

YOUTH BULLETIN

June 2011

Bringing Youth News From Around The World

News By Continent

- [Africa](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Americas](#)
- [Info](#)

In this Bulletin:

ANGOLA: World Federation of Democratic Youth's contribution highlighted

GAMBIA: Youths urged to refrain from crime

GHANA: Ghana to study Youth Employment programmes in Latin America

KENYA: Young people must inhabit digital world

NIGERIA: Children's Parliament – Giving Children Voice

SOUTH AFRICA: ANCYL has forgotten its principles

SWAZILAND: Minister stops US funded programme

AFGHANISTAN: Youth Should Honor National, Islamic Culture: Raheen

FIJI: Media Watch collaborates with State

MALAYSIA: Make proper study before implementing youth parliament, ministry told

NEPAL: Interaction on youth policy and programme

NEW ZEALAND: Govt to consider report on Maori Youth

SOLOMON ISLANDS: 'Urban Youth in the Pacific' Launched: More Work and less Talk for Pacific Youth Needed

SRI LANKA: Hundreds of Youth Services officers recruited soon

ENGLAND: Youth film makes the case for protecting transport budgets

IRELAND: Donegal woman appointed new head of Arts Council

CANADA: Rebirth of Tory youth wing up for debate Young Tories

JAMAICA: New youth policy in the works

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 22nd International Youth Forum

USA: Cyberbullying Targeted by Senate

UPCOMING EVENTS—APRIL-JUNE

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
17-24 AUG 2011	22nd International Youth Forum - Technological Advancement and Future Society	Seoul, Korea	National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea	Facebook Page	

ANGOLA: World Federation of Democratic Youth's contribution highlighted

LUANDA, 06 JUN – The secretary of Politburo for economic and social matters of the ruling MPLA party, Manuel Nunes Júnior, highlighted on Sunday in Luanda the contribution of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) to the independence and affirmation of the peoples, as well as the youths' political and academic training in the continent.

Manuel Nunes Júnior said so to Angop while addressing the opening solemn ceremony of the Regional African Commission of the World

Federation of Democratic Youth, which took place for the first time in Angola.

According to him, WFDY contributed a lot to the academic and political training of youths, enabling the development of the continent.

Finalmente, asseverou que o crescimento económico para a África deve assentar-se na elevação e capitalização das ideias e do conhecimento.

The participants in the meet-

ing analysed the internal issues of the African regional commission, regarding the need of adopting a new dynamic to its organisation and function.

Founded in 1945, WFDY is a left-wing youth organization, recognised by the United Nations as an international youth non-governmental organization and it describes itself as an "anti-imperialist.

The regional African commission of World Federation of Democratic Youth was

attended by delegates of member countries such as Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Zambia, DRC, Sudan and Mozambique.

The event was attended by members of the Politburo of the MPLA central committee, minister of foreign affairs, Georges Chicoty and representatives of the national secretariat of the ruling party's women wing (OMA), among other entities.

[Angola Press]

GAMBIA: Youths urged to refrain from crime

BANJUL, 02 Jun - The Gambia has been credited by the international community for maintaining an enviable track record on the maintenance of peace and tranquility in Africa. But this enviable record in a continent that is beset by conflict and crisis is increasingly being dealt a blow by some unscrupulous Gambians and non-Gambians who engage themselves in obnoxious and nefarious activities to sabotage this tremendous achievement of the country. It is against this backdrop that youths who constitute the bulk of the population and are the muscle of the country's future are implored to desist from crime and other menaces that would do no good to them but instead degrade their reputation and bring the peace the country has been enjoying for years into jeopardy.

Of recent, in The Gambia, hardly a day passes without a youth being accused of one crime or another or other related vices ranging from murder, drug peddling amongst others. Most of

these youths attribute their intolerable actions to unemployment. The government of The Gambia has established many enterprises where youths can venture in to fend for themselves thus keeping body and soul together. These enterprises include GAMJOBS, NEDII, and the National Youth Services Scheme (NYSS) where an array of employment opportunities are created for the youths but some of the youths fail to take the opportunity presented by these avenues created by the central government and opt to venture into activities that would put them into trouble and thus become enemies of the society.

Speaking in an interview with TODAY Newspaper, respondents who are mainly youths said that the fight against crime and its related vices need the concerted efforts of all and sundry. They welcomed the recent capacity building programme organized by the Youth Crime Watch, The Gambia which was aimed at equip-

ping youths with the requisite knowledge to curb crime and contribute their quota towards the development of The Gambia. They noted that this would go a long way to help the authorities in their fight against crime and also the youths through the information the participants gained from their colleagues who attended the weeklong training exercise. Ebrima Njie, a resident of Serekunda recalled that in the past decade crime in the country was at low ebb which he said was due to the fact that members of the community were vigilant in their ardent quest to report any crime to the relevant authorities.

He called on youths who are affected as victims as well as proxy perpetrators of drug peddling, child abuse and murder to take a hard look at themselves as part of re-assessment and re-orientation in order to eradicate these social menaces in favour of their social cum cultural development thereby becoming fruitful and respected in society and in the nation as a

whole.

"I will also call on the communities to go back to the olden days when the community was as vigilant as ever in monitoring and reporting serious cases to the authorities concerned. In those days cases were mostly reported to the chiefs but we have a preponderance of police stations around. The communities should also sit and discuss with stakeholders about youthful vices in order to inform policy makers on issues revolving around the youth folk."

He said that the culture of silence which has now become the norm has derailed efforts to curb crime.

