

YOUTH BULLETIN

July 2011

Bringing Youth News From Around The World

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UPCOMING EVENTS—AUGUST

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
17-24 AUG 2011	22nd International Youth Forum - Technological Advancement and Future Society	Seoul, Korea			

ANGOLA: Construction of Kilamba City commended

LUANDA, 20 JUL - The chairperson of the National Youth Council (CNJ), Cláudio Aguiar, hailed the construction of the Kilamba City, which he said is expected to start providing houses for young people.

The official said so at the end of a visit to that city by CNJ

president, Joaquim Israel, having stressed that the construction of the city has come to increase the hope of citizens.

The selling process should firstly benefit homeless youths, accordingly to the project, said the official,

appealing for greater speed and transparency on the part of managers.

Cláudio Aguiar, who also commended the quality of the houses, spoke of the need for prices that meet the buying power of those in need.

The construction of the Kilamba City started in August 2008 and foresees the construction of 20,000 houses.

[portalangop]

GAMBIA: National Youth Policy Guideline on Prevention of HIV/Aids 2008 – 2011 reviewed

BANJUL, 26 JUL - The Youth Against Aids Network (YAAN) last Thursday organised a day's review of the National Youth Policy Guideline on the Prevention of HIV/Aids 2008 – 2011. The programme was held at the TANGO conference hall in Kanifing.

Speaking at the occasion, Mustapha Kebbeh, chairperson of the National Youth Council, introduced the National Youth Policy, noting that more than a quarter of

the world's population are youths between the ages of 10 and 24 and that 86% of these youths live in developing countries.

According to him, the aims of the Policy include: to prevent HIV infections, improve delivery of prevention, care and support service, mitigate the impact of HIV/Aids on individuals, the family and community and to reduce individuals and society's vulnerability to HIV/Aids through the creation of an

enabling environment.

Lamin Camara, a representative of the UNAIDS officer in the country, spoke about HIV as a major problem affecting the youth of the country and the world at large. He added that young people being the victims of the epidemic should be more ready to tackle the problem.

According to him, there should be relevant partnership with the health services and other stakeholders to

organise sensitisation programmes for youths on the dangers involved in things like unprotected inter-course and other related matters. He also talked about the guiding principles of the NYP and other related development policies.

[observer]

GHANA: Stay away from Politics – Youth told

BOLGATANGA, 12 JUL - Mr Dauda Abangos, Upper East Regional Youth Coordinator of the National Youth Council (NYC), at the weekend, advised the youth to stay away from chieftaincy disputes and meddling in politics.

Mr Abangos made the call at the inauguration of the Upper East Region Youth Association, (UEYA), in Bolgatanga on Monday.

He urged them to resist attempts by the executives of the Association to lead them astray from their objectives, which could mar the association's good intentions.

“You should let accountability and transparency be your guide in your dealings,” he added.

He advised them to partner the District Assemblies in mobilizing revenue, to help in the development of their communities.

Mr Abangos urged them to join hands with the NYC to educate the public on the National Youth Policy, to help guide the youth of the country.

Dr Clement Apak, a Lecturer at the University of Ghana and a youth activist, called on

the youth to take advantage of the digital revolution to better their lot.

He said the three Northern regions “was at a disadvantage in accessing courses and programs in higher institutions and called for a strong advocacy to back their demands.

Mr Jonathan Adabre, the newly elected president for UEYA, pledged the support of the association to reduce poverty and deprivation in the region.

He said it was not the agenda of the association to go into politics, but would not hesi-

tate to expose corruption in the society.

The association's objectives include, influencing policies and programmes, towards the development of the region, mobilize and build capacity of young people, education on drug abuse, identify and support effective innovative leadership in the region and foster unity among the youth.

[ghananewsagency]

NAMIBIA: Population day memorable, educative - by Staff Reporter

WINDHOEK, 27 JUL - The World Population Day 2011 celebration has come and gone but for the youth in Katima Mulilo it will continue to be both memorable and educative.

Both the National Youth Council(NYC) and the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture (MYNSSC) organised a research and presentation competition on two relevant issues – Teenage pregnancy, can we overcome it? and Poverty alleviation, can it be a dream come true? The Head of the Youth Health, Gender & Welfare Desk at the National Youth Council, Brian Prince, says the two issues are part of the serious problems facing the youth, and are also part of the population issues that are contributing factors to the world population explosion. “The day will be meaningless to the youth if educative and

informative activities are not organised to inform and educate them on the current world population statistic and the consequences for each person,” he says.

Seven secondary schools in Katima Mulilo were requested to do a thorough research on the two topics, which they were to present to a panel of judges made up of representatives from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Caprivi Regional Council, Ministry of Health and Social Services and the National Organisation for Youth with Disabilities.

Each participating school was advised on the focus of its research. “We advised them to focus more on what is the problem, where lies the problem, when does the problem occur, how can the problem be handled, who are the stakeholders and what are part can they (stakeholders)

play in mitigating the problem,” explains Prince Mafwila Secondary School came first in the teenage pregnancy category and went home with the biggest trophy and N\$2,500. Caprivi Secondary School took the second prize of a medium trophy and N\$2,000 and St. Kizito, third with a trophy and N\$1,500. In the Poverty alleviation category, the Caprivi Senior Secondary School came first, taking home the biggest trophy and a cash prize of N\$2,500. The second to Mafwila Secondary School with a medium trophy and N\$2,000 while the third trophy and N\$1,500 was won by the Sanjo Secondary School.

“Special days such as World Population Day, International Youth Day, Day of the African Child, World AIDS Day, Women’s Day to mention but few, should go beyond making statement by politician,

personalities, to dine and wine,” says MYNSSC Health officer, Ruusa Amuphadi adding that educational and informative activities, such as workshops, community campaigns and theatre are relevant when discussing such issues.

“It makes no sense to have an event that people do not really know what it is all about or do not gain any information from because the main idea is to raise awareness,” she says.

A weeklong workshop for 28 young people from the six constituencies in the region focusing on sexual reproductive health followed the celebration. The event was officiated by the Mayor of Katima Mulilo, John Likando.

[newera]

NIGERIA: Minister urges youth council factions to end crisis

ABUJA, 26 JUL - The Minister of Youth Development, Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, has given the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NCYN) factions two weeks to resolve their differences.

Abdullahi spoke yesterday in Abuja when he met with the executive of the council.

He said he would not involve any of them in the activities of the ministry until they have resolved their problems and withdrawn their cases from the court.

Abdullahi said: "Go and sit down and resolve the matter and return to us with your terms of resolution. Until that is done, I will not have any meeting with any of you."

The council has been rocked by crises for years with two factions claiming legitimacy over the others.

One of the factions is led by Mr. George Shotade and the other by Comrade Wale Ajani.

