced by the Government of Nepal. Speaking at a press conference organized here on Sunday, President of AYON, Pradeep Pariyar said the nation would never progress without the development of

plans and policies related to the youth and their meaningful participation in the national building process. He further said a National Youth Council was inevitable in order to put into practice the policy introduced by the government. On the occasion, Mr Pariyar also said that the AYON was going to observe the International Youth Day in Kathmandu including

14 districts with the slogan 'Lets' Change Nepal' on August 12. On the International Youth Day, AYON will also organize a variety of programs like documentary show on youth, interaction program, youth's dream workshop, interaction on the Youth Policy, various musical shows including publication of Youth Year card and interaction on subjects like millennium development goals.

The International Youth Day is observed every year on 12th August since 1999. United Nations defined an event for highlighting awareness on the requirements of young people between 10 to 24 years.

[myrepublica]

Since 1949

NEW ZEALAND: New Youth Initiative

Tauranga, 07 Aug - AN initiative that brings together business sponsors, community youth workers and young people is emerging from a workshop held at Baycourt.

Provisionally named Community, it is going to be based out of part of the current Mount Action Centre site in Triton Avenue and will bring the social aspect into it.

“What we are going to do is we are setting up a website now which will pull all the people we met with on Wednesday together; businesses, service providers, and we are going to set it up so we can all access each other in real time at all times,” says Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor Doug Owens. The new youth initiative came out of the regional

crimes statistics, says Doug. They showed that youth crime increased locally by nine per cent last year compared with a one percent national average.

“I just made a comment saying ‘What’s all this about?’ Then the phone started ringing,” says Doug.

“Now I’m involved with Michael Fay and NewZeal and they have taken up an office at the front end of the action centre in the Mount.”

The working title for the website is www.commonity.com. It will set up wishlists that various youth groups will want to do and potential business sponsors can tap into that, says Doug.

The website will be supported by advertising and they will be asking potential sponsors to back

the website, says Doug. “And we are just going to built relationships. “We’ll be starting off getting people talking to each other, engaging with each other and getting to grips with what’s happening. “Just flushing it out basically, and just improving our situation in the Bay.”

Community is intended to help bridge the communications divide between youth workers and community workers who are constantly facing a lack of resources in their efforts in dealing with youth considered at risk of becoming part of the crime statistics.

Many business interests in the Bay of Plenty are keen to help in some way shape or form, but do not know how to get involved.

The degree of assistance can range from lending

out some office resources, donating old furniture or some more detailed collaborative ventures.

[sunlive]

PHILIPPINE: NYC Convenes Advisory Council to Advance Youth Development in NorMin

Cagayan De Oro City, 24 Aug - THE National Youth Commission (NYC) in Northern Mindanao has convened its Regional Advisory Council (RAC) yesterday to tackle concerns and programs geared towards youth development in the region.

Eddie Cuaresma, NYC Northeastern Mindanao Cluster Head, said the meeting aimed to discuss youth concerns at the grassroots level and come-up with recommendations and policies to address youth-related gaps and issues.

It also served as a venue for sharing and disseminating information and updates on the various programs of its member-agencies and youth

organizations in the region, he added.

Youth participation in the National Greening Program of the Aquino administration and in the up-coming National Crime Prevention Week celebration were also tackled by the council.

The promotion of the Government Internship Program (GIP) in Northern Mindanao and the updates on the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) were also discussed. Representative from the Department of Agriculture (DA) also presented the status of the Farm Youth Development Program and the Young Filipino Farmer Training Program of the

department.

Population Commission (POPCOM) Regional Director Psyche Paler gave an overview of the National Indicators on Adolescent Friendly Services where Northern Mindanao was eyed as the pilot area for this new guideline.

She stressed that the national indicators will serve as the standard for all adolescent health programs of both public and private agencies in the country.

Moreover, the reformation of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) were also debated during the meeting. Programs and best practices of the Misamis Oriental Youth Development Council (MOYDC) and the Gingoog City Youth Development

Council (GCYDC) were also presented.

Held at Hotel Conchita, the 17th RAC regular meeting was attended by representatives from the following government agencies: POPCOM, DA, DOLE, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and National Police

Commission (NAPOLCOM), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Philippine Employment Service Office (PESO), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), as well as, representatives from Local Youth Development Councils and youth organizations in Northern Mindanao.