"People are now setting a bad precedent when they compromise with some of these murders by bringing family relationship into play which amount to criminals going free without being prosecuted by a court of law, this is not helping. They should allow the law to take its course on them so that they would know what it takes to end the life of a fellow being," he said, adding that it baffles

him when he sees such 'unacceptable scenarios'. He also commended the police force through the Interior Ministry for what he described as a 'tremendous job' in tackling crime in the country head-on.

Also speaking, Musa Tamba pointed out that the Ministry of Youths and Sport, the National Youth Council and other youth related institutions should not relent in their efforts to eradicate the

menace. He suggested that they should organize outreach programmes where issues of great concern affecting youth would be discussed. "I think some of these youths who venture in such acts are ignorant of their rights and roles as youths. They need to be sensitized by the authorities so that they can be aware of the big responsibilities that hang on their shoulders," he said, noting that some have as-

sumed their roles but others are running away from the grim reality.

Ousman Sanneh said that youths should venture into skill work which is already there for them to explore. He urged the youths not to falter in their efforts towards national development. "We as citizens owe our country a great deal of debt and the only way we can pay off this is to contribute positively rather than negatively to-

wards national development," he said. He described the increasing crime rate in the country as 'alarming' and noted that efforts should be made to contain it in order to live in a peaceful and prosperous country where everyone can realize his/her potentials. He implored on youths to desist from such crimes and assume leadership poles.

[today]

GHANA: Ghana to study Youth Employment programmes in Latin America

ACCRA, 15 JUN - As part of the South-South Initiative launched by World Bank Group President Zoellick in 2008, a high-level delegation from Ghana which included the Ministry of Local Government and Development, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training participated in a two week study tour to Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica in May.

The objective was to learn more about the design, execution, and evaluation of social protection programs and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and to share experiences from various programmes in Ghana.

The exchange focused on active labor market policies and youth employment initiatives targeted at less-educated youth—a group that faces considerable barriers to labor market success in both LAC and Africa. The Ghana delegation also examined

major instruments of social assistance in LAC including conditional cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households.

The delegation directly observed the functioning of a number of World Bank-financed programmes. They visited a health center in Bolivia where a nation-wide programme provides cash transfers to pregnant women on condition they attend regular prenatal and postnatal checkups; took a guided tour through the Dominican Republic's INFOTEP training institute where poor youth are taught technical and cognitive skills for an array of professions; and went to a youth information center in one of Jamaica's poorest parishes where adolescents freely discuss and access information on issues concerning them and their communities.

These and other activities provided a unique opportunity to learn from the region's success and export some lessons and instruments to Ghana and beyond.

Host countries acquired knowledge from the Ghana's National Youth Employment Program (NYEP), introduced in 2006 to address the growing number of poor youth entering the labor force each year and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme (LEAP), which seeks to stimulate consumption, employment, and human capital amongst extremely poor and vulnerable people in Ghana.

The objective of the South-South Initiative is to provide a simple, low-cost way for policy makers and development practitioners in developing countries to share their knowledge and expertise in overcoming poverty. Financing of this exchange was made possible by the institutional strengthening component of the Ghana Social Opportunities project, a US\$ 88 million operation aimed at improving social spending and providing income-generating opportunities for the poor.

Mission delegates will disseminate findings and recommendations emerging from this exchange to a broader audience in Ghana and lessons learned will be applied to the national context in an endeavor to improve the country's youth employment and social protection strategies.

[Myjoyonline.com/Ghana]

KENYA: Young people must inhabit digital world

NAIROBI, 05 Jun - In recent days, there has been a flurry of activities meant to benefit youth, most likely informed by a realisation that their continued marginalisation bodes ill for the country. The activities have involved financial inducements and a promise to allow them to participate in the political system through a National Youth Council. Only time will tell how effective these will be in either containing a restless youth or making meaningful genera-

tional change. While the youth may be justified in feeling let down by their elders, they must refuse to become a generation of whiners and resolve to move this country into the next level of development. They must be thankful that, by and large, the country has given them a relatively good education, which is why most are able to participate in the digital world. The digital or e-world is the biggest thing to happen after the green and industrial revo-

lutions, and Kenya must not be left behind. So far, the response to the digital age has been disappointing, mainly restricted to idle chatter, pornography and other non-economic activities. A fortnight ago, Information Permanent Secretary Bitange Ndemo, challenged the private sector to turn the digital capacity into opportunities. With their education and the available digital infrastructure, there is no reason why young people cannot change

how business is done in this part of the world. They can for example create digital teaching materials, the e-extension worker, local cartoon networks and become e-celebrities. There are many financiers out there waiting for the next big idea. The opportunities are innumerable if only youth opted to think outside the box.

[nation]

NIGERIA: Children's Parliament - Giving Children Voice

ABUJA, 03 Jun - Children, it is often said, are the leaders of tomorrow and providing a platform which gives them a voice and participatory roles in national development prepares them for the future.

The establishment of the National Children's Parliament has been described as a landmark achievement in the effort to inculcate in Nigerian children the value of dialogue and collective participation that would equip them for leadership roles.

