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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
16 Nov 2011	International Day for Tolerance
25 Nov 2011	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Africa News

EGYPT: NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL URGES YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE

Cairo, 14 Oct.—THE National Youth Council has urged all Egyptian youths to participate in parliamentary elections, which it said are a turning point in Egypt's history.

The elections will be the first voting after the January

25 Revolution, the council said. During a meeting with the heads of central departments of the council, Safieddin Kharboush, the chairman of the council said that it is essential to follow up the outcome of meetings, held by the council to raise the awareness of youth

about elections nationwide.

The meeting discussed the council's action plans during the coming three months.

[All Africa]

GAMBIA: BASSE YOUTHS DEMAND OVERHAUL OF YOUTH CENTRE

Basse, 11 Oct—YOUTH centers are social and recreational centers intended primarily for use by young people. In some cases, children as young as six years old will use a Youth Center, but usually only if special programs are in place to accommodate them. The Center support opportunities for youth to develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities and to experience achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship, and recognition.

The Youth Center offers organized instructional programs for physical activities such as dance, conferences, carrier, guidance and counseling and for academic and arts programs

such as science, crafts, and theater. It also offers opportunities for unstructured activities such as game playing, socializing, club meetings, and outdoor play.

While unstructured activities are an essential part of a Youth Center, these are staffed facilities and control and supervision are critical elements. These elements impact facility design as due considerations for youth-friendly and youth-appealing design. Safety is also of paramount importance.

In our today's edition of youth matters, we take a close look at the Basse youth centre, which is currently in a very poor and unimpressive outlook in

term of development. The centre is very useful to the youths since it is the place where youths organize most of their social events, but the poor condition of the centre have leave many youths with the question of who is responsible for the development of the centre.

Well some are supposing the Basse Area Council, while other are pointing fingers at the National Youth Council. But what is important to them is for the centre to be upgrade at least like the ones in Bansang and Farafenni.

According to many youths in Basse, the youth centre is the least developed among all the youth centers in the country, and needs a serious

refurbishment. Currently the centre is isolated with no improvement in it. There have been no talks of upgrading it talk less of refurbishment of the current situation.

It is a common belief that for the development of young people to take place anywhere; there must be proper structures in place that can keep the youths from engaging into illegal things. The youth center should have been upgrade to a mufti-purpose center but it is only having basketball lawn, which is not even attracting people to come and keep them engage in something, considering the poor status of the center is next to nothing.

The youths in Basse who feel not happy with the poor status of the centre are now appealing from the government, National Youth Council, and Basse Area Council to help upgrade the center for the development of the youths.

It is not a secret that youths comprise of the larger per-

centage of the population in Basse; therefore upgrading the centre is part of preparing their future, since the welfare of the youths should be giving a priority for a better tomorrow.

When contacted on the issue, Alhaji Muya Baldeh, regional youth chairperson said he is trying his best

together with the Basse Area Council and National Youth Council to upgrade and refurbish the centre.

According to him, the Basse area council has pledged to support the upgrading work, adding it also among the top agenda of the national youth council. According to him, he will continue trying to see that the centre is up-

grade in order to leave a legacy as the chairperson, noting that he wants a standard youth centre for Basse that can even be used to generate income for youth development.

[Daily Observer]

NAMIBIA: INITIATES CRITICAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

Walvis Bay, 10 Oct— THE National Youth Council of Namibia is to host a series of discussions and lectures on subjects such as youth unemployment, education and corruption. NYC says it has undertaken to introduce dialogue between youth and leaders to reduce the gap between leaders and youth on issues of national development - according to NYC Executive Secretary Mandela Kapere. Kapere says that NYC has detected “discontentment amongst youth in Namibia on issues such as unemployment and education” - hence the youth movement’s attempts to encourage dialogue between leaders and the youth.

The series of talks will see the youth body travelling to

the regions of Caprivi, Karas, Erongo, Oshana and Kunene - where various eminent personalities and politicians will form part of panel discussions. Prime Minister Nahas Angula alongside Swapo Youth League Secretary Elijah Ngurare are to take part in a panel discussion on October 20 2011 at Kuisebmond, Walvis Bay.

During the 4th National Youth Week held in Rundu, Kavango Region, the Premier said the youth suffer from underdevelopment caused by the dual economic system in the country, in which the majority of people eke out a living from a “subsistence economy”.