[pia]

PAKISTAN: Youth Pledge To Make All Out Efforts For Progress

Islamabad, 15 Aug - YOUTH vowed to make all out efforts for the progress of Pakistan at an event organised by Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) in connection with celebrations of International Youth Day (IYD). The event that featured presentations and performances by youth groups was attended by youth volunteers, stakeholders, media, NGOs, FPAP staff members and was chaired by Regional Director, Rahnuma-FPAP, Islamabad Region, Amir Hameed. Speaking on this occasion, Programme and Administration Officer Ahsan Bahadur Ali Shah, explained the importance of the day whereas Youth Officer Arjumand Younas, apprised the participants about Rahnuma-FPAP Youth

Project. Member Rahnuma-FPAP National Executive Committee Danish Hameed Afaqi discussed theme of the year and its significance for Pakistani youth. The FPAP is executing youth project under title 'Investing in the Future-FPAP Youth Programme' since 1973 with strategic goals that adolescents and young people become aware of their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and are empowered to make informed choices regarding their reproductive health. The organisation advocates implementation of national youth policy to address the SRH needs of youth. Youth Programme increases access to comprehensive youth friendly, gender sensitive, RH information, education and services. The FPAP implements Youth Programme through Youth

Resource Centres, sessions, trainings, peer education sessions, consultative dialogues, youth volunteers' enrolment in Regional Council, Regional Coordinating Committee, National Executive Committee and National Council. The speakers stressed the need for close coordination with line departments at provincial level, as it has become the need of time after the implementation of 18th Amendment. Realizing the importance building alliances at provincial level, they said that FPAP has already started working in this direction. Highlighting the future course of action, they said that the FAPA plans to further improve Youth Helpline and Youth Resource Centres in addition to following the advocacy plan chalked out by Regional Office for the promotion of

Youth Programme. The organisation will enhance the youth membership for the year-2011 in the Regional Council and will focus on programme integration. It will also organise activities for the orientation of youth on Rahnuma-FPAP Child Protection Policy and Youth Policy. The Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) has been working since 1953 on family planning, reproductive health, general health, women empowerment, youth, responsible parenthood, elimination of STI/HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation throughout Pakistan including AJK & and Gilgit-Baltistan.

[thenews]

SINGAPORE: Youth Raise Education, Engagement Issues at Forum

Singapore, 16 Aug - THE quality of education and engagement were some issues highlighted by youths at a forum to gather feedback on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's National Day Rally speech. Organised by the People's Association Youth Movement, last night's two-hour-long session saw more than 150 working youths and students breaking up into small groups to

exchange and discuss their views about Mr Lee's speech. While the Government will add 2,000 more university places for Singapore students over the next four years, youths felt that the quality of education should not be overlooked. Mr Loo Deliang, a 28-year-old counsellor with the South West Community Development Council, pointed out that, in adding the number, the quality of the

university education experience should also increase. Another participant, 22-year-old Tommy Koh, said the Government should also look at capping the number of foreign students on a faculty level and not just at the university-wide level. The Singapore Management University undergraduate pointed out that certain disciplines, such as engineering, tend to have

more foreign students than others. Mr Koh also felt there should be a review of the entry of polytechnic students into the universities here. He also called for the cap for the number of students that can be taken in to be raised. The Education Ministry is expected to address the issue today but PM Lee had emphasized striking the right balance between the local and the foreign students. "No

Singaporean will be unable to attend university due to financial difficulties," said Mr Lee, who addressed the issue in both his English and Mandarin speeches on Sunday. Last night's forum was attended by youth representatives from a spectrum of youth and civic organisations, self-help groups and educational institutions.

In one group that was moderated by Tanjong Pagar GRC Member of Parliament Chia Shi-Lu, some youths brought up the perception that the Government was not listening to feedback from Singaporeans. One participant, Mr Syed Faisal Syed Ismail, a 29-year-old teacher who volunteers with Malay voluntary welfare organisation 4PM, said that some of the lower-income families

he works with have the perception that the Government does not care about them. But Mr Syed Faisal also noted that the Government is listening to and engaging the ground through the use of social media. He cited National Development Minister Khaw Boon Wan penning his thoughts on his blog and Facebook page as one example.

Speaking to reporters after the forum, Dr Chia noted PM Lee's call to Singaporeans to make the country better. "(The PM) was asking for more young people to step up, and we are actually hearing from this special group of individuals," he added.

[todayonline]

SOLOMON ISLANDS: Youth Trained to Understand Policy

Honiara, 18 Aug -

A total of 35 young people in Honiara were trained to understand the Honiara City Council (HCC) urban policy. The youths undergoes four days training this week on capacity building for HCC urban policy held at the Multi-purpose hall. Ministry of women, youth and children affairs (MWYCA) and National youth congress facilitated the capacity building training.