It has become a flagship institutional platform for the promotion of child participation in Nigeria and continually encourages country's policy and decision makers to look upon children as partners and recognize the particular role they play. The children themselves echoed this in a resolution they drafted on 15-17th August 2005 titled "A New Dawn has Come" signed by the then Senate President and Speaker of the 3rd Nigerian Children's Parliament, Senator Ibrahim Adamu and Hon. Chinenye Nwaneri which states: "It is obvious that the

participation of children is the most effective tool for development. The time for silence is over; our voices are strong and determined." Studies have shown that children are resourceful citizens capable of helping to influence their environment and reshape the world. According to the UNICEF Nigeria site, "increased participation of children in issues affecting their lives can have positive and far-reaching effects on their health and socio-economic conditions. When children participate in decision making, they tend to be more creative, positive and energetic, offering ideas devoid of prejudices and stereotypes." The ANPPCAN Child Rights Monitoring Centre periodic report for Nigeria said African societies place great value on age and status. "The African child is reared so as not to question the wisdom of parents, but to maintain a lifelong obedience to the authority that age confers. There is generally a hierarchical social order with the eldest at the top and children

at the bottom. The famous adage that a child should be seen and not heard sums up how many people then regard the idea of children's participation. Senator Esther Afolayan the present Senate president of the Nigerian children's parliament had at a Special sitting of the National Children's Parliament as part of activities marking Nigeria's 50th independence anniversary said, "50 years ago it would have been a taboo for the Nigerian child to talk on issues of national interest as he or she will be answered back with 'who gave you the right to talk?' But today the Nigerian Parliament has given the children opportunity to stand and fight for themselves. The National Children Parliament provides a good environment for the rights of the Nigerian child." Now, things have changed. The days when children were marginalized by the society and treated anyhow on the thinking that adults would speak for them are over. Nigerian Children are now involved in various activities at local, state as well as at the

national and international levels. The children parliament has provided a good avenue for children to ventilate their ideas and contribute meaningfully to policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. According to the National Speaker of the Nigerian Children's Parliament, Honourable Emmanuel Attah, "In the time past the fate of the Nigerian child was known to be hard and pathetic, and his rights were violated and trampled upon, but with the introduction of the Nigerian Children's Parliament for the Nigerian child to voice out some of his challenges and problems, to a very large extent it has helped in lobbying most politicians towards the plight of the Nigerian child especially the Executive arm, the policy makers and various stakeholders on children issues. We have also had sessions with Mr President where we intimated him of some of the problems Nigerian children are facing." He said they also have access to the Senate President and Speaker of the National Assembly (that is the main one)

who looked at their resolutions in the children's parliament to see how they can help out with the problems children face and come up with policies that will benefit them.

The National Children's Parliament consists of the upper house which is the Senate headed by the Senate President and the lower house which is the House of Representatives headed by a Speaker. Both houses consist of 37 members each with each state in Nigeria and the FCT being represented by one child. The Senate president presides over any joint meeting of the Nigerian Children's Parliament; otherwise both Houses sit separately in separate chambers. Some important posts in the Parliament include those of the Speaker and Senate president, Deputy Senate President, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whips of both houses, Clerks of both houses, Majority Leaders of both houses, Minority Leader, Chairmen of the various relevant committees and the Sergeant at Arms.

The Mace stands as the symbol of authority in the Assembly. The children's parliament also has state chapters all over the country. The same modality employed by the national assembly is what is obtainable in the children parliament in sittings and sessions.

President Goodluck Jonathan recently described the National Children's Parliament as the next most important institution of promoting national unity coming next to the National Youth Service Corps Scheme and the Unity Schools, most especially in view of the mix of its members and national spread.

The president who was represented by the former Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Iyom Jose-

phine Anenih at the special sitting of the National Children's Parliament held on Thursday May 26, as part of events for the 2011 Presidential Inauguration ceremonies in Abuja said: "From the presentation of members of the NCP today, I am assured that Nigeria has a great future. All we need to do now is to ensure that the rights of our children to protection and participation are guaranteed, as well as provide the right atmosphere of peace and security for them to grow into dynamic and focused leaders of tomorrow."

It is in recognition of the importance of children's participation and protection of their rights that in 1989, the United Nations Organization adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(CRC). A World Summit for children was also held in 1990. Nigeria ratified the convention in 1991, and by the end of year 2000, 191 countries have ratified the convention.

The four fundamental principles of the convention are: Non-Discrimination, Best interest of the child, Life Survival and development of the child participation.

Article 12 of the CRC among other provisions states that children have the right to participate in decision-making process that may be relevant to their lives and to influence decisions taken in this regard - within the family, the school or the community. Article 13 states that the child has the right to express his or her view, obtain information and make ideas or information known.

President Jonathan also said that as a practical approach to implementing Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides for children to participate in decision making processes,

the Nigerian Government established the National Children's Parliament in 2000.

He said previous deliberations by the Parliament have further demonstrated the importance of involving children not only in decision making on matters that affect them but also in the implementation of programmes, particularly those that affect and impact on their rights, well being and survival.

Former Minister, Iyom Josephine Anenih said it is to institutionalize the International Conventions practice of treating children as individuals with guaranteed rights that the Child Rights Act is being adopted by states in the Nigerian Federation added to the establishment of the National children's Parliament.

The Nigerian Children Parliament which became officially inaugurated in 2003 has made its mark in national and international forum.

The parliament has been very active in advocating for children's rights. The children parliament played active role in advocacy for the passage of the child's rights bill into law. There is also an increased participation of children in the media and their opinion at the public domain is now sought and publicized to give them some measure of participation and responsibility.

According to Senator Esther Afolayan "one of the major achievements of the Nigerian Children parliament since inception was advocating for the passage of Child Rights Act in Nigeria and so far over 25 states in the country have passed it into law with more advocacy going on for its passage in the remaining states."

She said they are working tirelessly with the Nigerian Child Rights implementation committee to ensure the im-

plementation of the Child Rights Act as it does not just end in passage of the law and as such they have paid visits to state governors, traditional rulers and other stake holders and also held street walks on the protection of the rights of the child.