The crisis led to court cases, which affected the smooth administration of the council.

The minister said the Federal Government would harness the potential in Nigerian youths for national transformation, adding: "You cannot help people to develop without young people.

They should lead the development process."

He said he would work with the NYCN to deliver key youth agenda, warning that

he might sideline the group if it continued with its bickering and divisions.

[thenational]

RWANDA: Youth Urged to Focus On Economic Liberation

KIGALI, 05 JUL - The youth are often cited among the key players in the country's political, social or economic development.

However, if negatively influenced, they can contribute to the destruction of a country as was the case with Rwanda during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

As Rwandans celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Liberation Day, yesterday, youth leaders commended the government for putting in place mechanisms that have seen

the youth progress.

Alphonse Nkuranga, the head of the National Youth Council (NYC) said he is optimistic about their potential contribution to the country's political and economic liberation.

"The youth have a key role in ensuring the sustainable peace and economic development; they should work harder to preserve their dignity," he said.

Charles Rusindi, who is in charge of Youth and culture at the City of Kigali, noted

that the youth should concentrate on working in cooperatives for better output:

"Youth should organise themselves into cooperative, this is the one sure way of becoming prosperous,"

Rusindi said. "They should strive to be job creators instead of job seekers,"

Pelagie Uwamariya Rutijanwa, a youth representative in parliament, acknowledged that economic liberation is still a challenge faced by the youth.

"The battle is not only for

political liberation, but also setting ourselves free from the shackles of poverty."

Uwamariya observed that some loan schemes which do not demand security were introduced by government to finance business plans for the youth who lack capital.

"Youth should go to school with an aim of being employers themselves, and not job seekers," she emphasised.

[allafrica]

SOUTH AFRICA: Youth is budget priority

GAUTENG, 15 JUL - will prioritise job creation for unemployed graduates and bursaries for matriculants in the new financial year.

Tabling her 2011/12 budget on 14 July, Premier Nomvula Mokonyane said the province had put in place key development strategies to champion youth employability.

The recently adopted Gauteng Youth Employment Strategy would create more employment opportunities for the youth in the public and private sector. For qualified youth who had not yet entered the job market, the province would work in conjunction with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to create more job opportunities.

The agency would play an instrumental role in injecting funds into small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs). In accelerating SMME growth and development, a new initiative, the Township Enterprise Hubs Project would be launched on 19 July. It was a project of the provincial government, the

Gauteng department of economic development and the NYDA.

An older initiative, the Gauteng Employment Growth and Development plan, adopted in the last financial year, was expected to fuel job creation by developing sustainable employment models in the government. It would also ensure ease and cost of doing business with the government, as well as help attract foreign direct investment. In an attempt to alleviate poverty, Mokonyane announced what she termed a mass employment project to provide one job per household. The idea was that in each family, at least one person had a sustainable job.

These families would be identified through Gauteng's database of people who depended on social grants for survival.

Infrastructure She also spoke about a number of key infrastructural facilities and the construction of new ones in Johannesburg and the province at large.

These included the construc-

tion of the Johannesburg and eThekweni speed trail; the development of an aerotropolis linked to OR Tambo International Airport; and the link with Lanseria Airport.

Constitution Hill was one of the heritage sites earmarked for development. These were all part of the government's medium- and long-term programmes going in 2014.

"Our programme for 2009 to 2014 represents the building blocks of the future we seek to create," said Mokonyane. Her government had shared its vision with the province's newly elected mayors and that the forum for members of the executive committee (MECs) and members of the mayoral committees should be made responsible for ensuring that developmental projects proceeded according to plan.

The officials would regularly and collectively report to the premier's co-ordination forum and executive council. Toll tariffs

Regarding the divisive issue of toll tariffs on Gauteng freeways, Makoyane said the province had submitted a

proposal for the reduction of the tariff rates to Minister of Transport Sbu Ndebele.

She told members of the provincial legislature that the Gauteng Planning Commission would concentrate on monitoring and evaluating basic service delivery. "The focus will be on practical service delivery such as health, job creation, reduction of crime, rural development, and municipal services.

"We will look at waiting times and the availability of medicines in clinics, the availability of textbooks in schools, the turnaround times for licences and social grant applications, police response times, the quality of agricultural extension support, refuse removal and maintenance of municipal infrastructure," said Mokonyane. In another endeavour to monitor service delivery, the premier announced a system of institutional performance assessments to ensure effective management and monitoring in each provincial department.

Later in the year, a territorial review of the Gauteng City Region would be realised by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.

"The review will contribute towards the benchmarking of Gauteng against other global regions."

Members of the provincial legislature adopted and passed her budget vote.

[joburg]

ZIMBABWE: President Condemns Abuse of Youths

NEW YORK, 27 JUL - ZIMBABWE condemns any country or group of countries that use the plight of young people in weaker states to achieve their own sinister political agenda such as regime change, President Mugabe has said.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly high level meeting on youth yesterday, President Mugabe said Zimbabwe had been and continued to be a victim of the "sinister neo-colonial machinations" through illegal sanctions and constant interference in its domestic affairs.

"Such actions should stand condemned and stand condemned forever as they adversely affect development and retard in particular youth development," he said.

His statement comes barely a week after US Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Charles Ray, was stopped from addressing a clandestine youth meeting in Kwekwe.

The Head of State and Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, said Zimbabwe supported Resolutions of the AU Summit in Malabo Equatorial Guinea, the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-18) and the Ouagadougou 2004 plan of action on employment promotion and poverty alleviation for the active participation and involvement of youth in national development.

He said the resolutions recognised that youths, the largest

percentage of the population in Africa, should not be on the periphery of national programmes and mainstream economic activities.

"We need to view them as an asset rather than a liability to the socio-economic development of our nations. Indeed, it is time that the international community came up with a well conceived and properly structured international framework that has comprehensive action plans for youth development.

"The framework should fully address the real contemporary challenges facing the youth."

Commending the United Nations for holding the high level meeting on youths, President Mugabe said the youth agenda had been a priority for Zimbabwe since independence in 1980.

He said in recognition of sacrifices made by youths during the liberation struggle, Government created the youth, sport and recreation ministry and adopted a policy of education for all children to get different skills and capabilities so that they participated in the economy, social and political life of Zimbabwe. President Mugabe said this ensured that youths in Zimbabwe constantly enjoyed being part of various representative institutions and political pluralism.

"At the same time, Government established and expanded vocational skills training. The benefits of those measures, coupled with a broad educational curricu-

lum, have seen my country attain top-notch spots in education and human resources development on the continent."

He, however, said Zimbabwe still faced unemployment and under-employment challenges among youths.