“Such an economy is primitive, lacks investment, uses

archaic technology, is labor intensive, vulnerable to the vagaries of nature, and lacks organized markets,” he said. Angula said such an economy cannot liberate the peasants from want and poverty. In contrast, he said, the formal economy is capital intensive, uses high technology, is attractive, export oriented and unfortunately dominated by a few rich families or multi-national corporations. “Our formal cash economy is not able to absorb hordes of young people seeking employment,” he said. He challenged the youth to become innovative and embrace new technology and know-how to become their own masters as opposed to waiting for employment from

somewhere else.

Other leaders scheduled to partake in the panel discussions are Speaker of the National Assembly Theoban Gurirab, who will be the guest speaker at Oshakati on October 14, and Justice Minister Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana on October 27 at Katima Mulilo. Trade and Industry Minister Hage Geingob will speak on November 3 at Keetmanshoop and Professor Peter Katjavivi will conclude the discussion series on November 10 at Khorixas.

[New Era]

NAMIBIA: TEEN PREGNANCY RIFE IN OHANGWENA

Ohangwena, 13 Oct—ONE hundred and eleven girls dropped out of school due to pregnancy in the Ohangwena Region from January to April this year.

Education Minister Dr Abraham Iyambo said this at Okanghudi village during the renaming of the science laboratory at the village's Combined School on Tuesday. According to Iyambo, a staggering number of 184 girls were recorded as being pregnant by the end of August. The Education Minister said a Grade 10 pupil at one of the schools in the Ohangwena Region gave birth on the first day of the National Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) examinations now underway.

"Currently, there are at least six Grade 10 girls who are pregnant during this exam time," Iyambo told the audience that included President Hifikepunye Pohamba and Ohangwena governor Usko Nghaamwa. He said a total of 704 pupils had left school in the Ohangwena Region between January and April this year, and this number had increased to 1 713 by August. The Minister said only 311 of these were transferred to other regions or schools, leaving 1 402 pupils at home not attending school. He lamented that, without further education, all these learners are likely to be trapped in the cycle of poverty, low income, vulner-

ability and exploitation. Addressing the same gathering, Pohamba expressed disappointment at the high number of school dropouts in Ohangwena, his home region. The President urged parents, especially mothers, to educate their daughters about sex and reproduction. He charged that *cuca* shops near schools were contributing to underage drinking, unprotected sex and unplanned pregnancies. Both Pohamba and Iyambo said a new law would be introduced soon to prevent the establishment of *cuca* shops or *shebeens* near schools.

The science laboratory of the Okanghudi Combined School is now named the Kaare Rosseland Science Lab, after Norwegian national Kaare Rosseland, who became a friend of the school through Pohamba, his personal friend since the days of the liberation struggle. Pohamba and Rosseland met in Congo-Brazzaville 25 years ago, after Rosseland started teaching children of exiled Namibians at Loudima, Congo.

[All Africa]

NIGERIA: YOUTH TO EMBARK ON HUNGER STRIKE OVER FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL

Abuja, 21 Oct— THE National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) says Nigerian youths will embark on hunger strike if the government goes ahead with the planned removal of fuel subsidy.

Olawale Ajani, the council's newly appointed transitional chairman, said in Abuja that the NYCN "has declared November 11 as a hunger strike day for young people and women because of the proposed removal of fuel subsidy."

He said any attempt to remove the subsidy would be resisted and called for solidarity in the struggle from other Nigerians. Mr Ajani said the government has not come up with what it planned to do if the subsidy was removed, pointing out that the consequences of

removing it would be unbearable for the youth. "This is the only palliative measure for the youth and the masses. "If the government goes ahead to remove the subsidy, it shows that there is no reason

why the youth should call themselves Nigerians as we are not benefiting anything from the government." The youth leader expressed dismay at a situation where majority of the youth were unemployed and would be made to bear the burden of subsidy removal.

"There is nothing for the youth, no jobs and the paltry measure the government is giving us, they want to remove it." Ajani appealed to the government not to go ahead with the proposal as it would affect Nigerians and make many of the youth

vulnerable to some social vices. "The president should not remove the subsidy; this was not part of the agreement we had when we voted for him. We had the opportunity to vote for other candidates but majority of the youth voted for the presi-

dent because he shared our aspiration." He said the youth had resolved to embark on a protest to press home their demand for the retention of fuel subsidy before going on hunger strike.

[Next Community]

NIGERIA: JONATHAN TARGETS 110 000 JOBS FOR YOUTHS IN FOUR YEARS

Abuja, 12 Oct — BETWEEN 80,000 and 110,000 jobs, under the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWin!) initiative, are being planned for the youths of Nigeria between now and 2015 by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Launching the programme at the Banquet Hall of the Presidential Villa, Abuja, the President said he has plans to raise funds to support those with good ideas that can give the youths the needed quantum leap to compete with their peers globally.