MWYCA youth division deputy-director Luke Memua said the training was established to help young people understand the urban policy. "It is an important process for the policy to prepared youths to know the policy before it can be put into practice," he said. Mr Memua said they must also know the policy guidelines on how to go about implementing programmes and projects.

The HCC urban policy will be launched Friday next week to coincide with the celebration of International Youth Day (IYD). Mr Memua said the outcome of the training will be an election of Honiara youth council. "This is why the training is so important for youths to understand the policy to as when the youth council is elected it will know the guidelines of the policy," he

said. Mr Memua said another reason to launch the urban policy is for the training to take place. HCC head of youths, sports and women division Roland Pauku said they welcome the launching of the policy. The election of Honiara youth council will take place today.

[solomonstarnews]

TUNISIA: Arab Youth Still Want Change, But Won't Be Politician

Tunis, 04 Aug -

SLIM Amamou knew he would be arrested after a group of cyberactivists shut down the Tunisian government's official website. As protests against longtime autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali raged on the streets in January, security forces yanked the 33-year-old computer programmer from his office. Even during his secret interrogation, thousands of people knew where the dissident blogger with long, straggling hair and thick, black glasses was being held. Amamou was handcuffed, but his cell phone, armed with Google Latitude, relayed his location: the Interior Ministry.

Amamou was released a day before Ben Ali's ouster. Afterward, a clean-shaven Amamou received an unexpected invitation to become Secretary of State of Youth and Sports in Tunisia's transitional government. Amamou, who didn't trust a Cabinet with former government members, seized the chance to represent the nation's youth. He riled the older Cabinet members at meetings by not wearing ties and live-tweeting proceedings. But many young people criticized his decision to join the government. They accused Amamou, who'd become a symbol of the revolution, of selling out. "They thought the interim

government was corrupt, and they didn't want me to be corrupted," Amamou said. He resigned in May. He's not running in the next election. Young activists in Tunisia and Egypt began setting the framework for democratic transition using historic waves of protests. But few of them are becoming politicians. Disillusioned by the slow pace of change, young pro-democracy protesters have returned to the streets—but without a coherent message. As the dates of their respective fall elections draw closer, the youth's lack of organization or political strategy appears likely to bring about new governments in which they are again

underrepresented. Even if the youth are still active within civil society as a de facto opposition group, this could be problematic for the United States and other countries counting on inclusive governments in the first two democracies born in the Arab Spring. Where are the Tunisian youth now, months after Ben Ali's flight kicked off the Arab Spring? "It's summer, so most of them are at the beach," laughed Zied Mhirsi, 33, a prominent Tunisian radio host. A recent survey conducted by the International Foundation of Electoral Services revealed that only 38 percent of Tunisian youth aged 18 to 24 correctly identified the

purpose of their next election: to choose an assembly to write the constitution. So far, only about 13 percent of Tunisia's eligible voters have registered to cast their ballots.

Even for the politically savvy, the new electoral rules are incredibly convoluted.

Electoral experts confirm that few notable young leaders are in powerful positions within more than 100 recently registered political parties in Tunisia. Instead, the parties are led primarily by a hodgepodge of former government members, opposition figures, and Tunisians returned from exile, Mhersi said. "Why don't the youth join politics? Why don't they try to build the Tunisia they want? They think if they join parties now, it's compromising."

"You can't change your mind every day," he continued.

"You have to stick with the party's rhetoric, agree to the party's compromises. This [aversion] is typical of the young people."

Many believe job creation and rebuilding the country after massive upheaval are more pressing than political participation, said Manal Omar, the U.S. Institute of Peace's North Africa director. "In Tunisia [there are] literally fist fights over jobs." In the

short term, Omar said established groups able to provide desperately needed services—like Tunisia's Al Nahda or Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood—could fare better in elections.

President Hosni Mubarak has long left power, but Egyptian youth are still on the streets, trying to wrench the ruling military council into prosecuting his cronies and some of his security forces. They're also scuffling with a growing number of ordinary Egyptians who are tired of the turmoil and want to see the protesters go home. In a blow to the youth activists, tens of thousands of Islamists calling for the establishment of sharia law took over Tahrir Square last Friday. It was a clear display of the Islamists' political strength and organization, jarring to many youth activists who have been camped out for weeks in the symbolic epicenter of the January protests. As the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began, the military deployed a dozen tanks to clear the square on Monday, shredded tents, arrested some of the remaining activist youth protesters, and dispersed many of the rest.

For all their commotion, the activists' ongoing demonstrations have garnered

only a few concessions from the ruling military council. Basem Fathy of the non-profit Egyptian Democratic Academy said disorganization could be partly to blame. "We were successful in the revolution because we were chaotic, unorganized. Powerful. Non-negotiable. Now we need a leader to speak, to organize, to negotiate," Fathy, 27, said. "But the youth are not trusting anybody—that's why people are still negotiating by collective action."