"The demands of changing demographics and the current global economic condition now challenge us to employ greater innovation in addressing the needs of the youth who are unemployed and idle.

"Indeed, the entire continent of Africa faces urgent challenges as a result of the numbers of unemployed youths." He said Government in 1995 introduced the Zimbabwe Youth Council Act to give further impetus to include children and youths in national dialogue, empowerment and governance issues. The council, he said, provided a platform for harmonious working relationship between Government, the youths, private sector and civil society.

The ZYC co-ordinates programmes for junior parliament and local government structures and business forums, giving the youths vital experience in governance issues and decision making processes.

"The deliberations and decisions, which evolve from these noble initiatives directly, feed into our national youth development programmes," he said.

High school students in Zimbabwe last month successful-

ly held a model UN General Assembly debate reviewing progress Government made on MDGs.

The National Youth Service introduced in 2001 promotes a culture of peace, dialogue and mutual understanding, tolerance, equality, justice and democracy, he said.

"The objective is to instil a sense of patriotism and national identity, while empowering the youth for community and nation-building through moulding character and leadership skills."

The programme, President Mugabe said, had produced over 80 000 youths who participated and then established programmes for self-reliant livelihoods.

"More importantly, the programme has proven our Western detractors wrong in their unfounded allegations against Zimbabwe," he said. President Mugabe said Government's youth empowerment programmes have transformed young Zimbabweans into "power engines" for long term development.

"A notable example is the land reform exercise, which has provided land to the youth and youth co-operatives, enabling them to be active players in our national economic development endeavours," he said.

Government, President Mugabe said, was encouraging youths to create wealth through the indigenisation and empowerment policy that aimed to promote ownership and control of means of production by Zimbabweans.

He said Government had also established two important credit facilities, the Youth Development Fund and the Empowerment Fund that provided State-guaranteed financial assistance to support micro, small and medium enterprises. The fund schemes are implemented in partnership with local commercial banks.

"The challenge which this programme faces is that of limited resources. It is in this context that we encourage our development partners to assist us by providing additional funding in order to enable us to meet our goal of preparing our youths and also achieve the internationally agreed development goals," he said.

President Mugabe said Government envisaged an education system that incorporated youth in national development, while equipping them with appropriate industrial, trade and entrepreneurial skills.

He said youths in developing countries including Zimbabwe were talented, entrepreneurial, innovative and creative as their counterparts in the developed world.

"What they lack are resources and often skills training and entrepreneurial opportunities. As a result, developing countries have lost some of their young creative and innovative talents to the developed world in such critical areas as engineering, health, industry, commerce, law, entrepre-

neurial management.

"In this regard, we call upon the United Nations entities and other development partners to assist developing countries in providing more up-to-date scientific and technological training, which has become necessary because of the current levels of technological advancement," he said.

President Mugabe said HIV and Aids continued to be a "clear and present danger for youth development", especially in developing countries.

He said Government with assistance from partners such as the Global Fund had invested heavily in HIV and Aids prevention and treatment programmes.

He said Zimbabwe had introduced the Aids levy to broaden the financial base to fight the pandemic.

President Mugabe, however, urged the international community to increase assistance to developing countries to combat the HIV and Aids challenge.

[allafrica]

AUSTRALIA: Overhaul sought to stem youth suicides

CRANBERRA, 09 JUL - A push to include mental health in the school curriculum is one of a handful of recommendations to come out of the latest parliamentary report into youth suicide.

While Australia's suicide rate has been in decline since peaking in the late 1990s, it still claims 2000 lives a year. The Standing Committee on Health and Ageing tabled its latest inquiry into youth suicide in Parliament this week, warning more can be done to arm teachers to identify mental health issues in students and that young people in crisis require more seamless support once they leave school.

The report, *Before It's Too Late: Report on Early Inter-*

vention Programs Aimed at Preventing Youth Suicide makes 10 recommendations, including a call for suicide reporting to be overhauled. The committee has called for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to include social development education and mental health as a core component of the national curriculum in primary and secondary schools.

It said mental health education for older secondary school students needed to focus on better preparing them for moving from school into the workforce or higher education, and be aware of the full range of services available to assist them as they transitioned from child

to adult services.

Teachers on the front line in terms of identifying young people in crisis needed to receive mandatory training on mental health awareness, including specific training to develop their capacity to recognise and assess suicidal risk.

Suicide is one of the most common causes of death for young people in Australia, in 2005 accounting for about 20 per cent of all deaths of those aged between 15 and 24.

While the committee noted this figure was considerably lower than the peak youth suicide rate in 1997, where suicide accounted for 21 per cent of deaths in the ages 15 to 19 and 34 per cent of deaths in the ages 20 to 24,

suicide remained the second most common cause of death in young people.

The rate of suicide for young males is even higher than the general youth rate, and much higher than the rate of suicide in older males accounting for almost one-quarter of all deaths in males between the ages of 15 and 24. Similarly, suicide is much more common in young females than in older females.

[cranberrattimes]

LEBANON: Palestinian and Lebanese youth council tackles common issues

SIDON, 19 JUL - A newly established Palestinian-Lebanese Youth Council is set to tackle issues important to both communities through dialogue and workshops.

The youth council, which was established following four years of summer camps that brought together Palestinian and Lebanese youth in east Sidon, has scheduled a series of workshops this week to formulate the council's mission and bylaws.

Nabil Bawab, the program coordinator of the Palestinian-Lebanese Youth Council, said that the summer camps strongly contributed to boosting interaction between the Lebanese and Palestinian youths.

"The transformation of the youth summer camp into youth council is not only a change in name, but a beginning of a organization transformation that will be based on awareness and educational campaigns," Bawab told The Daily Star Monday.

According to the organizers of the council, this gathering, which they plan to hold annually, will bring together the opinions of Lebanese and Palestinian young people from diverse backgrounds.

This year, the youth council's workshops will feature discussion among participants on assessing the media's role in defending Palestinian rights and the issue of discrimination and neglect of Palestinians in Lebanon.

The third day of the gathering, Monday, the youth council continued activities in Salihiya in east Sidon which are being organized by the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Organization.

The council hosted the journalist Nadim Koteich in a dialogue session to discuss the role of the media in advocating for national and social issues and to assess its influence on the Palestinian cause.

[dailystar]

NEW ZEALAND: Focus on youth jobless crisis

WELLINGTON, 05 JUL - THE youth employment crisis in New Zealand will not be solved by lowering pay rates for young people.

It needs a nationwide programme that joins up young people, families, schools, employers, local authorities, government agencies and communities.

The promotion of a national youth-to-work strategy, in which every young New Zealander is encouraged to plan transition to employment, is a major recommendation from the Human Rights Commission in its Tracking Equality at Work report released this week.

