

# YOUTH BULLETIN

## February 2011

*Bringing Youth News From Around The World*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS—FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	MAIN ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
13-20 March	Workshop on Empowering Flagship Youth Programme as Enablers for Crime Free Generation	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	International Youth Center—Kuala Lumpur	<a href="#">Website</a>	+603-91726682
18-20 March	Tomorrow's Leaders Summit	Borneo Convention Centre Kuching – Sarawak – Malaysia	Glenreagh Sdn Bhd	<a href="#">Website</a>	+603-92057769

## ANGOLA: Youth council holds environmental camping

Luanda 24 Feb – The National Youth Council (CNJ) will hold on 25-27 February in Cacuaco district in Luanda, the first environmental camping, in the ambit of its Juvenile Merit Programme.

The camping happening in Santiago beach Panguila area, under the motto "Clean Beaches and Safe Environment, will count on the par-

ticipation of about 200 youths from Luanda.

The camping is aimed at promoting actions that may occupy the youths in their spare time through social actions in the communities.

Cleaning of beaches, planting trees, visit to local communities, debates on various issues, include the plan of or-

ganisers of the event.

The event will be attended by the Youth Deputy Minister, Yaba Alberto, and officials of the administration of Cacuaco district.

Speaking to Angop CNJ's chairman, Cláudio de Aguiar said that the country and Angolan youths benefit from this project, because it gives

opportunities for the youths to exchange knowledge and it is a privilege to be part of this recognised programme at international level.

[AngolaPress]

## BOTSWANA: Youth debate budget in Francistown

Francistown, 14 Feb - The youth got the platform at a budget review meeting set up by BOCONGO and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Francistown.

The first youth to speak was Goabaone Chwene, a lay counsellor from the Lutheran Church. He wasted no time in slamming the government over the budget because it did not cater for the youth. He stated that claims that Botswana youth are lazy were not true.

He accused the government of playing around with words in the budget. "Playing around with big words does not necessarily mean that something is being done.

There is nothing in that budget that shows that the youth were catered for," he said. He asserted that the statistics on poverty do not make sense at 30.6 percent. "We do not know how they are calculat-

ing it because it has to be much more than that. Are they counting individuals or households because if they are counting households, then they do not know the real numbers of people who are living in poverty," he said.

Chwene stated that the P100,000 youth grant is a failure because it was awarded on favouritism, corruption and nepotism. "Government talks about various youth programmes but which ones? The CEDA form is impossible to fill. The government put these programmes because they know that we are not empowered to exploit them," he said. He urged the youth to come together, form a committee and petition the government.

"We have talent. We have groups like Ghetto Artists. But Btv would rather buy programmes from China and Australia instead of buying programmes from these

youth who will shoot educational programmes about issues that concern Botswana," said Chwene.

But another youth, Prince Aaron, sang praises of government for seeking to make the life of young people better. The entrepreneur condemned other youth for slamming government and said that they are ungrateful.

He said that the claim that Botswana are lazy and wanted handouts is nothing but the truth. "I have a project of goat farming and I am working on another one for guinea fowls and before long, I will be a reputable entrepreneur. The government is trying a lot for us," he said.

A young entrepreneur from Francistown Youth Networks, Garero Tekere said that the government is doing great in trying to help youth to be sustainable. He said that regardless of what people,

say backyard gardening could reduce poverty.

"People would rather be on the streets slashing grass and turning it into a career. They get minimal wages and waste them on alcohol rather than do something for themselves," he said. He added that youth in Botswana have imprisoned their minds.

"Youth should strive and crave for financial freedom. That is why we go to school so that we can enjoy being human and empower ourselves," he said.

Mpho Mudongo a youth social worker advised young people to have big dreams. "Do not dream of working for the government or for anyone. Read better books that will teach you about life and wealth instead of fashion magazines," she said.

An intern at the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs,

Precious Chiseni balanced the good and the bad. "As youth, we point fingers at the government but we do not do anything for ourselves. If you do not work hard for something, you will not be able to value it. If CEDA forms are hard to fill, then it just means that you should work harder, empower yourself and truly

achieve the project," she said. She added that Botswana youth had to do something to get back the economy from the hands of foreigners. She lamented that Botswana are being replaced on the job market by foreigners. She said in the Maramotswe movie, actors and actresses were imported from outside the

country. "If they want to develop us, how do things like these happen?" wondered Chiseni. A youth from BCC in Serowe, Tirelo Moses said that they needed to stick together and speak in one voice. "It does not mean that because you have achieved, you can stop advocating for what is right," he

said.

Carlos Jimmy from Botswana National Youth Council (BNNYC) said that when youth are given money for business, they waste it and go looking for jobs. "We need to stop throwing money down the drain and work on mentoring people who are already doing their projects," he said.

[Mmegi Online]

## ETHIOPIA: Ass'ns call on youth to register for upcoming by-elections

Addis Ababa, 11 Feb – Leaders of various Youth Associations have called on the youth to get voters' ID cards sooner for the by-elections to be held on February 27, 2011.

The leaders told WIC today that all youth need to have voters' ID cards in order to elect a candidate that strive to

ensure the political, social and economic benefits of the youth.

The Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's State Youth Federation Executive, Ashenafi Abrham, said the youth should give equal weight both to by-elections and general elections.

The youth in particular are expected to repeat the high

turnout they showed at the general elections held last year in these by-elections as well, he noted.

The Addis Ababa Branch Chairperson of the Oromia State Youth Association, Jeba Adugna, said that the active participation of the youth in the upcoming by-elections is essential for the success of the five-year Growth and Transformation

Plan (GTP).