They have also worked for the interest and protection of the rights of orphans and vulnerable children, she said. She said members of the children parliament in the Northern part of the country have also been playing major advocacy roles in the issue of Almajiranci and have paid visits to emirs and other stakeholders to see how they can help out in the protection of the rights of the child.

The Speaker, Hon. Attah said the children's parliament has made it possible for them to meet the Senate President and Speaker of the National Assembly with their resolutions and deliberate on how the senior chamber can help towards some of the problems and come up with policies that will benefit children. He said he is proud of the fact that the Nigerian Children Parliament has contributed to the implementation of Universal Basic Education (UBE) in the country. "We advocated for free primary education and that is why the government came up with UBE which has to do with free education for Nigerian children." He said.

Senator Afolayan said the challenges of the parliament include paucity of funds. "We have dreams for the Nigerian child but don't have enough funds. It will help the parliament more if there can be allocation specifically for children in the budget. It will also be good if children can have their own separate ministry, and we also call on state governors to be more involved in the activities of the children parliament in

their various states. In its eight points resolution endorsed by the parliament's Senate President, Senator Afolayan, the Speaker, Hon. Attah, the Clerks of the Senate and House, Michael Jato and Nonye Jenoba respec-

tively, the NCP at its recent special sitting for the presidential inauguration ceremony called for the strengthening and adequate funding of the Child Rights Implementation Committee and similar institutions across the coun-

try to ensure their functionality among other resolutions.

[allafrica]

SOUTH AFRICA: ANCYL has forgotten its principles

CAPETOWN, 10 Jun - NATIONAL youth structures cannot be trusted to ensure the needs of the youth in the Western Cape are addressed, members of the provincial legislature have heard.

Speaking during a Youth Day debate yesterday, DA MPL Jenny Hartnick applauded the launch of the Provincial Skills Development Forum, saying it was "the light at the end of the tunnel" for many unemployed youth.

She said there were many frustrated youth who needed a boost through a skills development course.

"Our national youth structures cannot be trusted," said Hartnick.

"We need something more, like the Skills Development Forum to ensure the needs of our youth are served."

But Cope's Tozamo Bevu said the success of the forum remained to be seen.

"We hear it is a demand-led project, but hope that the disadvantaged will also be developed and skilled," she said.

"This programme needs to focus especially on the disadvantaged communities."

Newly appointed Social Development MEC Albert Fritz took a swipe at ANC Youth League president Julius Malema, saying the 1944 league and its principles had been forgotten by the youth league leaders of today.

"The youth league of 1944 had integrity and political maturity," said Fritz.

"Sadly, today our youth are not tasting the freedom, more than 16 years after democracy. We are doing our best to stop drug abuse, crime and gangsterism."

He said the SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca) would open a new treatment centre in Durbanville later

this month, and 500 young people would be trained at Chrysalis, one of the leading youth development organisations in South Africa, during this year.

"We are serious about developing our youth," said Fritz.

ANC MPL Chris Stali said Youth Day (June 16) should not just be a public holiday.

"Young people must participate."

The ANC MPL and youth affairs spokeswoman, Millicent Tingwe, accused the DA of "continuing to undermine the national youth service and agencies".

She urged Premier Helen Zille to address the needs of the province's youth, especially those in rural areas.

"It is clear that the DA will never take young people seriously in this province," said Tingwe.

The Western Cape provincial government this week announced a plan to address the province's skills shortage, especially among the youth, and its future skills demand.

"This will especially benefit unemployed and unskilled young people," said Zille.

She added that an estimated 75 percent of job losses during the recession were by people younger than 35.

"The Premier's Council on Skills will be formed to determine which sectors are growing, which skills are needed and how to align it to our programme to maximise the potential of young people."

[Caper Argus]

SWAZILAND: Minister stops US funded programme

SWAZILAND, 11 Jun -

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Hlobisile Ndlovu has halted the implementation of the 'Know Your Constitution Challenge' civic education programme.

The programme, which was being pioneered by Swaziland National Youth Council, with the Elections and Boundaries Commission through funding from the United States Embassy in Mbabane, has been stopped following concerns from some members of parliament and cabinet. However, the minister said it had been halted because not all the government procedures were followed when it was initiated.

knowledge

The MPs, it is alleged, argued that it would be

folly to educate the youth within their constituencies on the election process without their knowledge. Sources close to the matter also alleged some MPs did not want the programme implemented because they felt threatened and feared the youth chairpersons, who were being trained, would make them have it hard winning the hearts of the electorate during the 2013 National Elections.

Ndlovu said she had not stopped the programme, but had advised that it should be implemented after cabinet's approval. The recommendation from the minister is despite the fact that the programme had already been partly implemented by government structures like the

EBC and SNYC.

expected

In the last two weeks, all youth chairpersons were educated on elections processes by the EBC, and it was expected officials from the SNYC would be visiting all 55 tinkhundla centres for more lessons. US Ambassador Earl Irving and officials from the EBC were expected to visit Lobamba Inkhundla on Friday.

"I have not stopped the project, but rather informed the SNYC and other organisers that before any implementation process Cabinet should have approved.

"Actually, even parliament and tinkhundla leaders need to be briefed prior to avoid the initiative from being clouded with contro-

versy," said Ndlovu.

Further, she said she was not aware of the dates when the programme would be implemented. The SNYC CEO Maxwell Jele confirmed the programme had been shelved. He said they would abide by all orders issued by the ministry by virtue of being under their control.

"The activity has been postponed with immediate effect following an order from the ministry and I would like to unreservedly apologise to all youth chairpersons expecting us today," said Jele.