The need for a national strategy is shown by the disturbing number of young people who are disengaged from work or study. The official statistics call them NEET, which stands for Not in Education, Employment or Training. In the 15-19 years age group almost one in 10 (9.3 percent) of males are NEET, compared with 7.6 percent of females.

Among those aged 20-24,

12.3 percent of men and 10.4 percent of women were NEET. Young Maori aged 15-24 have the highest NEET rates, at 17 percent, followed by Pacific youth at 14.5 percent and European youth at 8.2 percent.

The Department of Labour states that young people categorised as NEET are “disengaged from both formal learning and work, and as such, are considered to be missing the opportunity to develop their potential at an age that heavily influences future outcomes”.

While the NEET measure does not count young people involved in other activities that could contribute to their wellbeing, or are “in between” activities for a short period, such as OE, it is “still a particularly useful indicator of youth disengagement”.

Add the invisibility of NEET young people to the wider youth unemployment crisis amongst those aged 15-24 with an 18.8 percent unemployment rate, and the risk mounts of a lost generation who have little hope of work and a decent living.

There is broad political and social consensus in New Zealand that youth employment is a ticking time bomb. Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O’Reilly describes the record high youth unemployment rate as an “emergency” and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions states that young people want to work and upskill but there simply are not enough jobs.

The Government has announced additional trades training for Christchurch to aid recovery, more money for work and training subsidies, training and work for young people in the aged care, horticulture and agriculture sectors. But the time bomb is still ticking.

When the Human Rights Commission talked with 3000 employers, employees and job-seekers about fairness at work throughout New Zealand, youth employment and unemployment was a hot topic.

Some employers openly expressed bias against young people, knocking their atti-

tude. Others staunchly supported the creativity and technological aptitude of Generation Y (aged 18 to 30).

There are numerous youth-to-work initiatives, incubator programmes and outstanding examples of regional good practice. For example, Otorohanga’s youth employment initiatives have resulted in zero youth unemployment.

Employers are playing their part in encouraging and supporting young people with appointees to advisory groups, graduate recruitment programmes, talent management and participation in job expos. A multitude of creative and innovative practices exist to improve the employment prospects of young people.

However, many operate in isolation. Without a nationwide approach, what chance is there to share knowledge; to transfer best practice and innovation; and to know what works and what does not.

[gisborneherald]

PHILIPPINES: NYC convenes youth, stakeholders for WV youth devplan

ILOILO CITY, 06 JUL - The National Youth Commission recently convened youth groups and other stakeholders in Western Visayas for the formulation of the region's youth development plan.

NYC Visayas cluster head Rhenelyn Queen Dadulo said the WV youth development plan will be the region's input in the drafting of the Philippine Youth Development Plan for 2011-2016.

"We have already finished the conduct of the research on Filipino youth situation and we are now in the process of the formulation of the PYDP 2011-2016 as a companion document of the recently approved Philippine Development Plan 2011 - 2016," said Dadulo.

The formulation of the PYDP applies an inclusive process

and identifies key issues facing the youth; opportunities, enabling conditions and proposed strategies and policies which government, other duty bearers and other stakeholders should further create and provide; and the appropriate role and activities and activities which the youth should perform in the economy, society and local community and their families.

The PYDP Western Visayas Regional Consultation was participated in by officers and representatives of the various youth groups in the region such as the Sangguniang Kabataan, in-school youth, working youth, out of school youth and specific youth groups.

Youth focal persons of national government agencies and non-organizations and planning officers of local government units also partic-

ipated in the gathering which was held at the Regional Development Council Hall of the National Economic Development Authority 6 here in Iloilo City, July 5.

NEDA 6 Director Ro-ann Bacal lauded the effort, time and ideas of the participants which according to her will also enrich discussions that will be undertaken by NEDA in the coming months in her message during the activity.

Addressing the youth participants, Bacal said that "If there is one thing that you should be proud of is that you are now involved in the solutions of the problems."

She further urged them to think in their own little way of things that can be done to make the region, economy and the communities better.

"It might be as simple as

advocating for people to obey rules and regulations, to be responsible citizen, to be clean and orderly, and to study and to be good in class to make your parents proud of," said Bacal.

The WV Regional Consultation was the second in a series of regional consultations that will be conducted in the country, targeted to culminate by August.

"Hopefully by September, the plan will be drafted and by October we could release the first draft for the national consultation," said Dadulo. (JCM/LAF/PIA-Iloilo)

[pia]

SRI LANKA: The inaugural session of the National Youth Parliament commences promising a new era for the youth of Sri Lanka

MAHARAGAMA, 19 JUL - The inaugural session of the Sri Lanka's Youth Parliament was inaugurated on 16th of July at the Sri Lanka National Youth Services Council in Maharagama under the patronage of Parliament Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa.

The political observers said that this is a beginning of a new chapter in the socio-political environment of Sri Lanka, where the inaugural session of the National Youth Parliament, poised to change the experiences of the Sri Lankan youth was held.

Modeled after the Parliament of Sri Lanka, this is the country's first step to join several developed nations in this advanced social experiment as it joins the peoples and nations of the world in celebrating the International Year of Youth.

The youth parliament aims to develop the leadership skills of the young men and women of our country and to encourage and engage them in quality and ethical political process to effectively transform Sri Lanka.

A prominent feature of the

Youth Parliament is that it is representative of all the whole socio-political and economic strata of Sri Lanka, including a member from the physically disabled community.

The National Youth Parliament consists of a total number of 335 members, of whom 332 members each represent a different district in Sri Lanka and the 3 other members tasked with representing ethnic minorities who were appointed by the Authorized Officer and Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Mr. S.S.

Hevathirana.

All members of the parliament except the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister and the Members of the Cabinet were divided to the Governing and Opposition sides.

Once the Mace was kept on its stand, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were elected. The proceedings of youth parliament were conducted in a peaceful and cooperative manner in contrast to the national parliament showing a good sign for the

country's parliamentary future.

In a ceremony identical to that of the actual Sri Lankan parliament, the five minutes of the ringing bell signaled the young members of parliament to take their seats.

The Secretary General of the Youth Parliament accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms brought the Mace to the parliament.

The national anthem was played as all members stood in respect.

Thus came into being the National Youth Parliament of Sri Lanka, conceptualized and spearheaded by a team comprising Dr. Navaratne Rambukwella and Prof. Dhamma Dissanayake from the Department of Political Science and National Policy of the University of Colombo and Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe from the Department of Political Science of

the Open University, under the guidance of the Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Mr. Dullas Allahaperuma.

Mr. Mohamed Anees of Naramwala was chosen as the Speaker, proposed and seconded by Mohamed Shah Jahan and Chamara Sampath respectively. Lasath Dis-sanayake from Bope Poddala was chosen as the Deputy Speaker, proposed and seconded by Thamindu Chamara and Dinesh Asanka respectively.