The Addis Ababa Branch Chairperson of the Amhara State Youth Association, Kindye Tesfaye, on his part urged the youth to acquaint the public with the by-elections so that they would take active part in the voting.

[walmartinfo]

## GHANA: The Ghanaian Youth Is A Member Of The Society Not An Individual

Accra, 2 Feb - The National Youth Council (NYC) on Tuesday lamented the development of Ghanaian youth as individuals instead of being part of the society.

Alhaji Adam Mahama, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Governors of NYC, who made the observation, noted that most parents did not spend enough time with their children at home. "These children are sent to school, where without adequate adult supervision, they engaged in all kinds of vices such as stealing, lesbianism and homosexuality. "The youth are

being developed to see themselves as individuals rather than as part of the society. They are not given the necessary guidance to become responsible adults to contribute to national development," he said.

Alhaji Mahama was inaugurating a three-member Interim Management Committee (IMC) for the NYC in Accra. The Committee members are The Reverend Calvin S. Abgotse, a member of the NYC Board and Chairman, Mr Simon Amanor Sackey, representative of the National Union of Ghana Students

(NUGS) and Mr Kofi Ocran, a Lecturer, Public Services School at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

The IMC would run the affairs of the NYC from February 1, 2011 for three months, after which their mandate may be renewed upon recommendation from the Board. It would be responsible for the administration, assessing efficiency of the council's operations and identifying challenges that affect its efficient performance.

Alhaji Mahama said the IMC

was established to revamp the NYC to coordinate and develop the youth in the country. The Rev. Agbotse pledged the commitment of the IMC to work assiduously to realise the vision of the NYC.

He said they would institute measures to revamp the council, provide logistics for regional and district Youth Coordinators to work efficiently and effectively. "The staff should gird their loins for the task ahead," he added.

[peacefm online]

## THE GAMBIA: Youth Solidarity March Slated February 19

BANJUL 15 Feb - A youth solidarity march designed to create oneness and understanding among youths in the country is being planned as part of activities marking the country's 46th Independence Anniversary.

Slated for the 19th of February 2011, the event will be in a form of March past from the July 22nd Square to Arch 22nd, where speeches will be delivered. The solidarity march, described to be the first of its kind, is also meant to create avenue for young people to put forward their agendas as well as reflect on the numerous developments from 1994 to date under the dynamic leadership of the Gambian leader, His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr Yahya Jammeh, whose government continues to support the course of young people in the country.

Speaking at a press briefing Monday at KMC, Pa Malick Ceesay, the secretary to the organising committee of the solidarity march, explained that the objective of the event is to call all the youth of this country, male and female, irrespective of their political affiliations. "We want to show to the nation and our people that the young people of this country are one and really appreciate what has

transpired from 1994 to date, as the country has a youthful population of over 60 percent and there are a lot of youth interventions and structures as well," he said, citing the empowerment of the youth in key decision-making and the NYSS, an institution meant to empower young people with basic necessary enterprise skills to enable them become gainfully employed.

Ceesay further stated that the National Youth Council (NYC) is also at the forefront in organising and advocating for the rights of young people in the country. "The National Youth Enterprise is also there to generate income for themselves, their families and even communities and the nation," he said, while calling on young people to come out in their numbers to grace the event.

For his part, Pierre Minteh, the chairperson of the organising committee, described the event as timely in our political dimension looking at the situation that the country is moving. He said: "We felt as young people that it is our duty to rise up and pick-up the actual role and responsibilities that is expected of us as young people of the country and to make sure that we play our part in the development process of this coun-

try. So when we got this idea, we deemed it fitting to invite other colleagues who are in the area of youth activities to look at it and to work in unison."

Minteh explained that the organising committees comprises of diverse people from various areas saying the idea is meant to unite the youth folk. "We thought it is important to come up with some strategic ideas and programmes that we believe from now on, will create a gap between the government of the day and the young people of the country," he added.

He acknowledged that President Jammeh has been overhauling the young people in the country to take up their rightful responsibilities so as to contribute their quota towards the socio-economic development of the country. "So, we felt it is time now for us to answer to that call in diverse ways and the coming of this youth solidarity march is of great importance.

The target is to mobilise more than 5000 youths and the event will be held in Banjul," he said, while calling on the host, youths of Banjul to come out in their numbers to make the event a success. "So far the youths of West Coast

Region have been contacted and we are calling on everyone to come in their numbers to make the event a success. It is a national event irrespective of political affiliations, no matter where you belong to but as long as you are a youth who want to see the nation moving, you should join the march," he concluded.

Seedy Njie, a nominated National Assembly member also echoed similar sentiments, saying that the importance of this upcoming rally cannot be overemphasised. He added: "We are living witness to the developments in the country since President Jammeh took over in 1994 to date. He [President Jammeh] has championed the cause of young people and women.

Now we deemed it fitting to come in our thousands as young people to express our profound appreciations for his numerous developments in the country as well as to reassure him of our commitment to work with his government in the development of the country." Other speakers at the press briefing included Lamin Camara, a divisional youth mobiliser in KMC.

[[allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com)]

## KENYA: Political bickering holding back progress on Agenda 4 reforms – Youth Employment

NAIROBI, 26 Feb - As the country marks the third anniversary of the birth of the Grand Coalition Government, Kenyans appear to have little to celebrate as there has been little progress in tackling the long-term issues listed under Agenda 4.

Though the country has made

strides in instituting some of the reforms envisaged in the National Accord that was signed by President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga on February 28, 2008, there is still a lot pending.