[observer]

AFGHANISTAN: Youth Should Honor National, Islamic Culture: Raheen

KABUL, 17 Jun - Saturday, June 18, 2011 Kabul (BIA) The first gathering of Kabul youth high council was opened with a speech of Dr. Sayed Makhdom Raheen Minister of Information and Culture with the participation of members of parliament, Kabul Mayor, scientific and cultural figures, foreign and domestic guests and members of high youth council of Kabul province.

The first gathering of Kabul youth high council was opened with a speech of Dr. Sayed Makhdom Raheen Minister of Information and

Culture with the participation of members of parliament, Kabul Mayor, scientific and cultural figures, foreign and domestic guests and members of high youth council of Kabul province. Addressing the gathering Dr. Raheen said that the high council of youth was established so you can have your saying and retain your right of participation and decision-making about the future of the country and achieve your responsibilities before the society. He added that we all especially the youth, should honor their national and Islamic culture that has its special place in

creation of human civil culture. You should not only feel shy before the foreign culture but honor your own national and Islamic culture. Kabul Mayor Eng. Nawandish promised preparing better ground for creation of youth in terms of building recreational parks for the youth. He called role of youth as positive in cooperation with the Kabul Municipality and praised their cooperation. Meanwhile the ISAF reconstruction representative pledged its cooperation with the Information and Culture, Education and Public Health Ministries. Temur Shah

Ishaqzai deputy minister for youth affairs of the ministry informed the gathering on the plans of the ministry and expressed his support to the youth. Other speakers included Mohammad Sedeeq Afghan head of the world mathematics research center, Shenkai Karukhail and Hajji Mohammad Daoud Kalakani people's representatives to the parliament. At the end Khatera Assadi, Meena Saffi and Hashimi representing different youth foundations talked on the youth role.

[bakhtar news]

Fiji: Media Watch collaborates with State

SUVA, 08 Jun - YOUTH concerns always take a back seat to other issues, according to National Youth Council of Fiji chairman Usaia Cirikiwai.

He made the comment on Monday at the signing of a memorandum of understanding of the Youth Media Monitoring Project 2011 between the Department of Youth and Sports and Fiji Media Watch.

FMW chief executive officer Agatha Ferei, eight volunteers will begin training this week and to research youth issues in the mainstream media.

"Like the Department of Youth, FMW wishes to also promote and advocate for the effective coverage of youth and related youth development issues," she said.

"The monitoring activity will include radio, print, TV and the online media."

Ms Ferei said the project findings would advocate for effective reporting of youth and related development issues.

Director for Youth and Sports Makereta Sauturaga said the signing was a culmination of months of discus-

sions with FMW and also supported the Dialogue and Mutual Understanding theme of International Year of Youth 2011.

"The theme as you may appreciate points to and encourages the effective participation of young people in decision-making," said Mrs Sauturaga.

[fjitemes]

MALAYSIA: Make proper study before implementing youth parliament, ministry told

KUCHING, 11 Jun -

The Sports and Youth Ministry must do a thorough study on the justification to form a youth parliament in order to meet its objective of being a platform for youth to debate on issues affecting them and the country. Saberkas Kuching branch exco member Abang Abdul

Aziz Abang Drauf pointed out that it certainly would incur huge cost to organise it. "The money could be used for other purposes which are related to youth such as in organising activities for them. "Moreover, there are many non-governmental organisa-

tions (NGOs) which provide the youth the necessary platform for them to express their views on matters important to them," he said when contacted recently. He cited Malaysia Youth Council (MYC) as one of the NGOs still regarded by many youths as relevant to them

despite the fact that the age limit for the council is not similar with the one proposed for the youth parliament which is between 20 and 25 years old. "We have to adopt a comprehensive approach in dealing with the youth. We just cannot concentrate on those aged

between 20 years old and 25 years old but neglecting those not in the age group.

“Are we going to have numerous parliaments for various age groups such as from 26 years old to 30 years old, etc.,” he said.

Abang Aziz said currently it was not that difficult to get to know the aspirations of youths due to the advancement in information technology.

He said the government could gather the necessary information by following the debates or discussions among youths in many social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs as well as forum in the net.

In view of this, Abang Aziz was of the opinion that the proposal to establish a youth parliament was not that convincing.

Working papers on the proposed youth parliament were presented during the meeting of the National Youth Con-

sultative Council on May 10. This was disclosed by Youth and Sports state director Selihin Kachon in Miri recently.

He added that the proposal would be tabled in parliament this year. KUCHING: The Sports and Youth Ministry must do a thorough study on the justification to form a youth parliament in order to meet its objective of being a platform for youth to debate on issues affecting them and the country.

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their views on matters important to them,” he said when contacted recently. He cited Malaysia Youth Council (MYC) as one of the NGOs still regarded by many youths as relevant to them despite the fact that the age limit for the council is not similar with the one proposed for the youth parliament which is between 20 and 25 years old.

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[borneopost]

NEPAL: Interaction on youth policy and programme

LALITPUR, 13 Jun - An interaction was held at the Ministry of Youth and Sports on Sunday to discuss the programmes implemented by the ministry.

The programme was organised at the initiation of the Association of Youth Organisations Network of Nepal (AYON).

At the programme, Ministry

officials said the budget of around Rs. 600 million allocated for the youth was being entirely spent on sports sector rather than on other activities and programmes for the youths.

Under-secretary at the Ministry, Antar Bahadur Silwal said of the total budget allocated to the ministry nearly Rs 500 million is spent in the sports sector.

The youths attending the programme enquired about the budget formulation, approval, implementation and the youth policy and the youth council following the briefing about the activities being carried out by the ministry.