Jonathan said due to the age distribution of youths,

"which makes them more in

number", it was imperative for them to take the driver's seat of the country's development and therefore need all the support his administration could offer.

According to him, those who already have thriving enterprises would submit business plans for expansion which will take in other youths and build capacities through the financial assistance to 3,600 youths. Over 3,600 Nigerian youths will be financially assisted to actualise their entrepreneurial ideas and plans. It is expected that these would create between 80,000 (and) 110,000 sustainable jobs over the next 4 years.

On what informed the pro-

gramme, Jonathan said that youth unemployment was one of the biggest problems of the country which he has to strive to address to unlock the potentials of the youths in accordance to his campaign promises. "My concern is that we need to grow the population of such positively attuned youth. It is our duty to identify them early and support them and this cannot be done by merely raising their hopes but by giving them a chance to be who they want to be he said.

Through explanation he mentioned that "YouWin! Is an innovative business plan competition that harnesses the creative energies of young people between the

ages of 18 and 35. The programme is largely targeted at owners of existing formal and informal businesses who will be asked to submit their business plans for a competition. These will be evaluated by a panel of experts and the best submissions from each geopolitical zone will be selected for support.

Assisted to expand their existing businesses and create jobs within the locality which the government would, from time to time, evaluate and measure to ensure it was working according to plan in response to the yearnings of the people.

[All Africa]

Africa News

RWANDA: KIMIRONKO YOUTH URGED TO FIGHT POVERTY

Kimironko, 17 Oct—THE Director General of Employment in the Ministry of Labour and Public Service, Anna Mugabo, has challenged the youth in Kimironko sector, Gasabo District to be hard working and innovative in all their endeavours, which she said will enable them to curb unemployment.

The official made the call last Saturday while addressing members of the National Youth Council at the sector level, during their general assembly which took place at Kigali Institute of Education (KIE). “No country can develop without the active participation of the youth, which is why you should play a key role in our country’s socio-economic development, by avoiding the habit of laziness,” Mugabo said. She asked them to avoid involvement in drug abuse and to always exhibit total discipline in everything they do.

Mugabo urged them to ac-

quire loans through the Business Development Fund (BDF) and Banque Populaire saying that this will reduce unemployment and poverty among them. She briefed them on various government initiatives and programmes aimed at fighting against poverty among the youth and told them to always seek advice from the ministry whenever they need any form of assistance. According to her, the Business Development Centres at the district level will help them to come up with business projects which they can present to banks and micro finances to acquire loans.

Eric Bundugu, the sector coordinator of the National Youth Council noted that there is still a challenge of youth involved in drugs, saying that every Saturday morning, the council organises various sporting events and they use the forum to encourage the youth to desist from leading irresponsible lives. “Unemployment is one the major challenges

still being faced by the youth in our sector and I call upon the ministry to help us get easy access to loans in financial institutions because they request for collateral which most of us don’t readily have,” Bundugu said.

One of the participants, Jean Marie Uwitonze, called upon the ministry to champion the fight against abuse of the youth especially those working as house-holds, saying that most are denied their rights including lack of medical insurance like Mutuelle de Sante yet they deserve equal rights like any other Rwandan. In an interview with The New Time shortly after the assembly, Mugabo noted that her ministry recently launched an internship programme under the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) where over 1,000 youth especially graduates have enrolled in the programme through which they are taught to be job creators. She added that the ministry is working on a

survey which will come up with accurate data on the current level of unemployment in the country.

The Executive Secretary of Kimironko Sector, Theophile Niragire called upon to acquire loans through Umurenge Sacco adding that currently, an individual can obtain a loan of Rwf500, 000.

[The New Times]

SOUTH AFRICA: YOUTH TOLD TO WALK AWAY FROM MALEMA

Johannesburg, 24 Oct—
THE South Africa Youth
Council, Young Communist
League, student body Sasco
and Azapo joined Police
Minister Nathi Mthethwa
and Higher Education Min-
ister Blade Nzimande in
condemning the planned
march and the way in which
Malema and the youth
league's top brass were mo-
bilising residents and young
people.

The Young Communist
League's national secretary,
Buti Manamela, said his
organisation was "not inter-
ested in events staged to
make certain political state-
ments", and Azapo urged
the young to stay away from
the march to the JSE,
Chamber of Mines and Un-
ion Buildings - scheduled
for Thursday and Friday -
and instead channel their
energies into passing their
matric exams, which start
today.