Resettlement of IDPs

But Justice minister Mutula

Kilonzo believes the country has made great strides. He told the Sunday Nation that apart from addressing the resettlement of IDPs and achieving justice for victims of post-election violence, the country was in the process of putting in place better governance structures.

"We have made a lot of achievements and it is an amazing improvement on the perception of governance in the country," said Mr Kilonzo.

He added that the purpose of the National Accord was to ensure that the country is reconciled and achieves the

necessary reforms.

However, political bickering between the two coalition partners appears to be slowing the pace at which necessary changes are being instituted.

Parliament has fallen behind in the implementation of the Constitution, which is part of the legal and institutional reforms recommended under Agenda 4.

However, the Judiciary, Defence Forces and the electoral system are under review.

Mr Kilonzo said the country was set for great changes in the Judiciary with the enactment of the Judicial Service Act and the Vetting of Judges Act.

“The Bills on police reforms are already with the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution and we expect them to come to Parliament soon for enactment,” he added.

Parliament is however yet to make progress on the bills required to overhaul the electoral system and establish the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. Lack of these legal structures has also stalled the review of electoral boundaries after the report by the Ligale team elicited sharp divisions among politicians.

Another key component under Agenda 4 is land reforms. Though the country already has a national land policy and new provisions on land in the Constitution, a lot is still pending. The National Land Commission is yet to be established and the Land Dispute Tribunal Act has not been finalised.

Agenda 4 also tackles youth unemployment, poverty and regional development imbalances. One of the goals under this is to generate an average of 740,000 new jobs each year, but there is no data to show if this has been

achieved.

#### Youth employment

The government has however initiated projects to bolster youth employment, including the economic stimulus programme Kazi kwa Vijana and increased access to credit under the Youth Development Fund.

The National Youth Council Act was also enacted; the youth are expected to elect their officials from next month.

But efforts to consolidate national unity and cohesion have been undermined by political contest and the government appears to have left the issue to NGOs, churches, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission.

The TJRC has faced institutional and financial problems and has only nine more months left to finalise its

work. The NCIC is still waiting on the Attorney-General's office and the courts to act on hate speech cases it has initiated.

The last item on Agenda 4 addresses impunity, transparency and accountability.

There have been key efforts in achieving this with the revamping of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, which has moved to prosecute high-profile corruption suspects.

“We still have some problems to overcome and these include impunity, fighting corruption, unemployment among the youth and inadequate infrastructure. We still have to put in place a new Political Parties Act before August,” said Mr Kilonzo.

[Nation]

## LIBERIA: Youth Federation Calls for Awareness on Referendum

Tubmanburg, 16 Feb - Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) has called for maximum public awareness and education on the pending national Referendum so that the populace can better understand its significance.

Speaking to the Daily Observer on February 5, 2011, in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, an executive of FLY, Daniel Wehyee said, the word ‘referendum’ itself sounds very strange to many unlettered and even some lettered citizens.

Wehyee and other executives of FLY were in Tubmanburg City, Bomi County, to create public awareness relative to the voters’ registration exercise. He further told reporters that many citizens were unwilling to register for the

forth coming national elections.

He observed that many people were disappointed by previous elected politicians to help address their basic needs.

He added that those who were encouraged to register needed to be sensitized more on the referendum to know what it is all about so that they will attach seriousness to it when its time come.

The referendum, according to the National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to take place in August this year, before the general and presidential elections slated for October.

It is geared towards choosing between simple and absolute

majority victory for senators and representatives, settlement of the ten-year residency clause in the constitution of Liberia, amongst others.

Speaking on the voters’ registration exercise, Wehyee said, people of Bomi County were positively responding to the message by turning out to register.

“Right now, many citizens are discouraged and unwilling to register and vote because they feel let down by some of their previous elected leaders. However, we are talking to them to see reason to register because it is the only way they can exercise their political franchise,” he told reporters.

At the Tubmanburg market ground where they cautioned

marketers to go and register, many older folks there were seen displaying their registration cards. The marketers, however, added that they were indecisive to go to the polls in October because they have seen no one to seek their interest as most of those they elected to public offices earlier had abandoned them.

Other young people who gathered around the FLY campaigners said they were not in the position to register because at the end of the day, they will place people in various lucrative positions who may later abandon them.

Wehyee in a message to them said registering to acquire voting cards was not only for voting people into power, but for other decision-making and to prove one’s eligibility

to participate in such decision-making process as a bona fide citizen.

Meanwhile, at one registration center, registrars there spoke of good turnouts in Tubmanburg. According to

them, the nine centers in the town were receiving large numbers of people coming in to register.

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[liberianobserver]

## UGANDA: Parliament approves regulations for workers, youth MP elections

KAMPALA, 2 Feb - PARLIAMENT has approved regulations for the election of workers and youth representatives to Parliament.

The regulations are required by the Electoral Commission (EC) for the conduct of workers and youth MPs.

Four youths are elected from the four regions of Uganda together with another female youth, while five people are elected to represent workers.

The justice minister who is also the Attorney General, Khiddu Makubuya, moved the motion for a resolution of parliament to approve the regulations. He said the electoral college for electing the female representatives of the youth in parliament shall be the National Youth Council.

Makubuya said representatives of workers in parliament shall be elected in accordance with the constitu-

tion of the National Organisations of Trade Unions and the Central Organisation of Trade Unions. This, he said, would be at the organisations' delegates conferences.

The registrar, under the Labour Unions Act 2006, is required to verify the subscribed membership of each affiliated union to the respective Federation of Labour Unions at least six months before the general elections.

Meanwhile, Parliament yesterday allowed Alex Ndeezi, a member representing people with disability, to move a private members Bill on the disability Act.