Mr. Shihan Dhammika Jayasinha from Dodangoda in Kalutara was chosen as the Prime Minister. Ms. K. Kavithra from Kunukkai in Mullaithevu was chosen as the Deputy Prime Minister, demonstrating a truly mature attitude of the youth parliamentarians towards gender and ethnic equity.

Mr. Gayan Sameera from Kandy and Mr. Harindra Rupasinhe from Kegalle

were chosen as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Working Committee respectively.

The Chief Organiser of Government, Mr. Vimukthi Chathuranga from Weligama is also Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection. Mr. K.A.K. Senevirathne from Galenbidunuwewa in Anuradhapura was chosen as the Deputy Organiser of the Government and also the Chairman of the Planning and Implementation Committee.

The Leader of Opposition, Mr. Eranda Manoj from Wattala is also the Chairman of the Planning and Implementation Committee on Human Resource and Enterprise.

The Chief Organizer of the Opposition is Mr. A.M. Aslum Sarja from Adalchchanei in Ampara, he is also the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations.

The official term for the 1st youth parliament has been set for a limited period of 1 year due to limited membership of the Sri Lanka population in youth clubs and societies.

The official term of the youth parliament will be increased to its standard period of 3 years from election of the second parliament.

The parliament sessions would be held every 3rd Friday and Saturday of the month.

The Youth Parliament would be directly tasked with the work of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and its affiliated institutions. The ministry intends the Youth Parliament to be an independent decision making body.

{Asian Tribune}

TAIWAN: President praises youth opinion on building healthier nation

TAIPEI, 31 JUL - President Ma Ying-jeou praised Sunday the idea of promoting regular exercise among the country's citizens and said that leading government figures should set a good example of developing healthy habits.

Ma made the remarks at the National Youth Policy Forum, an annual event in which the president listens to suggestions from young people on topics such as education, the environment, transport, public security and cross-Taiwan Strait issues. The forum is held by the National Youth Commission under the Executive Yuan.

Huang Feng-tan, a student from National Chengchi University, suggested that the government should upgrade the existing Sports for All Games to a sports for all national day. The games are an annual initiative started in 2000 to promote exercise.

By making it a national sports day, the event would welcome not only athletes but everybody, according to Huang.

She joked that the organizers could replace the torch with an incense censer, which would draw attention from international media as it would represent Taiwanese culture.

Ma said he liked the idea and emphasized that not only does the Sports Affairs Council (SAC) care about the matter, the Department of Health is also concerned, as obesity can lead to cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure, both of which are major causes of death in Taiwan.

The president particularly praised Nantou Magistrate Lee Chao-ching, who leads his team on a jog every morning.

Ma expressed hope that the

SAC will try to combat laziness and encourage citizens to use the facilities provided in community sports centers and parks.

Meanwhile, Chen Hung-ying of National Pingtung University of Education said the government should take the issue of dispatch workers seriously and build a transparent employment assessment and access for workers to file complaints, as well as provide legal aid consultations.

Ma said it is impossible to completely abandon the system of dispatch workers and that the government needs to think about how to provide more protection for such workers.

In addition, nearly 75 percent of the attendees said carbon reduction should come before the elimination of the use of nuclear power.

During the nearly two-hour

discussion, the forum addressed many additional topics, including the filthy state of the restrooms in the Taiwan Railway Administration (TRA) network.

Ma immediately instructed TRA Director-General Frank Fan to take care of the restroom issue.

The president also noted that in the past two years, over 80 percent of the opinions put forward at the youth forum have been adopted or taken as reference by government agencies when forming policy.

[focustaiwan]

ENGLAND: Report praises work of Surrey Youth Justice Service

LONDON, 06 JUL - A new report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Inspection has praised the performance of the Surrey Youth Justice Service, which aims to prevent offending by children and young people, specifically those aged between 10 and 17 years old.

The county's youth justice service has won the praise of independent inspectors.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation assessed the service's work in three key areas.

These were "safeguarding" - action to protect the young person - "risk of harm to others" - action to protect the public - and "likelihood of reoffending".

In a report published by the inspectorate last week, each area was given a percentage score indicating how often they met the required quality level.

The inspectorate also indicated whether, in its opinion, each area of work required minimum, moderate, substantial or drastic improvement in the immediate future.

Overall, Surrey Youth Justice Service's "safeguarding" work was given a score of 76% with minimum improvement required.

Its "risk of harm to others" work received a score of 73% with moderate improvement required.

Its "likelihood or reoffending" work was handed a score of 83% with minimum improvement required.

Each of these scores is above the average for those services inspected to date in England and Wales.

In the report Andrew Bridges, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, wrote: "We found that Surrey Youth Justice Service had established effective working relationships with key partner agencies, making good use of these to widen the range of services available for children and young people with whom they worked.

"Keen to innovate, they had developed alternative approaches to managing Risk of Harm and vulnerability."

At times, he wrote, the in-

spectorate felt that this led to an underestimation of the degree to which the child or young person posed a risk of harm to others or to themselves.

"However, we were nonetheless impressed with the quality of their interventions and with the outcomes which they were achieving with their children and young people," Mr Bridges added.

"Overall, we consider this a creditable set of findings with moderate improvement required in work related to the assessment and planning for the management of Risk of Harm to others and only minimum improvement in all other areas."

The county's youth justice service is a partnership between Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, NHS Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust.

Its overall purpose is to prevent offending by children and young people, specifically those aged between 10 and 17 years old.

It works with young people and their families in a bid to reduce the risks associated

with offending behaviour.

Kay Hammond, the county council's cabinet member for community safety, said that the inspection results confirmed what an efficient and effective youth justice service Surrey has.

"It reveals that the work we do to protect the public and young people and reduce reoffending is done well in the vast majority of cases and that the service's performance is well above the national average," she said.

"Surrey has 60% fewer young people coming into the youth justice system than three years ago and the courts lock up less juveniles than anywhere else in the country because they know the alternatives the youth justice service partners offer in Surrey work.

"The service has also been described as being 'at the forefront of performance in the South East of England' by the national Youth Justice Board and today's endorsement reinforces that assessment."

[Elmbridge today]

FRANCE: Three French Youth Rescued From Paris Catacombs

PARIS, 29 JUL - The mystery of how three people were rescued after two days lost in the Paris catacombs has been solved -- they left notes for their rescuers as they sought an escape route. Sylvie Gautron, of the police unit that monitors the laby-

rinthine's depths, said on RTL radio Friday that the three youngsters left notes in different sites as they sought an exit.