Many of the youth are too individualistic to join a party. Others have never voted—let alone campaigned or run for office. Most are distrustful of the military council and suspect it's trying to rig the election against their interests—fears fueled by the military's rejection of international poll monitors for the elections. As a result, "there's no political map, no organization—it's the same as before [Mubarak fell]," Fathy said. "We'll call for something on the Internet, and if it's valid, you'll find thousands protesting on the street on Friday."

Their time would be better spent preparing for the upcoming parliamentary elections to secure some representation in a new Egypt,

said Daniel Brumberg, an expert on democratization in the Middle East at USIP. But campaigning is daunting for would-be politicians.

Garnering 5,000 founding members to form a new political party is challenging. So is competing with umbrella groups like the 600,000-strong Muslim Brotherhood. Brumberg said the youth are holding onto an unachievable goal of "revolution"—eradicating every last vestige of the old system—when progress, overseen by powerful figures left over from Mubarak's administration, is likely to be incremental and halting. "This is a process managed by the military, built around mobilizing and negotiating with different groups," he said. "Whether you like it or not, you have to do politics." Regardless, young people in the new Egypt and Tunisia are virtually certain to play a major role in civil society as unofficial watchdogs capable of returning to the streets at a moment's notice. Perhaps free speech, not necessarily political representation, will be the short-term result of the youth revolution.

[nationaljournal]

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh Seek School-Leavers' Jobs Guarantee

Edinburgh, 28 Aug -

EDINBURGH is working on an ambitious jobs guarantee for school-leavers as part of a five-year economic strategy for the Scottish capital and its surrounding area.

The economic review is the largest and most wide-ranging economic analysis ever undertaken in Edinburgh and is expected to herald a raft of new policies, focused on stimulating jobs and investment.

Led by the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Business Forum – a group of leading chief executives, entrepreneurs and academics who advise the council on sustainable economic development – the review covers the current economic situation and future trends. Councillor Tom Buchanan, convener of economic development at the council, said the capital's economy had already shown tremendous resilience in difficult times and the outlook was good, with unemployment in the city currently at 3.2 percent – well below the UK and Scottish averages. But carrying out a thorough analysis of the economy had allowed gaps in knowledge to be filled in.

“A really good example is the jobs gap,” he said. “It may not look like Edinburgh is suffering in terms of unemployment at the moment. But when you look at the projected jobs demand, it is growing at 1.8 per cent a year while the supply of jobs is growing at just 0.6 per cent a year. So we're projecting

unemployment rates before they happen – rather than reacting when they do happen.”

Rising youth unemployment is a particular concern and will be a priority for the council's strategists.

Joblessness among young people is being made worse by the tightening of the labour market – forcing people to accept jobs at a lower scale than their qualifications and experience.

“If this is happening at every level, you're squeezing out the youth because they haven't got experience,” Mr Buchanan said. “The great thing is that we now know these things at a level of detail and understanding that we didn't know before.”

To tackle youth unemployment, the council is working with partners to launch the “Edinburgh Guarantee” – an initiative to offer a job, training or further education to every child who leaves school in Edinburgh with no future career path. Almost 600 young people a year in Edinburgh currently fall into this category.

“We should not tolerate any child leaving school and being allowed to drift into unemployment,” said Mr Buchanan. “Research has shown that young people who are out of work for more than a year find it significantly harder to find employment, and so the costs of supporting them will stay with us for much longer.”

Jim Rafferty heads up Capital City Partnership, a collaboration of statutory,

voluntary, community and private sector organisations focused on getting people in Edinburgh into work. His biggest worry is that Edinburgh is currently bottom of the league among Scotland's 32 local authorities in terms of positive destinations – work, training or education – for leavers from state schools. Boosting investment by incoming and indigenous companies has been identified as another vital driver for employment growth. Mr Buchanan said Edinburgh was performing well on this front, with recent investments including Amazon (380 jobs); Primark (600 jobs); Toshiba (100 jobs); State Street (90 jobs); BNY Mellon (60 jobs) and Dell (30 jobs).

Edinburgh has attracted 22 foreign direct investment projects in the year to August 2011 compared with 13 in the same period last year and is rated fourth overall in Europe for foreign direct investment – behind Dublin, Dusseldorf and Aberdeen.

However, the economic review has highlighted that, while Edinburgh is a natural host to larger companies, smaller companies – which are key drivers of employment growth and typically create 50 per cent of new jobs – are not growing as quickly as they could. To address this, the council and partners, including the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, are calling for improved access to debt and equity finance, as well as launching their own funding

initiatives.