[New Vision]

## NAMIBIA: Youth unemployment is a joint responsibility

NURTURING any nation's youth can be compared to a farmer who is properly taking care of his/her crop field. Clearly, the crop field requires clearing and eventually cultivating to fruition. After all, we know only too well the saying "you shall reap what you sow". This implies that once the crops are planted they require to be nurtured properly by the one who planted them. Naturally, the youth are our offspring as parents and governments respectively. The opportunities and challenges in their lifetime such as unemployment and poverty are real and cannot be theorized ad infinitum either for political expediency by us in the ruling party or cheap political point scoring by those in the opposition parties.

I learnt from an early age that an avowal of poverty is not a

disgrace to any human being; but to do nothing about that poverty is a real disgrace. In this regard it follows that we all have a sense of purpose and will to succeed in pursuit of our goals, hopes and dreams. Some have dreams to look after and own cattle, others to get to kindergarten, others to go to school; others to work in factories and offices. All these are arrays of diverse hopes and dreams available to the youth in our villages, towns, cities and regions throughout our country. Parents, though rich and poor, educated and uneducated, they all dream and pray for the success of their children. It must be expected therefore that governments too must dream and invest in the growth of their youth particularly here in Africa.

In our country, it is indisputably true that our Swap Party

Government has created an institutional framework geared towards youth empowerment in the form of the Ministry of Youth, National Youth Service and National Youth Council respectively in addition to huge investment in education and health sectors all of which are primarily beneficial to the youth of our country. We require however absolute coordination in the efforts of empowering our young generation. It is a field that must be nurtured by all members of the Namibian society. We have structures in place to help nurture these hopes and dreams at the levels of traditional authorities, constituency, regional and central governments.

What role shall every section of the population play in nurturing the modern crop of young generation? How are

we going to eradicate youth unemployment? How shall we ensure that every Namibian youth gets a quality education beyond PhDs and become dreamers of good dreams and doers of good deeds? How is the family foundation ready to prepare these young people? How is the school system ready? How ready is society? How ready is the private sector and how ready is the public sector? Above all, how ready are the young people themselves to make use of the opportunities available to us all?

It is true there are challenges, but it is my opinion that these challenges are surmountable. It is my opinion further that we can make it if we really want to both as a Government and a society. We all know that the children of the rich and middle class eat

bacon and eggs for breakfast whereas the poor children either have no breakfast at all or they eat mateta or they drink coffee and bread if lucky. The wealthy children get given Trust accounts of inheritance whereas the poor do not even have an insurance policy should they drop dead.

And there is also a divide of rich and poor but we cannot forget the divide of urban and rural as well. Whereas showers and running water are the luxury of the urban dwellings it is a dream for rural areas. The call for rural development tries to address this challenge. In other words, we must begin to be mindful that the crop fields for nurturing our youth are different and thus requiring multifaceted approaches to find a lasting solution.

The pursuit for lasting solu-

tion must begin with the question: what is the solution to unemployment amongst the youth? What is it that the youth themselves saying as the solution? I do not doubt the commitment and seriousness of Government on the issues of youth unemployment. Recently, Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, initiated a consultation meeting with Mandela Kapere (Secretary General of the National Youth Council) and Evilastus Kaaronda (Secretary General of the NUNW) to share with him ideas and explore solutions geared towards job creation with specific emphasis to the army of unemployed youth.

He expressed Government's commitment to youth empowerment and development. Moreover, our recent consultations with the local authorities of Walvis Bay and

Swakopmund, Rössing Uranium, Development Bank of Namibia, National Housing Enterprise, and Social Security Council amongst others provided an indication that their staff compliments are increasingly becoming youthful. In addition, it is evident that the Ministries of Defence, Safety and Security are notable in their employment of thousands of young people as soldiers and police officers respectively. It can be added that the Ministry of Agriculture too possesses the potential for mass employment of young people so too the mining sector as well as the fishing sector. Finally, it is my considered opinion that the long-term solution to youth unemployment lies in the ability of all sectors of the population coordinating their efforts and energy towards a practical

investment in a common strategy for youth empowerment and development in both rural and urban areas, in this way, the dream of Vision 2030 and beyond shall successfully be actualised.

*[informante]*

## BAHRAIN: Shaikh Nasser Approves National Youth Fund

MANAMA, Feb 27 - A national fund aimed at extending support to Bahrain youngsters has been established. Supreme Council for Youth and Sport chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa announced the scheme. The initiative followed a recommendation submitted by a group of youngsters, who met to reply to Shaikh Nasser's call to engage a national youth dialogue. Shaikh Nasser paid a surprise visit to the committee in charge of preparing the

youth conference, scheduled to be held within days. The move is part of Shaikh Nasser's firm keenness to promote youth dialogue and explore a way out of the current crisis in Bahrain. Shaikh Nasser took the initiative a few days ago to launch a national youth dialogue calling upon youngsters to rally together and discuss key issues that concern the nation and lay the foundations for dialogue. He lauded Bahraini youngsters for responding positively to his initiative to

convene a national dialogue conference. "The coming period requires youngsters to rally together, hold the conference and table responsible solutions that reflect their opinions in total freedom", he said. He stressed the importance of coming out with youth solutions and proposals that serve the nation and promote dialogue in Bahrain. He engaged personally to back the youth dialogue and provide all forms of support to ensure its success and elaborate key national objec-

tives. Organizational committees have been set up ahead of the conference which will be held soon.