Paris police headquarters said the three got lost in the tunnels late Monday while exploring with friends. When

they didn't return to the surface their friends alerted police, who found them safely Wednesday afternoon. The network of more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) of tunnels beneath the capital is too deep for cell phone coverage. Some of it con-

tains piles of neatly packed skeletons from centuries past, and it is largely off limits to the public.

[fox news]

GERMANY: Facing Economic Turmoil at Home, Young Spaniards Flee for Germany

BERLIN, 26 JUL - Even though she's lucky to have a job in Spain, Julia Casado Marco wonders if she should move back to Germany. The young Spaniard studied in Mannheim and worked at a wine merchant's in the southwestern Pfalz region before returning to Spain three years. Though she unexpectedly found a job in Murcia in southern Spain, she thinks the real opportunity is in Germany, where the overall economy is much stronger than in her boom-to-bust native country.

"Spain and Germany may not be that far apart geographically, but we're very different," she says. "Longer-term, I want to return to Germany." Many Spaniards have stories similar to Marco's. In Spain, even highly-qualified people are having trouble finding jobs. According to Eurostat, Spanish youth unemployment exceeds 40%, the highest on the continent. (How much worse can Europe's economic crisis get?)

So more and more Spaniards, and other university-educated young people from southern European countries, are seeking jobs abroad. And for them, Germany is a magnet.

With a shortage of qualified workers, German economists says that drawing skilled people from other countries is the key to keeping the economy on track. Germany's Federal Employment

Agency (BA) expects the number of people of working age in Germany to decrease by 6.5 million by 2025.

Germany needs 200,000 immigrants a year. By 2030, Germany expects to be have a shortfall of more than five million workers, half of them university-educated skill level. Even if the country were to succeed in increasing domestic potential, there would still be a gap that can only be filled by skilled workers from abroad.

Germany's Federal Employment Agency is thus actively wooing young potential candidates from the European countries hardest hit by the economic crisis: Spain, Greece and Portugal.

The German Chamber of Commerce has begun organizing evening informational sessions about emigration in major Spanish cities. Interested Spaniards are told that the average starting salary for an engineer in Germany is 41,000 euros. Some 80% of engineers in Germany have permanent contracts.

(In Spain, most people entering the job market are placed by temp agencies and are given six-month contracts). A career start in an engineering firm is recommended in Germany, and candidates don't necessarily have to bring German language skills with them: good English will do. (Europe's new battle: bankers vs. taxpayers) In June, 17,000 Spaniards applied via the European

Commission's job exchange program for positions in Germany. In line with that figure, a Goethe Institute spokesperson says demand for German language courses has doubled over the past year.

Germany is also drawing young applicants from Portugal, Greece, Ireland and some central European countries, but the attraction has been strongest for Spaniards after German Chancellor Angela Merkel, on a visit to Spain in February, extended an invitation to young Spaniards to come work in Germany because her country had a shortage of highly-qualified, specialized workers.

Nowadays, in some Berlin neighborhoods, what is striking is how many people can be heard speaking Spanish. Entrepreneur Manuel Wagner noticed that, and, sensing a trend, in March opened a placement agency on Spain's Costa Blanca called World Wide Working that helps prepare for the move to Germany.

"A lot of them want to grab a backpack and head north right away. In fact, a lot of them do — and come back, frustrated at not having found a job and not being able to communicate with German people," he says. Proper preparation is key, Wagner says. His agency creates a structured emigration plan for every customer after checking out their CV,

professional qualifications, language skills, and personal circumstances.

Wagner wants to expand his services worldwide, but is presently focusing on Germany because that's where 90% of his customers are going. For the time being, his agency is unique in Spain. He works closely with Eures, the EU Commission's Internet job exchange.

For two weeks now, Adrián Lozano Zaplana, 24, has been living in Schömberg, a spa in the Black Forest. Zaplana has a Spanish tourism studies degree, and recently signed a year-long contract with the 3-star Hotel Krone, where he's working in service as his German skills aren't good enough for him to man reception. He's overqualified for the work he's presently doing, but Zaplana takes it in stride.

"In Spain, tourism is seasonal. Generally, there are jobs from April to September," he says. The rest of the year, he did temp work. Whether he'll make it past his three-month trial period on this job, he doesn't yet know.

But he's rapidly improving his German skills as he shares an apartment with the hotel's German chef. It helps, he says, that there are "no other Spaniards for miles around." That may be about to change.

[times]

IRELAND: Political 'system' putting off youth

DUBLIN, 30 JUL - THE LACK of engagement in Irish politics by young people reflects the conservative nature of the system, the MacGill Summer School was told yesterday.

Speaking on the theme, 'Is Ireland a country for young men and women?', communications specialist Andrea Pappin said: "Irish politics is about making the least amount of change you can get away with."

She recalled how, in 1997, both Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair were elected as heads of government.

"In the UK, there was the devolution of powers to the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and Stormont, the creation of a directly elected mayor of London, the removal of most hereditary

peers from the House of Lords, the introduction of PR for European elections and a referendum on the voting system for Westminster elections."

By contrast, in Ireland since 1997, she said that "while we had a number of referendums, not one of them had to do with planned constitutional reforms to improve or modernise our country".

There was a need for a parliament that was more than "just an electoral college for the cabinet" and that would allow TDs to be more than constituency administrators or champions of their locality.

Economist Ronan Lyons said "Charlton's children", the generation born when Jack Charlton's tenure as Irish soccer manager was at its

height, "are perhaps the luckiest generation that Ireland has ever had".

He said they were lucky "because they are the first generation to see Ireland for what it is and pick their future accordingly: a small open economy completely dependent on its ability to sell its talent on international markets, but with plenty of opportunity for those with the right skills".

"Yes, there is lots of unemployment in Ireland. Yes, there is a lot of debt and, for the next few years, there is going to be tough budget after tough budget," he said.

"But Ireland's teenagers can sidestep all that, because they have a clean slate."

Ruairi McKiernan of national youth organisation

SpunOut.ie said: "We need a participatory democracy where we are involved much more in decision-making than once every five years stroking a pen at the ballot box.

"We need to be involved and that requires effort and responsibility from all of us and that includes true youth participation at all levels."

[irishtimes]

BAHAMAS: President of the Advisory Youth Council of the Bahamas on Crime Issue

NASSAU, 29 JUL - The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas (AYCB) is appalled by the increase amount of violence, that has contributed significantly to a total of 81 murders. The current challenge we encounter against crime reflects our inability as country to reconcile with one another, and to end our altercations in respectful manner. We strongly condemn all acts of violence particularly those incited by gang retaliation. The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas denounces any notion of satisfaction and will not tolerate the semblance of criminals annihilating criminals. Any individual who has no regard for human life, deserve the full extent of the law.