Replying to the queries of the participants, Under-secretary at the Ministry, Surya Prasad Sharma said although the

ministry's policy is formulated independently in a fair manner, there is political interference in the implementation stage.

Another issue that came up in the discussion was the constitution of the Youth Council. Authorities said although Rs 4.7 million has been allocated for that purpose, nothing much has happened in that

direction and only a month is left. However, the ministry officials are hopeful that the council will be set up next year.

Similarly, information was

given out at the programme that the ministry has formulated a collaborative programme entitled 'On the Job' for promoting youth employment and sent it to the National Planning Commission

(NPC) for approval. If this plan gets approved, four thousand youths will get skill and employment-oriented training next year.

Thirty-five people representing AYON and affiliated organisations participated in the interaction.

[the Himalayan times]

NEW ZEALAND: Govt to consider report on Maori Youth

WELLINGTON, 09 Jun -

The Government has promised to consider a set of recommendations aimed at helping Maori youth succeed. The Maori Youth Council today reported back to Maori Affairs Minister Pita Sharples and made recommendations in four broad areas.

It said teacher training at university should include more on te reo and tikanaga Maori, schools be more involved with their communi-

ties, mentors be assigned to those going through family group conferences, the creation of a national rangatahi Maori radio station and continued youth representation in Parliament.

Dr Sharples said he would consider each of the recommendations and respond to them. He would also ensure all his fellow ministers looked at them.

"I think they're all important, the whole four areas are important."

He said he began his career writing reports which sat on shelves somewhere and he didn't want that for the 15 young Maori involved in the council.

"I am Government and I'll certainly implement as many of those things myself as I can. It's up to the ministers themselves if they see something worthwhile in there that's worth following, they should at least read the report."

Labour MP Louisa Wall said

she would take the report back to her party's Maori caucus.

The council was established last year by Dr Sharples and was then officially welcomed to Parliament by Te Uruora Flavell and Hone Harawira, or "two Maori politicians who had a bit of beef" as one of the council members put it.

[stuff]

SOLOMON ISLANDS: 'Urban Youth in the Pacific' Launched: More Work and less Talk for Pacific Youth

SUVA, 03 Jun - Youth are not just the future, but are very much a part of the present, and because of this Pacific leaders should pay greater attention to the concerns of young people.

This strong message came out at the launch of a report "Urban Youth in the Pacific - Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk for Involvement in Crime and Violence" today.

The report, produced in response to a concern raised by the Forum Regional Security Committee (FSRC) about the involvement of a small but increasing number of urban youth in crime and violence,

acknowledged that the region must put in place policies and programmes to help build the resilience of young people.

Speaking at the launch, Jewel Toloa, a young woman of Samoan and Tokelauan descent said, "Young people are exceptionally vulnerable to changes and influences. Growing up in the islands as a young woman, youth involvement in crime and violence has increased tremendously not only in my neighbourhood, my village, but also my country."

Ms Toloa challenged Pacific governments and development partners to address

youth concerns without delay.

"We need to invest more time and resources into building youth facilities; conducting youth awareness programmes, developing capacity and providing support and counseling services, as well as recruiting qualified personnel to ensure that youth development in the region has a range of services to select from depending on the scenarios. We need not to wait for more reports, publications and recommendations to direct us to what needs to be done," she said.

The United Nations (UN)

Resident Coordinator and UN Development Programme (UNDP) Representative Knut Ostby who jointly launched the report with the Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Andie Fong Toy, acknowledged the contribution of young people to society.

"The majority of young Pacific people contribute through study, work, socio-cultural obligations and service to their family and community. Young people are also commonly victims well as often perpetrators of violence and crime. In this way they both contribute to and

threaten human security in the region," he said.

"This report aims to provide policy and programming options for Pacific governments and other stakeholders, including the United Nations, to prevent young people becoming involved in crime and violence, and to fulfill their potential as productive citizens. It attempts to present how human security can be strengthened through supporting young people, who are at risk of involvement in crime and violence, to build resilience," Mr Ostby said.

The report identifies resilience factors that decrease the probability of young people's involvement in crime and violence. Some of these factors include: relevant and quality education, sound guidance from parents, quality time spent by parents with children, peers that show positive behaviour, engagement with religious institu-

tions, good communication within families, a healthy and safe family and community environment.

"The specific findings and recommendations of this report to build resilience and reduce risk to crime and violence build upon the foundation of the Pacific Plan. At a national level they provide governments as well as other stakeholders with solid information and practical recommendations to move forward in tackling this threat to human security in the region. It also provided guidance on what regional organizations and others can do to support action at the national level," said the Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Andie Fong Toy.

She added that "The report does not pull any punches in regard to the involvement of young people in crime and violence as a serious regional

human security issue. Young people, although not leaders or necessarily instigators, were very much active in the tensions in the Solomon Islands and the civil unrest in Nuku'alofa in 2006. They are active in both minor and serious crime.

"Fortunately, throughout the region the report shows that there are ongoing efforts to tackle these and other problems related to youth crime and violence, including examples of best practice in all six case study urban centres," she said.

The report covers issues like what factors push Pacific youth to become involved in crime and violence and what can be done to reduce the risk and increase the resilience of young people. The report highlights good policies and activities that address youth crime and violence. It contains case studies from six Pacific Island countries - the

Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

It has been produced jointly by UNDP Pacific Centre and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pacific Youth Council, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The launch was held in conjunction with the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meeting being held at the Forum Secretariat from 2-3 June 2011.