[BNA]

## CHINA: EU-China Year of Youth

EU-China Year of Youth 2011 opened this week in Beijing as around 90 youth delegates from European Union countries began an eight-day visit to China on Monday

At a press conference held Monday, newly appointed head of the Delegation of the European Union to China Ambassador Markus Ederer and All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) Assistant President Ni Jian announced that 78 events will be held this

year in China and the EU. China will host the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the Youth Forum for Sustainable Development. Other events will focus on volunteering, culture, entrepreneurship and innovation.

ACYF Deputy Secretary General Dong Xia said the youth organizations will focus on building partnerships of exchange and cooperation, and all the events aim at promoting youth participation and engagement in

all areas of EU-China cooperation.

In January, ACYF President Wang Xiao led a delegation of 100 to Brussels, Belgium to meet with their 100 European counterparts for the first time. During the visit, Chinese and EU leaders signed the first joint declaration for strengthening dialogue and cooperation on youth issues.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and EU President Jose Manuel Barroso designated 2011 as the Europe-China Year of

Youth at the 12th China-EU summit on November 30, 2009. It is the first theme year since China and EU established diplomatic relations in 1975.

[china.org.cn]

## PAKISTAN: Students join hands to protect environment under LEYC

LAHORE 26 Feb - Students of different schools joined hands to protect the environment under the platform of the Lahore Environmental Youth Council (LEYC) on Friday.

Fifteen highschools of the city announced that they were joining forces to create a council on environment. The launching ceremony of the council took place at

Aitchison College on Friday.

It included addresses by guest speakers Dr Pervez Hassan, environmental advocacy groups, Punjab Environment Secretary Sajjad Saleem Hotiana, Kurt Archer of Pakistan Sustainability Network (PSN), representatives from World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan, Aitchison College's principal and Waste Busters Chief

Executive Officer Asif Farooki, Khawar Mumtaz from ShirgatGah and Samiya Khan Mumtaz.

"This student-led initiative seeks to connect with policy makers and organisations and provide youth a voice in the environmental discourse as well as take practical action together for the environment," said Lahore Grammar School Kabana branch Gen-

eral Secretary Khizra, the founding member of the LEYC. "These young people are the decision makers of tomorrow, we need to mentor and develop environmental leaders, not just business leaders, for a sustainable future," said PSN Director Nimra Amjad.

[Daily Times]

## SINGAPORE: Youth give ideas on tackling new 5Cs

SINGAPORE , 19 Feb -

### Participants at biennial forum try their hand at spotting challenges and formulating policies for S'pore

HOW many Singaporeans are confident that they can continue to live comfortably after retirement?

Even those on the CPF Life

annuity plan - which provides retirement income for the rest of their lives for those who turn 55 - may find themselves short of money 15 to 20 years from now, due to inflation.

This is why Ms Anisah Ahmad, 22, and Mr Mohamad Saddiq Mohamad Sa'id, 22, propose an annuity plan which starts with a smaller payout that increases by a

certain percentage, say, 2 per cent, yearly.

Ms Anisah, a fourth-year political science student at the National University of Singapore, and Mr Saddiq, currently doing his national service, were among 70 participants aged 17 to 25 at the biennial National Youth Forum (NYF). Their recommendation was presented to their peers on Saturday,

which marked the last day of the three-month long forum.

The NYF was initiated by the National Youth Council in 2004 to better engage students in policymaking.

'With increasing lifespan, there is a possibility of insufficient retirement funds,' said Ms Anisah.

[Strait Times]

## SRI LANKA: Sri Lanka Youth Parliament to hold inaugural meeting after local government elections

Feb 14, Colombo: The Youth Parliament of Sri Lanka, for which the elections were held in December last year, will hold its inaugural session in March, the Ministry of Youth Affairs sources said.

The inaugural session of the Youth Parliament was to be held in January but was postponed due to the local government election that will be held on March 17.

The inaugural session of the national Youth Parliament will be opened under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa soon after the conclusion of local government election, the

Ministry said.

A special chamber in the National Youth Council in Maharagama has been setup to hold the inaugural session. Regional sources say that a number of Youth Parliament MPs are engaged in propaganda work for the local government election.

In December 332 MPs were elected to the Youth Parliament to represent the 332 central youth organizations at divisional secretariat level.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to construct a building complex for the national Youth Parliament in

the Anuradhapura district.

Minister Dullas Alahapereera says a land extent of 68 acres in Mihintale area has been demarcated for this purpose.

The Sri Lanka Youth Parliament is a youth led, youth run initiative, whose aim is to mobilize and create a network of young people to bring about positive and sustainable change to issues that affect youth and their communities in Sri Lanka.

It provides skills and opportunities for youth to play a leadership role in identifying and addressing the needs of

their own communities.

[Colombo Page]

## ARMENIA: AYF Ships 5,000 Pounds of Clothing to Armenia, Artsakh, Javakhk

GLENDALE, CA 04 Feb - Members of the Armenian Youth Federation on Saturday packaged thousands of pounds of clothing, bedding and household supplies into more than 100 boxes to be shipped to villages throughout Armenia, Artsakh, and Javakhk.

The items were collected over a two-month period last year, from 9 drop-off locations throughout California, and in Las Vegas. The boxes, each weighing 50 pounds, were transported Saturday to the Long-Beach warehouse of the Paros Lighthouse Armenian Charitable Foundation. Paros will then send the boxes to warehouses in Ar-

menia, where they will be sorted and distributed based on individual family needs, village by village.

“Here in the United States, we often take many of our daily comforts and luxuries for granted, including the abundance of clothing,” said Patil Aslanian, a member of the AYF’s Central Executive. “We want to thank the community for the overwhelming support given to this project and, particularly, the Paros Foundation for shipping and distributing the clothes to villages in Armenia, Javakhk, and Karabakh.”