The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas doesn't blame the government for the current crime problem our country is experiencing, but there is a leadership failure on behalf of the current administration on this issue. There is a continuous erosion of the youth confidence in the government ability to provide a concise plan to address the issue of crime. As citizens of this country

we ought to fulfill our personal obligations, as each citizen share a vital role of ensuring safety of our nation. The law enforcement agency along with social service ought to hold parents accountable. Fail parenthood is unacceptable and as a result it is contributing to current crime issue.

The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas strongly expressed their support for the continued efforts of The Royal Bahamas Police Force to help meet security needs of the entire population of our country. They are custodians of our nation's security, and we are gracious for their continuous service to this country. We rely heavily on law enforcement to keep our communities safe, we understand the new challenges they encounter with high powered weapons. The men and woman of the Royal Bahamas Police Force has continuously place their lives on the line to defend ours in a selfless act heroism. In return of our safety they pay the price of bravery which may result in casualties. The RBPF deserve the full confidence of this nation as they remain vigilant while con-

ducting their duties with a sense of urgency to capture quickly those who seek to do harm. We must continue to have faith, not only in government and the law enforcement itself but in our abilities as citizens to shape our society.

Our very way of life is threatened and we will not tolerate any individual who seek carry out any act of violence. The strength of our people will prevail, the symptoms of this crisis will unite us as country beyond political affiliation. The prayers of this nation will summon through our religious faith. We call on the religious leaders of this country to go beyond the pinnacles of their churches, and rather build a strong foundation in the communities and strengthen our families. The AYCB will continue its commitment in representing youth as we travel the country to seek opinions. It is of paramount importance for the government to listen to the voices of the people. To develop a national agenda, so we the people of this country can act together.

From our own experiences,

we know that nothing can take away the grief of those affected by tragedy. For each murder committed we squander a valuable contribution to the future of our country. We offer our sustained compassion and our generosity, and our assurance that The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas will be there to help. We pray for the family of victims affected by crime and we stand firmly with them as they recover. Many families are filled with shock and tragedy, as they recover from the wounds that will never be healed.

The Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas offers its full resources to government and the Royal Bahama Police Force as it reaffirms its commitment in the fight against crime. As an organization we will try our best, but the challenge cannot be met alone. Let your voice be heard. Let us join hands in prayer with God's strength and for the sake our nation.

[the Bahamas weekly]

CAYMAN ISLANDS: Free vo-tech skills are offered

GEROGE TOWN, 04 JUL - A proactive approach on the part of one local business, merged with the effort from a few determined youths, has inspired a promising auto-mechanics training initiative. Superior Auto owners Mark and Denise DeMercado committed to the venture some years ago.

"Somebody needed to reach out and help our young people, especially those unable to attend school overseas," said Mr. DeMercado. The end results were reviewed by National Youth Commission members when they visited the training site earlier this month.

It was last September that the couple opened the Superior Auto Training Programme at their full-service garage. Their formula for a small automotive trade school was simple: Provide free training - accredited by the Jamaican German Automotive School to interested youth.

Volunteers, staff members and the DeMarcados conduct classes 8am to 3pm each weekday and there is a balance between classroom and hands-on learning.

Six young men enrolled last year, but the number dwindled to three dedicated students, Christopher Jackson, Leandro Ebanks and Giovanni Ordonez. They were

joined this month by Jessica Dixon. She will continue in September.

"You have to learn in order to earn," master mechanic Mark advised the recruits. "And you can do that by working hard and proving yourselves."

Explaining why he and his wife had started the project, Mr. DeMercado said he had benefited from a similar initiative in Jamaica. He too received his certification from the Jamaican German Automotive School, an institution that has produced hundreds of professionals and mechanics.

As in Jamaica, the Cayman syllabus includes mandatory core subjects - maths, English, technical drawing, science and physics. All must be passed before students can be certified.

As an independent commission, the NYC monitors and advises on the statistics of young people and advocates for developing positive solutions to their needs.

"I look forward to the day when I can have my car serviced by one of these ambitious young mechanics," said NYC Chairperson Jenny Manderson.

She was accompanied by Senior Policy Advisor Joel Francis of the Ministry of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture; Head of

the Youth Services Unit Katherine Whittaker; National Drug Council Executive Director Joan West-Dacres and others.

Congratulating all involved, Ms Manderson added, "I commend the DeMercado's initiative and laud the sponsors who make this training possible. The participants and their parents should certainly feel proud to be involved."

"I urge more enterprises to step forward to craft public and private sector partnerships in areas that can provide training opportunities and recognised tech-voc qualifications."

During their tour, visitors learned that Superior Auto aims to develop a pool of local mechanics, but that with this in mind, the initial group of students still has a way to go before they can be assessed as being technically competent.

They must first pass 30 JAGAS classes with minimum scores of 70 per cent, in order to become level-one mechanic helpers. After that, they must serve as apprentices for three full years while gaining level three certification, with which they can work in a leadership capacity.

The Cayman programme however, does not have an accelerated component, and

covers only levels one and two simultaneously, as explained by volunteer coordinator Levi Allen - a staffer of Superior Autos.

"Those with sufficient aptitude can come out with a level-two qualification by next year," he said, adding that others will at least have acquired basic competency. While the ultimate goal is long term success, some more immediate rewards may also occur. For example the DeMercados will keep one of the first trainees on-staff after the level-one training is completed this summer.

In the coming school year the Superior Auto programme will accommodate 10 students. Twice that number have applied to attend. During the initial year, the DeMercados did receive some help for the youths to sit JAGAS examinations in Jamaica. Rotary Sunrise sponsored the June trip to Jamaica. Additionally, PriceWaterHouseCoopers has already contributed toward the summer exams. More help is needed however, for the not-for-profit training programme.

[compass cayman]

JAMAICA: Gov't Facilitating Youth Enterprise

KINGSTON, 28 JUL - The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, is seeking to facilitate youth entrepreneurship as an avenue through which young people can achieve sustainable livelihoods by developing and operating their own busi-

nesses. Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry, Senator Warren Newby, informed that this will be done through a national youth entrepreneurship strategy being developed.

"This strategy seeks to create

a culture that is reflective of sound entrepreneurial values, attitudes, and a code of ethics, which enables young entrepreneurs to optimise their fullest entrepreneurial potential through facilitating, encouraging and nurturing entrepreneurial ideals," he informed.

He was speaking at a seminar organised by the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Jamaica (YEA) on Tuesday (July 26) at the National Council for Voluntary Services on Camp Road, Kingston.

According to Senator Newby, in developing the entrepreneurial spirit, enterprise has to be cultivated in the minds of the nation's youth, while financial literacy has to be taught so they can appreciate risk, thrift, innovation, inventiveness and competition.