Greg Ward, the council's head of economic development, said Edinburgh accounted for 10 per cent of Scotland's business stock – rising to 25 per cent when the wider city region was included.

He said this highlighted the importance of cities as critical drivers of national economic growth. Together, Scotland's six cities – Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling and Inverness – and their regions, account for 90 per cent of Scotland's population.

The review was inspired by the Manchester Independent Economic Review, published in 2009, which was believed to be the first independent economic review of a city region.

As budgets tighten, Mr Ward said councils across the UK were taking a much more robust approach to economic development and looking at what impact they could provide over and above traditional statutory functions such as planning.

“We need to integrate economic drivers into everything we do,” he said. “In this respect it's been hugely helpful to have at our fingertips a thorough analysis of the city region's economy – and it's given us a very strong motive and real clarity around the need to create job security through investment.”

[financialtimes]

ENGLAND: Teens Are Left to Their Own Devices as Council Axes All Youth Services

London, 23 Aug -

Taped to the inside of a Sainsbury's window in King's Lynn, a printout of a map reminds teenagers of the town's restrictions. Next to it, a notice on Norfolk Constabulary headed paper spells out the terms of a dispersal order: within the marked area, groups of two or more youngsters can be broken up by police not only if they have caused intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public but also if their behaviour is deemed likely to do so. Initially, the order focused mainly on the area around the supermarket and adjacent bus station, but when groups of young people who were deemed to be behaving antisocially relocated, it was extended to cover most of the town center. Drinking in groups, verbal abuse and reckless or dangerous cycling are among the antisocial activities listed. "We're banned from the whole thing," says Aaron, 16, one of a group of five youngsters outside the supermarket. "The police come round all the time." "It's crap, because you can't hang around with your mates," adds his friend, who doesn't want to be named. "It's a shithole." Ask almost any young person what there is to do in Lynn, as it is known locally, and they are quick to give the same answer: precious little. Since May, when Norfolk county council cut all its £4.8m funding for youth services, there is even less to do. Across the East Anglian county, around 300 projects have closed, many operating out of council-run youth centres.

Across England, youth services have been disproportionately hit by government-imposed public

spending cuts, with more than £100m axed from local authority youth services by April this year, according to the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services. A survey of 41 of its members found some councils cutting 70%, 80% or even 100% of youth services. Almost 3,000 full-time staff have been lost, and universal services such as youth clubs have been hit hardest: 96% of members who responded said club activities would be either reduced or stopped altogether by next April. Historically, Norfolk was already one of the lowest spenders on youth services, according to Doug Nicholls, the national officer of the community and youth workers' sector of union Unite. "To meet the national standard they would have needed 90 more youth workers instead of closing the service," he says. In King's Lynn, west Norfolk, the cuts have meant the closure of Providence Street youth centre, which provided free activities including football, basketball, pool, creative arts and music, as well as computers, a homework group for teenagers at risk of exclusion from school, and clubs for young carers and young people with disabilities. It was used by around 100 young people a week. As a result, there is no longer easy access to counselling from trained youth workers and a sexual health worker, and no more outreach work in the trouble spots around town, say anti-cuts campaigners.

Jack Brinded, a 20-year-old activist with the Norfolk Coalition Against the Cuts, says growing up in the county was already a pretty bleak experience. "There's few enough projects out there

without them cutting more. This is the sector that's got the least fat to trim. They're cutting into muscle."

The Broads may be beautiful but they don't offer much to teenagers, he says. "It's not a great time to be a young person in Norfolk. In the long term, these cuts will mean young people won't feel it's a home, just a place where they exist," he adds. "I don't think that bodes well in terms of antisocial behaviour, or for trying to build communities and getting people to help out. It's going to have the exact opposite effect of what the big society was supposed to be."

It would be disingenuous to suggest the young people hanging around outside Sainsbury's are there because the youth club has closed; teenagers have always congregated around benches in market towns. But Aaron went on an outdoor activity trip through the Providence Street centre last year and laments its loss. "I used to do my work there on the computers, and play ping pong," he says. "I used to love going there. That was a nice little center for people to go to." Yet, he was the only one in his group who had used it.

The knock-on effects are more subtle but already in evidence, says Lindsay Forrest, who runs a YMCA hostel on the outskirts of town. In recent months, she has seen young people she knows who used to go to the youth center – and would never have taken drugs – using cannabis with more marginalized teenagers.