The Paros Lighthouse Charitable Foundation, established

by Zuhrab and Seta Ghazarian in 2000, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that gives donors and sponsors in the US and around the world an opportunity and vehicle to assist in the support of the needy and fallen families in Armenia.

The foundation also maintains a school in the Bdghouk village of Armavir province, sponsors surgeries for underprivileged children throughout Armenia, collects and distributes food products to poor villages, and helps families in need furnish their homes. For more information on its activities and public service initiatives visit <http://www.parosfoundation.org/>

Founded in 1933, the Armenian Youth Federation is the largest and most influential Armenian American youth organization in the United States, working to advance the social, political, educational and cultural awareness of Armenian-American youth.

[Asbarez]

## ENGLAND: Hundreds to gather for Solihull rally against youth service cuts

SOLIHULL, 11 Feb - HUNDREDS of youth service representatives will gather in Solihull this weekend for a national rally campaigning against funding cuts.

Around 1,000 people from around the country are set to attend The Renewal Centre in Lode Lane from 11am to 4pm tomorrow to call for measures to protect young people’s services from drastic cuts to public spending.

The event is being organised by a coalition of 24 organisations, under the name Choose Youth, including Unite, British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament.

Unite voiced fears over leaked Birmingham City Council documents suggesting the youth service budget would be slashed by £3 million from £5.8 million, which it said could put up to 40 youth clubs and centres at risk.

But the council’s education scrutiny chairman said the leaked document was misleading.

The protest will be attended by young people, volunteers, youth workers and community representatives.

Doug Nicholls, Unite national officer for the community and youth workers and not

for profit sector, said: “This will be a day of action and debate on the future of youth services. There is a very real danger that these will be the first public services to go, possibly within the next six months.

“Young people have been hit hard by the deep cuts in public spending. Priced out of education and escalating youth unemployment – with over one million 16 to 24-year-olds now unemployed, the highest figure since 1992 – their hopes and talents are being crushed by these cuts.

“Now, slipping under the radar, are cuts to a wide

range of services supporting young people in their daily lives. Up and down the country youth clubs and projects are being forced to close their doors.”

He added: “The youth services are not going to pay for the fat cat financial crisis. The £6 billion in bonuses that the banks have claimed this week could pay for the whole National Youth Service for 20 years. If these cuts go ahead it will be a Blade Runner society.”

[Mail.net]

## ESTONIA: Minors Can Vote at Simulated Parliament Elections

TALLIN, 25 Feb - the National Youth Council opened an internet voting system, where Estonian citizens from 14 to 17 years of age can participate in a simulated parliament election and vote for candidates in their district.

The idea of this project, ac-

cording to Mailis Ostra, simulated election project manager, is to show that young people under the legal voting age care about what goes on in Estonian society and problems which concern us all.

In addition to the internet, young citizens can also cast

their votes at official e-voting points located across Estonia.

The results of the simulated election will be announced on March 6, after the polling stations of the real elections are closed.

[ERR News]

## MALTA: The National Youth Council launch their new Logo

VALLETT, 22 Feb - AThe National Youth Council (KNZ) launched their new logo in an activity held last Saturday at the KSU Common Room. The winning Logo was selected through a Logo Competition organised by the KNZ as part of the rebranding process, launched during last October. Mr. Edward Said, President, said that the KNZ have been working on a process of rebranding with the aim of modernizing the council's structure and image. This rebranding aims to facilitate the council's work and to attract more youths to KNZ, a main representing body for youths.

Ms. Priscilla Muscat, Public

Relations Officer, stated that the aim of this Competition was to change the logo with one which is more applicable and relative to KNZ's work and purpose and also to attract more youths to stimulate them to take an active role in the council's rebranding, in fact the competition attracted several students from the UOM, MCAST and students from sixth forms. In this way youths had the chance to be proactive and to make a difference in the KNZ's image and identity.

The winning design was designed by Matthew Spiteri, an MCAST student following the graphics design course. The logo symbolizes the energy and dyna-

mism of youths and elaborates the representation of the council by the terms 'Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh.' The winner was awarded a graphics tablet sponsored by KLIKK and the participants were awarded certificates.

In his concluding speech, Clyde Puli, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, congratulated the KNZ's initiative for setting up this Logo Competition as part of the rebranding process. He stressed that the rebranding should be taken up as a holistic and ongoing process aimed at strengthening the KNZ to be able to conduct its work more effectively. The Parliamentary

Secretary congratulated the work of the council and its growing relevance to youth member organizations.

The Launch was followed up by an Extraordinary General Meeting, throughout which the KNZ raised a number of amendments to the statute as part of the rebranding process. Nine new member organizations have joined KNZ.

[gozonews]

## BAHAMAS: Economic empowerment for Bahamian youth

FREEPORT, 11 Feb - Tyson K. McKenzie, President of The Bahamas National Youth Council recently unveiled his plans for advancing young people and youth issues on the island on Grand Bahama.

McKenzie is a part-time student at the College of The Bahamas majoring in Public Administration and an employee at BAF Financial & Insurance Ltd. He said that he has been involved with The Bahamas National Youth Council since its inception, in 2005, and in October 2007 at the council's first General Assembly Meeting he was elected president and served until 2010.

Last year he was returned as president to serve until 2013.

The Bahamas National Youth Council, he explained, is the umbrella organization for youth organizations in the country. "Our aim is to advocate for youth rights on behalf of youth organizations on issues that are directly or indirectly affecting young people," he said.