[solomontimes]

SRI LANKA: Hundreds of Youth Services officers recruited soon

IRANGIK RANGE, 03 Jun - Two hundred and fifty Youth Services officers will be recruited within the next two months and half of them will be from Youth Clubs affiliated to the National Youth Services Council (NYSC), Youth Affairs and Skills Development Minister Dullas Alahaperuma said.

Fulfilling one of the promises given in the Mahinda Chinthana regarding Sri Lankan youth, this step will contribute in solving the unemployment problem prevailing in Sri Lanka.

The 250 Youth Services of-

ficers have been selected regardless of their ethnicity, religion or caste to represent all communities in Sri Lanka. Youth clubs affiliated to the NYSC are involved in producing talented and skillful youth to the country. They undergo various training programmes which have been designed to improve personal development, discipline, leadership qualities and knowledge of social and political issues. Thus, they can be good leaders in the future to serve the country,

the minister said.

"We are working towards fulfilling the needs of the youth in Sri Lanka for them to be well equipped, independent and valuable youth to contribute to the nation's development. The NYSC is focusing on their personal development creating a conducive environment for them to become youth leaders.

"They must build corporation and peace among the people by giving leadership to protect the motherland and its sovereignty," the minister

added. The government is committed to create employment opportunities for all youth in Sri Lanka, he said adding, "we have planned to improve both technical and vocational sectors to achieve 'skills for life-jobs for skills' providing nationally and internationally recognized training in keeping with advanced technology and meeting the demands of the labour market both domestic and foreign.

[dailynews]

ENGLAND: Youth film makes the case for protecting transport budgets

LONDON, 02 Jun - Young people who say transport budget cuts threaten to stop them attending school or college are to deliver a film petition to the Education Secretary Michael Gove. The film has been produced by a coalition of youth and environmental organisations that claim young people's transport needs are being ignored.

They argue that shrinking bus networks and fare rises of eight per cent above inflation are having a disproportionate effect on young people's ability to travel.

The coalition is also concerned that many councils are planning to axe all sup-

port for post-16 travel under new home-to-college transport policies, which are being introduced as a result of wider cuts to local authority funding.

Sophie Allain, bus campaigner at the Campaign for Better Transport, said young people depend on buses to access education and training opportunities inside and outside of college.

"Very simply, if they cannot catch the bus they are seriously disadvantaged," she said.

"We're worried that each of the decisions about funding for post-16 students is being made in isolation and it will only be in September that the

combined impacts of all these changes will be clear. By then of course it will be too late."

Samuel Watkin, a 14-year-old from Maidstone, appears in the film. "I think it's essential that the people making the decisions look at bus cuts from our perspective," he said.

"We are the ones who will bear the brunt of these cuts because public transport is a lifeline for so many young people who can't drive and can't rely on their parents for lifts. That's why I wanted to make this film, to show the real issues affecting young people like me across the country."

Alice Stretch, a 15-year-old from Canterbury who also took part in the film, added: "Buses are important to everyone, but especially young people, so we should be listened to when public transport is being cut."

The coalition includes the Campaign for Better Transport, the Association of Colleges, the British Youth Council, Kent Youth County Council, the National Children's Bureau, the UK Youth Parliament and the University and College Union (UCU).

[cypnow]

IRELAND: Donegal woman appointed new head of Arts Council

DONEGAL, 23 Jun - Donegal woman Orlaith McBride been appointed the new Director of the Arts Council. The appointment was approved this week by the Arts Council following an applications and interview process run by the Public Appointments Service.

The Ardara woman will take up her position in September. She has worked in the arts for over 15 years across a broad range of arts organisations including local authorities, arts-in-education, youth arts and theatre.

She has produced the National Youth Theatre at the Peacock Theatre since 2007. She is the President of the National Youth Council of Ireland, a member of the Governing Authority of Dublin City University and a member of the National Youth Work Advisory Committee. She served as a member of the Arts Council for

over 7 years, was a member of the Dublin City Council Strategic Policy Committee (Arts and Youth) from 2004-2009 and was a member of the Arts Council Special Committee on the Arts and Education.

She became Director of NAYD, the development organisation for youth theatre in Ireland, in 2003, developing and managing the strategic development of a national organisation as well as representing the youth theatre sector in Ireland.

She worked for many years in South Dublin County Council developing and coordinating arts projects and programmes before becoming Arts Officer with the National Youth Council of Ireland where she developed the first National Strategy for Young People and the Arts, as well as promoting and developing youth arts within the voluntary youth sector in

Ireland.

Pat Moylan, Chairman of the Arts Council said: "We are delighted that Orlaith McBride is joining us as Director. Orlaith has already demonstrated her wide-ranging expertise and successful experience in the arts. In her executive roles with local authorities and as Director of the National Association for Youth Drama (NAYD), she has proven her ability in delivering high quality arts experiences and building organisations. As a former member of the Arts Council, she has a tremendous strategic insight into the challenges the organisation faces.

"I am sure the Arts Council will benefit enormously from Orlaith's knowledge and insight and her work with younger people. At this time of economic challenge and creative opportunity, she will play a pivotal role in both the

leadership and management of the Arts Council and will facilitate the delivery of the organisation's strategic objectives to enhance Irish cultural and artistic life."

[Donegal democrat]

CANADA: Rebirth of Tory youth wing up for debate Young Tories

OTTAWA, 10 Jun - Dropped after the Progressive Conservatives and Canadian Alliance merged eight years ago, the right-of-centre party's youth wing will be back up for debate at this week's Conservative Party of Canada convention.