"People who've got nothing to do are getting bored and smoking," she says. Her residents have been hit too. "I've got nothing for these guys to do during the summer – there are 13 of them, and the ma-

jority of them are 17-year-old blokes," Forrest says.

"Before, there would have been summer courses, summer camps."

Before it closed in December, Providence Street provided a first port of call for older teenagers with nowhere to live. From there, they would be sent to Forrest, who would take them through the process of getting a hostel bed. Now, anyone under 18 has to go to the council's children's services. The result is that they don't go, Forrest says, because they tend to come from families that view social services with suspicion.

Instead, she finds them sleeping in the park. "You walk your dogs and you bump into young people sleeping under a tree," she says.

The end of the education maintenance allowance and cuts to income support are leaving more families unable to afford to keep teenagers at home, she says. Forrest's referrals file has doubled in the last six months, and she has had to create a "crash room" at the YMCA for extra temporary residents which is always full.

For other groups of young people, the loss of services means increased isolation. Carly Hain, 18, a Providence Street volunteer for four years, is furious that young carers and teenagers with disabilities will lose an opportunity to socialize.

"People counted on it," she says. "It is so upsetting." On an online petition to the council to save the center, a young carer says she will feel the cut keenly. "It's going to affect me greatly, because it means I can have a break from caring for my brother and keeps me sane," she writes.

"Round here it is a lonely

place anyway," another signatory says. "It would be a shame to remove the only enjoyment some people get out of the world."

Questioned in the aftermath of the recent riots across England about the effect of cutting youth services, the deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said he doubted that many of those involved had ever been to a youth centre. But would young people who use youth centres be more inclined to bad behaviour if the resource is taken away?

Although no rioting was reported in Norfolk, King's Lynn's chief inspector, Andy Porter, believes the cuts will have an impact on antisocial behaviour in the town. But it is too early to judge how the effects are playing out, he says, pointing out that the dispersal order was put in place before

Providence Street closed in order to address a long-term problem.

Contrary to what the group outside Sainsbury's says, Porter claims the dispersal order is used discriminately and only when youths are genuinely being antisocial, not just hanging around. "It's sorted out the main perpetrators," he says. He believes that the cuts to youth services will be mitigated by the work of the Discovery Centre, a volunteer-run center in North Lynn. But it mainly works with younger children. Norfolk county council says it "simply can no longer afford" to provide youth services directly. It is banking on more voluntary groups and social enterprises setting up to keep young people occupied. It has allocated £900,000 of its early intervention grant to support vulnerable young people and

will create district-based youth advisory boards.

A council spokeswoman says discussions with focus groups during the summer about the new approach had been "largely positive"; a report detailing responses is due to go to its cabinet in September. By early afternoon there is a new gang at the seats by the supermarket. An 18-year-old girl sits on a covered bin. What she likes to do is get drunk, she says, pulling cans of pre-mixed alcohol from her pockets. She bought 12 in the morning for £1.50 each. She smokes cannabis daily, frequently takes ketamine and speed and says she will be going to prison for assault and battery. She is excited about it, she claims, because she will see her sister there. Her equally drunk 20-year-old friend says she went to college and was

looking for work in health and social care until about six months ago, when she "got in with the wrong crowd".

"I used to be a proper nice girl. Drink and drugs have changed me. My life just went downhill," she says. For Forrest, it is the sort of scene that drives home the danger of the cuts. "It's just the boredom," she says. "Boredom causes trouble."

[guardian]

DOMINICA: Youth Organization Also Slams Lack Of Government Transparency

Santo Domingo, 03 Aug - NATIONAL Youth Action Network (Rednajoven) has become the latest social organization to criticize the lack transparency and violation of the Youth and the Free Access to Public Information laws by 17 government agencies, and which in their view hinder the programs and policies for the young population's development, news source listin.com.do reports. The 2nd Youth Policies Report disclosed in the

offices of the civic movement Citizen Participation yesterday reveals that only eight of the 17 agencies consulted provided information related to the handling of taxpayers money and how the personnel in their payroll is distributed. Of that group, only the Higher Education Ministry and the National District City Council provided relatively complete documents. Listin.com.do reports that the ministries selected for the study were Public Health,

Education, Higher Education, Science and Technology, Culture, Sports and Labor, in addition to the monitoring of greater Santo Domingo's city councils, in addition to those of La Vega, Santiago, Barahona, Cabral, San Cristóbal, Villa Hermosa and La Romana. "The information which we received lack elements and details that allow the deep reflection which the topic merits, but give an idea of the commitment level the government agencies have

with the young population," the research states. According to the data gathered, of the 176,152 public officials who work in the agencies and provided the information, 43,325 are young, between 18 and 35 years of age (24%), adding that RD\$24 million are allocated to youth programs from the social assistance fund.