Now, in his second term McKenzie says, his plan for youth on Grand Bahama is economic empowerment. He said, "My plan is to ensure that the youth of Grand Bahama become more economically empowered to develop their own island and become a part of its potential prosperity."

He went on to explain that the Council plans to establish a District Youth Council of The Bahamas National

Youth Council on Grand Bahama, to ensure the concerns of youth of the island are constantly being heard by the national body.

"We want to ensure they (young Grand Bahamians) are always involved in the governance of the nation," he said.

McKenzie noted that he will bring this vision to reality "by using networks that are residing on the island to be the movers and shakers and empowering them to assist in the cause of becoming stakeholders in their economy."

He also said The Bahamas National Youth Council hopes to hold more events on the island.

The president says he is

looking forward to leading the country's youth to "true governance and development."

"It is my aim to ensure every young Bahamian will be truly seen as an asset to the development of the country, and under my leadership the council will be focusing on youth with regards to economic empowerment, governance, regional/global integration, the environment and social and community development."

Through these initiatives he said, he hopes the government will consider the advice of youth as it relates to the mobilization of the Bahamian economy.

*[Freeport news]*

## CANADA: Youth prepare for Earth Hour

BRANLYN, 09 Feb - The Branlyn Youth Neighbourhood Association is gearing up to promote Brantford's fourth annual Earth Hour event.

The energy conservation initiative will take place on March 26 at 8:30 p.m., when people will be asked to reduce power consumption in a show of solidarity in the fight against climate change.

The Branlyn youth have championed the cause in Brantford, holding an Earth Hour event at Harmony Square with a symbolic turning off of the lights and community gathering.

"We have come to ask the city for publicity for the event," Jacob Jorna, a member of the Branlyn youth group, told city council on Monday. "Also, permission (to hold) the event at Harmo-

ny Square."

City council did more than that, approving a motion to supply free transit to the downtown Earth Hour event and agreeing to a new request from the Branlyn youth.

"We want to ask you, Mr. Mayor, to challenge other cities like Cambridge and Kitchener to see who can have the greater reduction,"

Jorna said.

Council agreed to have Mayor Chris Friel issue a challenge to surrounding municipalities, as well as cities across the country through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

## JAMAICA: Silencing the youth?

KINGSTONE, 01 Feb - It was a rare and refreshing moment last weekend to have heard the voices of our youth leaders speaking frankly and forthrightly about the ills of the country.

The young Jamaicans made me proud as I read their comments on the front page of the Sunday Gleaner. Youth leaders were asked to examine the topic, "Steering this Ship called Jamaica", and their responses were as

candid and colourful as they were encouraging.

National youth parliament representative Andre Stephens was reported to have said, "We need a captain who will be held accountable

for his actions and step aside if he knows he has failed. It's about integrity. The passengers on that ship should also make a change in their little corner. If everyone on that ship has a common consensus on the way forward, the

ship will steer correctly. And if one recognises that it's not going the way it should, then everyone should team up on that one person and get rid of him. We must also stop taking the little handouts, thinking they will benefit the ship. They will never benefit it!"

Chairman of the National Youth Council Ryan Small reportedly stated, "The ship must be working. All the steer you steer, if the ship is not up to standard, it will sink. They need to put people who are competent and capable of managing in the respective areas."

Jamaica's youth ambassador to the United Nations and National Youth Parliament volunteer, Ruth-Ann Lawrence, said, "The problem of good leadership is a big issue across the board. We need training in good leadership. Too often they say one thing when they are in power, and when they get in power, it's a different story."

And the young leaders didn't stop there. They unreservedly criticised the performance of the Minister of Youth, Olivia "Babsy" Grange, and called for the removal of the

youth portfolio to the Ministry of Education. Young Ryan Small was quoted as saying, "One of the immediate things that I would do, had I the power, is to remove the portfolio of youth from where it is now and place it with someone who is competent in managing the affairs of young people. Put it back under education where it belongs. It is not being managed properly, and I make no apology where that is concerned. It is not being managed properly and the young people of this country are suffering."

Those youth leaders who have gone before him and have been burnt by institutional backlash should have warned Ryan Small that his words would get him into deep trouble - and so it was. The very next day, the Gleaner headline read, "Lay off Babsy", and government Senator Warren Newby launched a broadside against at least one of the young people who had dared to criticise them. Instead of dealing with the substantive issues of the failures of the Youth Ministry, Newby, in the typical JLP-governance

style, chose to launch a more personal attack against the youth leader. Said Newby, "Mr Ryan Small, the newly elected chairman of the National Youth Council, remarks that the portfolio is not being managed properly. I find this unfortunate...As chairman, he held his first meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2011, and is yet to meet with the leadership of the ministry in his new capacity to discuss the issues that are of importance to the council. No plan of action, budget or strategic objectives has been communicated to the ministry. No meeting/consultation has been held, neither has he sought to engage the minister or myself on any matter." Newby went on to say in his release to the press that, "(Small's) appreciation of the challenges would therefore be constrained by the limited knowledge he possesses of the efforts being undertaken."

Newby's response left me flabbergasted. Did he not understand that as the "senior official" and as senator he has a responsibility to serve as the mentor for young Ryan Small and the others?

The leadership of the Ministry of Youth should be ashamed of themselves for the tone of arrogance levelled against those young people seeking to serve our country and to learn about governance. Whether Senator Newby realises it or not, his response has served to confirm a "narrowness" and shallowness of the leadership of the Youth Ministry, and if anything, it is the young people who come out of this episode looking good.