Delegates and observers started streaming into the new Ottawa Convention Centre Thursday afternoon for the three-day event aimed at discussing the party's policies and constitution and electing its National Council. Some 80 policy amendments and 48 constitutional amendments are up for debate, including a re-incarnated Young Tories movement. Even its supporters, however, are doubtful things will change.

Keith Marlowe, the last national youth wing president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, said the PCs tended to see "value in admitting that a one-size-fits-all approach to recruitment doesn't always work." But he suggested the Reform/Canadian Alliance approach has always been one that favours equality and the idea that "nobody is separate, nobody is distinct."

Today, the large number of young Conservative MPs in positions of power--at 32 Andrew Scheer just became the youngest Speaker of the House of Commons in Canadian history, for example -- will only serve to bolster the argument youth need not be segregated from the rest of the party, he said.

It's an argument he understands, but it's not one he agrees with, having himself come up the ranks in the youth movement.

"The point of a youth wing is to recruit and develop techniques to recruit young people, techniques that are very different than recruiting a 50 or 60-year-old or even somebody who is in their 30s or 40s with children," said Mr. Marlowe, now a litigator in New York City. "I think parties could always benefit from having a formalized youth wing."

Some of the Conservative party's youngest MPs are among the staunchest supporters of the status quo. Pierre Poilievre, 32, was first elected at 25 and remains a "strong supporter of the ex-

isting system" which seeks to recruit young people directly into the party at all levels whether it be as elected MPs, riding presidents, national councillors or parliamentary and party staff.

While not official youth wings, he said the Conservative party does have a presence on 40 campuses. Six of those clubs are new this year, he said, adding some 95 interns will be working for the party on Parliament Hill this summer.

[montreal gazette]

JAMAICA: New youth policy in the works

KINGSTON, 26 Jun - A comprehensive overhaul of the country's National Youth Policy is now underway, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture Senator Warren Newby told the Senate on Friday.

Newby, who was delivering the first presentation in the annual State of the Nation debate in Gordon House in downtown Kingston, said the ministry, through the Statistical Institute of Jamaica recently completed a National Youth Survey and was conducting an audit of the youth serving in community-based organisations, to assess their impact.

"We are strengthening youth

governance through the establishment of the Jamaica Youth Foundation... We adopted a new constitution for the National Youth Council, the first time in its 50-year history that it is having a formal legal framework," Newby said.

He said the ministry had held over 20 workshops with members of youth clubs across the island, "to strengthen their ability to effectively partner with the State around the issues of health, education, disaster-preparedness and emergency management, environmental stewardship, entrepreneurship, sports and culture".

The parliamentary secretary, whose portfolio is centred on youth development, said his

ministry has just pumped \$20 million in grant funding into the Jamaica Youth Business Trust, to ensure that it has capital to assist youth entrepreneurs.

"We are putting in place the relevant policy framework and are working assiduously with two international donor agencies to increase the pool of funds available for this initiative," he said.

Newby added that the Ministry has also been working with the HEART Trust, Jamaica Business Development Centre and the Scientific Research Council to ensure there is a programme for development of youth-run businesses.

Turning to the issue of education, Newby said the edu-

cation ministry has embarked on a number of programmes, including the Career Advancement Programme and the Alternative Secondary Transition Education Programme, to help give delinquent students additional opportunity to achieve academic success.

He also hailed Government's move to cut interest rates at the Students' Loan Bureau from 12 per cent to nine per cent and extend the period for loan repayment from 10 to 15 years.

[Jamaica observer]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 22nd International Youth Forum

EL DORADO, 21 Jun - Government is strangling young people by shutting down critical youth programmes within the University of T&T and the El Dorado Youth Facility, president of the Trinidad Youth Council Sean Nicholson said yesterday. Nicholson was the third person to mount the platform at Charlie King Junction, Fyzabad, as a large crowd gathered to commemorate Labour Day. He said school violence was spiralling out of control because of repressive policies which started under the People's National Movement (PNM). "Crime and violence in schools started under the PNM, it has grown and we reaping the fruits of that now," he said. "Today the Minister of Education is saying that we need more deans in schools but is it that students need to be policed? "A lot of the problems in schools stem from social issues and there are programmes that the Trinidad Youth Council has developed which can be used

to help the children." Nicholson also criticised the People's Partnership for removing a free UTT entry requirement exam which allowed students who did not have five subjects to study for a degree. "The People's Partnership is shutting down that programme...They are killing the youths who are the backbone of society," he said. "The education system has failed them...If shutting down this programme is the manner in which this Government chooses to deal with students like this, then why build more universities?" He said even though the Youth Council had established a policy in 2006, it has not been implemented. He also said a programme to deal with troubled young women was also being shut down by the Government. "We are not accepting this...We want to give help to these women because it is

our children who are being thrown out in the streets," Nicholson said. "We will not allow their education to fall by the wayside." He said young people did not want welfare. "We want to say what we want, we can contribute holistically," he added. Nicholson and president of the Sheep and Goat Farmers' Association Shiraz Khan called on the Government to make agriculture more attractive for youths. Khan said the Government was spending in excess of \$100 million for contracts, but was unwilling to invest in agriculture. President of the T&T Unified Teachers Association Roustan Job told supporters his union would not bow to the "Dookernomics" being displayed by the People's Partnership. He also expressed concerns about violence in schools. "We will never surrender...If there is no justice for workers, there

will be no industrial peace," he said. Job called on the Government to accept TTUTA's offer to develop policies to address concerns in the educational system. He also called for an end to contract labour in schools and workplaces, as well as proper security to safeguard teachers and students. Job also urged the government to provide security of tenure for early childhood educators.

[guardian]

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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