[dominantoday]

JAMAICA: Youth Council Pleased With Juvenile Centre Renovation

Kingston, 10 Aug - THE National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ) yesterday said it welcomed the renovation and conversion of the former Metcalfe Street Adult Correctional Centre into the modern-day juvenile remand centre for boys. "This was funded by the Government at a cost of \$168 million, and we see it as a key step in strengthening the structures for rehabilitation for youth in conflict with the law," said Ryan Small, chairman of the NYCJ. The opening of this new

facility will see the removal of 208 male juvenile offenders between 13 and 17 years from adult correctional prisons, which will ease overcrowding in some of our prisons. The Department of Correctional Services on Monday began moving 100 boys from police lock-ups to the facility. It is expected that the process will be completed on Friday. "While such a move is commendable, there is also a need for upgrading existing juvenile detention facilities to

ensure that youth in conflict with the law are provided with the counselling, skills training, and the best opportunities for their rehabilitation and smooth reintegration into society as productive citizens," said Small. He added: "We note that several persons were recruited and trained as correctional officers, and it is critical that the correctional officers are provided with ongoing training to deal with the juveniles at these remand centres.

"It is important for our policymakers to note that these remand centres are not an end within itself, but a means to an end of the many social ills that plague us as a nation. While strengthening our rehabilitation mechanisms is necessary, we deem it important that there be corresponding investment in youth programmes, as a means of developing resilience on the part of our youth."

[jamaica-gleaner]

PERU: Sports Are Vital to Prevent Drug, Alcohol Abuse Among Youth

Lima, 18 Aug - PERUVIAN President Ollanta Humala stated Thursday that the practice of sports is vital to prevent drug and alcohol addiction among young people and to reinforce the fight against crime and the lack of public safety in Peru. After installing the National Council of Public Safety and Policy in the Fight Against Crime (Conasec), a body that

will design multisectoral policies to improve public safety, Humala mentioned that 80 percent of criminals are immersed in drugs and alcohol, which is why he proposed a preventive health policy through different sport activities. He added that a drug addict is a potential criminal and, therefore, a problem to the family as "once he becomes

addicted, he will sell even the television to get drugs." "I completely agree with the concept you've given (...) saying that health is an important ingredient to fight against the lack of safety," Humala told the health minister. The head of state said that a rehabilitation policy will enable people who are involved in drugs and alcohol

to reintegrate into society and added that the health and education sectors will work jointly on this matter. President Humalla recalled that Minister Tejada led a race in the Andean region of Huancavelica, at more than 3,000 meters above sea level, to promote healthy life styles.

[andina]

UNITED STATES: Facing Rising Youth Unemployment, A Push for Urban Jobs Act

New York, 16 Aug - YOUNG people in New York City are increasingly unable to find employment, resulting in long-term negative effects contributing to a range of consequences; including dropping out of school and engaging in acts of violence.

U.S Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand promoted the Urban Jobs Act legislation that would help provide job training, educational programming, and support services, in three separate stops on Tuesday, in Harlem, the Bronx, and Queens.

“Supporting education and training for our city’s youth is a smart investment that will help rebuild our local economy and pay dividends over the long term,” Gillibrand stated in a prepared release. “Helping our youth compete in this difficult economy will have a lasting positive impact on our community,” added Gillibrand.

In Harlem, Congressman

Charles Rangel, and Assemblyman Keith Wright, along with representatives from both the National Urban League (NUL) and the New York Urban League (NYUL) spoke about the legislation. More than one-third of the nation’s minority youth are currently unemployed.

Sen. Gillibrand was joined by Assemblyman Carl Heastie and Bronx clergy leaders at a roundtable discussion in the Bronx to discuss the need for legislation that would assist at risk Bronx youth in finding jobs.

Make the Road New York, a nonprofit that helps the Latino community, was represented by Executive Director Ana Maria Archila, and is an organization that would qualify for a grant under the UJA.

Assemblyman Fransisco Moya, Sen. Jose Peralta, and City Council members also attended the event in Queens.

“It is one thing to lose your job, and another to never have had one at all,” said

Arva Rice, president and CEO of the NYUL at the press conference in Harlem

“For young New Yorkers with few skills, contacts, and options hope can be lost.”

The UJA would provide funding for nonprofit organizations that have job training programs for youth, with an eye on second-chance youth; those who have had a child, an interaction with the criminal justice system, or have dropped out of school.

The Community Service Society of New York December 2010 report about unemployment found that young black males were particularly hard hit, only one in four in the 16–24 age group held a job during the period from January 2009 to June 2010, while unemployment jumped to 52 percent for those without a high school or equivalent diploma.