Even more important is the folly of ignoring the opinions and ideas of the youth of Jamaica. I would hope that the government is paying close attention to the recent events in Egypt and the warnings emanating from the youth of that country. One young man was captured on video shouting, "They don't listen to the youth. They stole everything from us. They have even stolen our future." I say, Beware!

*[Jamaica Observer]*

## USA: Campaign on to educate about effect tobacco industry has on youth

NEW YORK, 27 Feb - An innovative media campaign has begun to educate New Yorkers about the effect that tobacco industry products and marketing in stores have on youth smoking.

The Community Partnerships for a Tobacco Free New York campaign reflects research that in-store marketing is more powerful than peer pressure, and youth are twice as likely as adults to be influenced by tobacco prod-

uct displays and other marketing.

Research has also shown that retailers near schools have more products on display and more signs.

Research on the industry shows that it spends half a billion dollars a year to market cigarettes in New York State, a portion of which is used to pay tobacco retailers to display tobacco products in the most visible location in the store — directly be-

hind the counter where all customers must pay for their purchases.

A recent American Cancer Society survey of 677 New York state tobacco retailers reported that 88 percent of stores statewide display tobacco products directly behind the counter, and 79 percent of stores contained tobacco advertising.

"Thanks to the Community Partnerships for illustrating a problem which has largely

gone unchecked: in-store tobacco marketing that is hooking our kids on a deadly product," said Scott T. Santarella, President and CEO of the American Lung Association in New York.

"Because the average non-smoking adult doesn't pay close attention, there's a faulty perception out there that this marketing isn't doing any harm. Nothing could be further from the truth. These tactics are very

effective in helping the industry get new customers. Sadly, those new customers are our kids,” Santarella said

Community Partnerships for a Tobacco Free New York are funded by the NY Tobacco Control Program. They educate community leaders and the public about the dangers and social costs of tobacco use, engage local stakeholders to adopt policies that restrict the tobacco industry’s presence, seek to de-normalize tobacco use and eliminate secondhand smoke.

[NCNow]

■ In the service of youth

## TO ALL MEMBERS

- Contact the headquarters with any changes in your addresses
- We shall soon be sending our a form for all members to fill in and send us details of your organizations

**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.



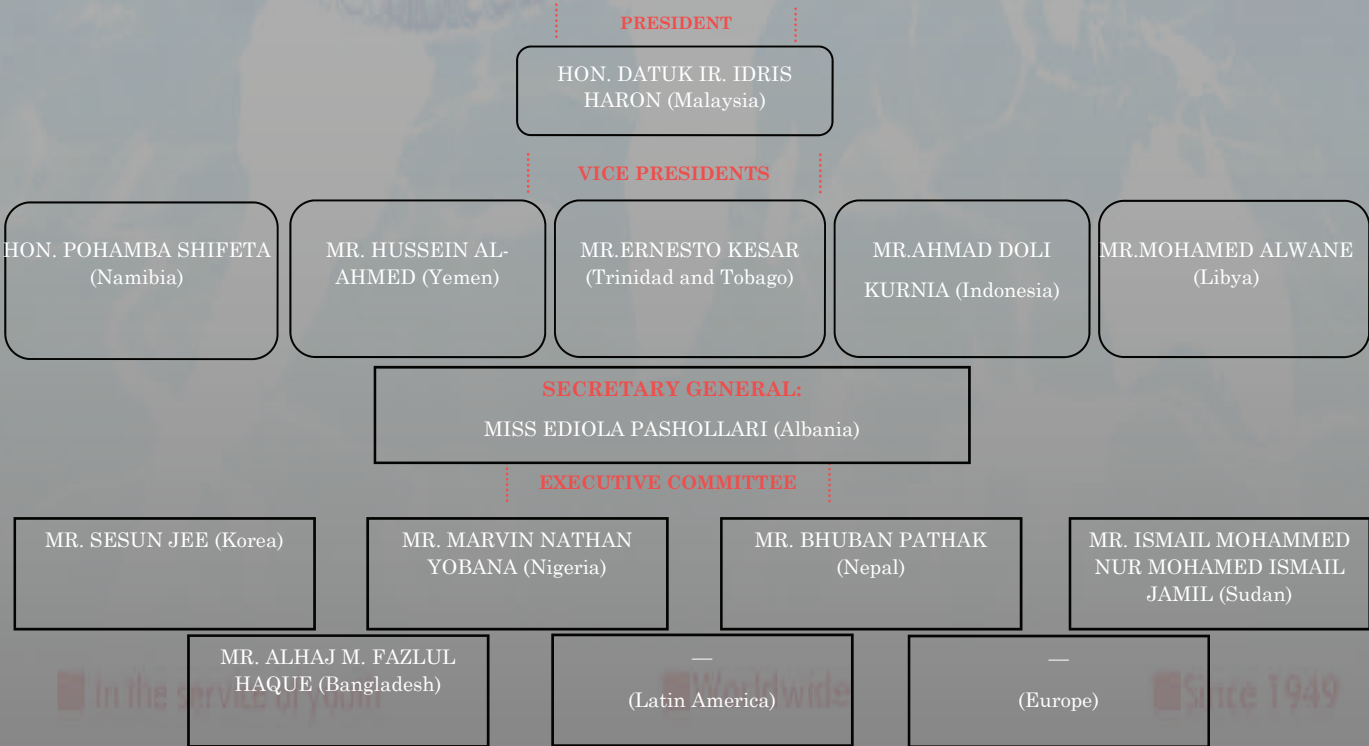
World Assembly of Youth  
 Assemblée Mondiale de la Jeunesse  
 Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud

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**World Assembly of Youth Organization Chart**



**In the Service of Youth Since 1949**