"These are the values and attitudes that are necessary...these values have to be mainstreamed into our curriculum and encouraged at the primary and secondary levels of our education system," he argued.

He informed that the Minis-

try has sought partnership with state and non-governmental organisations, to provide business planning support, mentorship and venture capital financing for youth entrepreneurs and is seeking to build youth business incubators to allow for the development of best practices while promoting corporative and collaborative growth.

"If we are able to achieve these, we will be well prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that exists on the Junior Stock Exchange, launched in 2009, and has market capitalisation of \$14.9 billion, reigning in

some \$1.9 billion in capital for the companies that are listed. This vehicle is allowing for participation of the masses in wealth creation and for medium sized enterprises to expand in a sustainable way," Senator Newby stated.

In his remarks, President, YEA, Samuel Coates, said the country is headed in the right direction in terms of policies relating to entrepreneurship and creating wealth.

The YEA was formed in 2005 under the auspices of the Jamaica Employers' Fed-

eration (JEF) with a mandate to support young people in business.

The non-profit organisation targets business owners 45 years and under, providing them with opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and take advantage of peer mentorship as they grow their businesses

[jis].

USA: Montgomery looks to impose youth curfew

ALABAMA, 07 JUL - The Montgomery County Council is weighing a year-round curfew on all youth under the age of 18 in an effort to clamp down on juvenile crime and gang activity.

The bill, proposed by County Executive Ike Leggett, would be the first curfew imposed in the county and would prohibit youths from being in any public place from midnight to 5 a.m. on weekend nights and from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday nights.

Leggett said the law is an effort to be proactive against youth crime, although overall crime is down in Montgomery County, dropping 7.5 percent in 2010.

"I don't want to wait until we have large incidents and problems and challenges," he said.

Both the District of Columbia and Prince George's

County have instituted similar curfews in recent years, which Montgomery County officials blamed for teenagers pouring over the border at night.

Montgomery County has become "the easy place to go," said Councilman Marc Elrich, D-at large, who sits on the council's public safety committee.

Leggett called the large numbers of youth coming to Montgomery "unacceptable."

Assistant Police Chief Wayne German said the measure is intended to address an increase in gang activity.

Gang activity is one element of the crime county officials want to prevent, said Leggett, but "young people commit crimes of all magnitude."

The measure would fine parents who allow their children to violate the law, as

well as business owners who allow youth to congregate in their business after curfew. Youth who violate the curfew could face community service requirements, fines or even incarceration, Leggett said.

"The question as to whether or not it's a felony or a misdemeanor ... we are still evaluating," he said, adding that the goal is to deter youth, rather than arrest them en masse.

The law allows a number of exceptions, permitting minors to be out past curfew if they are with a parent, at work, attending a school-related function or dealing with an emergency, among other things. Police must ask youth their reason for being out past curfew is before taking them into custody.

Councilman Phil Andrews, D-Gaithersburg/Rockville, the head of the council's public safety committee, said

the law would present a "major change" for Montgomery County.

Dave Moss, National Youth Rights Association director of development and operations, said curfews are "misguided decisions driven out of fear" that don't prevent crime.

Moss pointed to New York, where there is no youth curfew but youth crime has decreased.

"We really need to know more than we know," Elrich said.

A public hearing is set for July 26, with the bill scheduled for committee Sept. 15. The council will vote on the bill after that.

If it passes, it would take effect immediately.

[washingtonexaminer]

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.



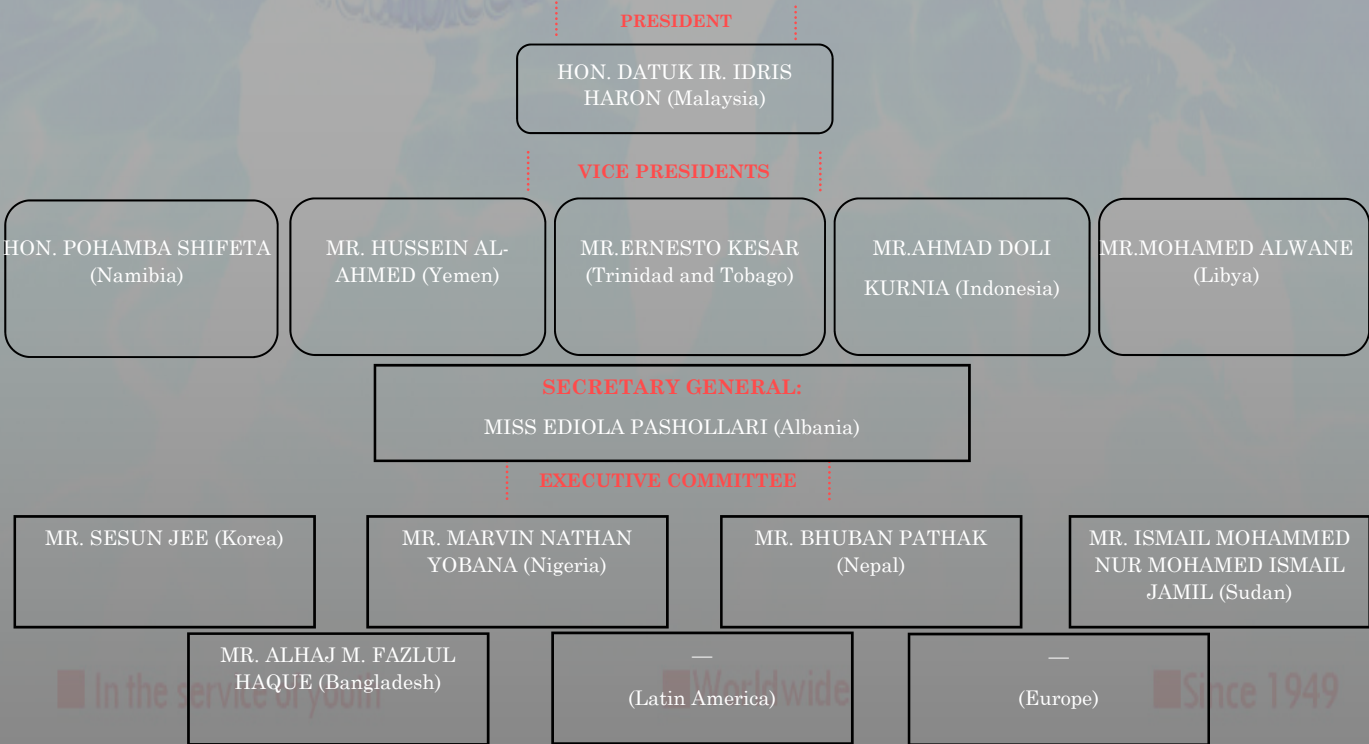
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World Assembly of Youth Organization Chart



In the Service of Youth Since 1949