“The Urban Jobs Act creates opportunities for youth to receive job training, placement, and opportunities that will ensure that they become

successful and contributing members of the community,” said Rice.

The legislation would award competitive grants to national nonprofits that would train youth ages 18-24 in partnership with local affiliates.

“If you want to create jobs in Harlem, you’ve got to plant seeds in Harlem,” said Marc Morial, president of NUL.

“The Urban Jobs Act is all about planting seeds, not only in Harlem, but in major urban communities throughout New York, whether it’s Buffalo, or Utica, or Rochester.”

As federal legislation it will have the potential to impact urban communities like Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Portland, and L.A., added Morial.

[house]

ABOUT WAY

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is the international coordinating body of national youth councils and organizations. The full members of WAY are national youth councils. WAY has 120 member organizations from all continents.

Founded in 1949, WAY has general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and works in close cooperation with several UN agencies including UNAIDS, UNEP, ILO UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

WAY works for promotion of youth and youth organizations in program areas such as: youth employment, environment, human rights, democracy, population, health, drugs, community development and leadership training.



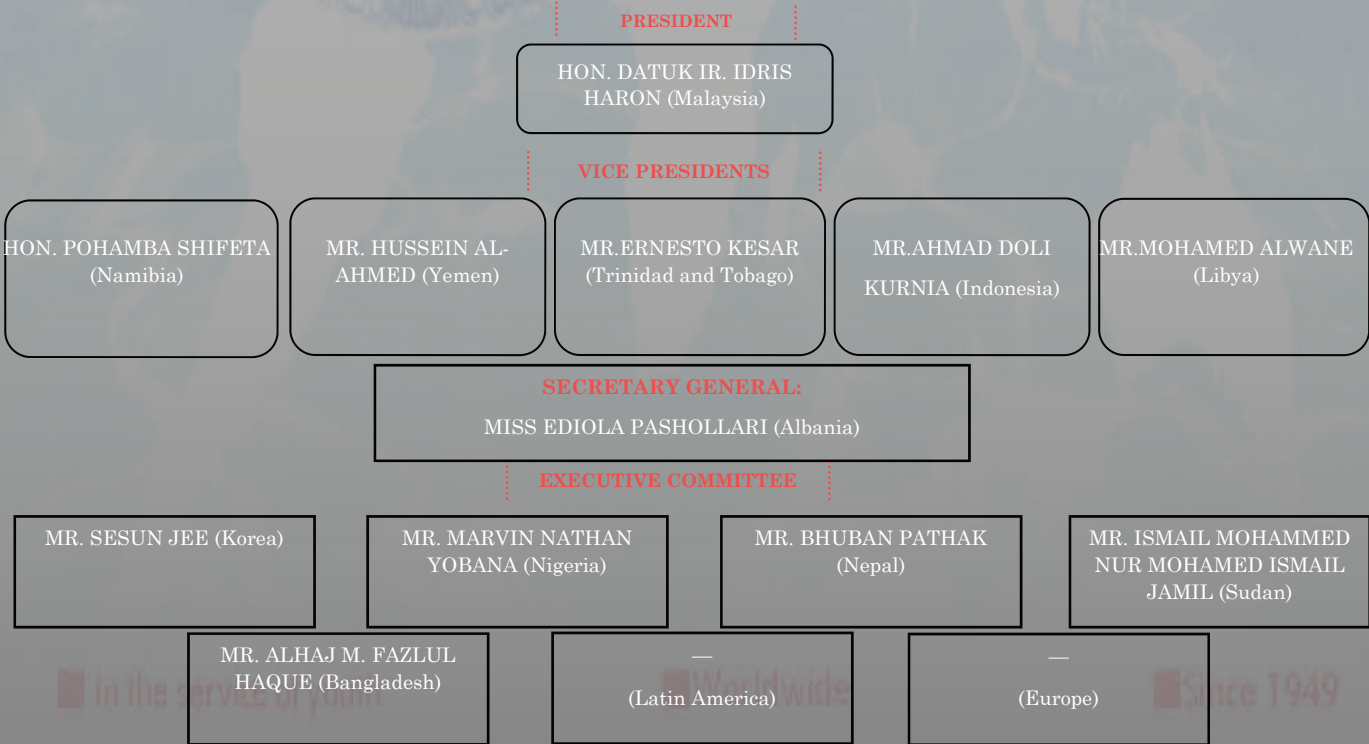
World Assembly of Youth
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World Assembly of Youth Organization Chart



In the Service of Youth Since 1949