The league said the march
was aimed at giving a voice
to unemployed and under-
employed youth, landless

people, the homeless, shack
-dwellers and those who
aspired to have access to
quality education and de-
cent livelihoods.

Malema is under pressure to
garner support ahead of the
march as his standing in the
ANC hangs in the balance.

The ANC has hauled him
before a disciplinary com-
mittee for bringing the party
into disrepute and sowing
division. At Bantu Bonke, a
defiant Malema told about
500 residents that they must
not allow a mining com-
pany that recently discov-
ered minerals in the area to
bully them into moving.

"We heard that they want
you to move from here,
saying that Anglo owns this
place, saying that there must
be an alternative plan be-
cause there is a discovery of
some minerals here.

"The mineral that they have
discovered, it must also be
your mineral, and if there is
going to be mining here,
you must be bought, you
must not be removed be-
cause this is your land.

"You're sitting on top of
richness, and that richness
must benefit you. So this
thing that every time they
discover a mineral resource,
they shift people, it must
come to an end.

"When they discover miner-
als, they must ask you how
best they are going to mine
here to benefit you. Not to
just [move] you and say you
are going to get other
houses and even those
houses they are going to
give you, they are not
proper houses," he said.

Malema said the residents
must use the march to de-
mand better housing, access
to basic services, free edu-
cation and jobs.

Last week, Mthethwa took a
veiled swipe at Malema for
exploiting people's "hearts
and needs".

"Don't listen to those who
think they will march to
Pretoria and things will
change overnight, because
they are dangerous," said
Mthethwa.

Speaking in Diepsloot on
Saturday, Malema attacked
Mthethwa and Nzimande,
and without mentioning
them by name said: "The
ministers say, 'Don't be part
of the march because we
will collapse the ANC.' Af-
ter speaking that nonsense
they go to their comfortable
homes. They speak from
prepared speeches and when
they arrive home, they have
forgotten what they said."

In Bantu Bonke, Malema
said residents should join
the march to reclaim owner-
ship of their land.

"There are plots here they
are owned by boers, but
when they came here they
did not come with the land .
They found us here," he
said.

[Times Live]

ZIMBABWE: SADC YOUTH UNION ON THE CARDS

Harare, 11 Oct—YOUTH in Southern Africa will launch the SADC Youth Union in November to spearhead youth development and empowerment in the region.

According to the Pan African Youth Council, the SADC Youth Union will be launched in Botswana on the 15th of November. The SADC Youth Union will act as a voice to conscientise heads of state and government on the empowerment

needs of youths in Southern Africa.

The Minister of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment, said young people should take advantage of the political will that has been shown by their leaders in coming up with a youth empowerment policy, while his deputy, Mr Tongai Matutu, said youths should be united and speak with one voice on issues that affect them.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment, in partnership with a local pension firm, has secured one million dollars for every province to fund youth projects.

Youth provincial structures that are apolitical have already started being set up to preside over the disbursement of the funds.

[Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation]

Asia News

JAPAN: NYC OPENS 2012 JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Tokyo, 11 Oct—A Hundred Filipino university students have a chance to visit Japan for free under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program, the National Youth Council (NYC) Tuesday.

The JENESYS Program is an annual exchange program under the Japan International Cooperation Center, the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Japanese Embassy and the NYC.

Applications for the program were formally opened last week. Students with good moral character and a weighted average grade of at least 2.25 or 85 percent may apply for the program. Students who have yet to travel to Japan are preferred, according to the program's qualifications.

"This will be a chance for them to learn everything about Philippine-Japan relations; Japanese culture; and issues on technology, envi-

ronment, tourism, and health. They will interact with experts and will have a chance to live with a Japanese family. So anyone who's interested in the Japanese culture is most welcome to apply," said NYC chair Leon Flores III.

"Student ambassadors" will be visiting Japan from May 8-16, 2012, where they will be exposed to different facets of Japanese culture. In particular, the program will focus on disaster management and recovery pro-

grams.

To be considered for the program, applicants must write an essay on his or her reasons for applying, what he or she can contribute to the recovery of a community after environmental disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis, and his or her plan of actions after returning from Japan.

[BC/VS, GMA News]

MALAYSIA: FATHER OF MALAYSIAN HINDU YOUTH DIES

Kuala Lumpur, 26 Oct — MALAYSIAN Hindu Youth Organization (HYO) founder, Vijayaratnam Saravanamuthu, passed away at the Gleneagles Hospital here, from respiratory complications. He was 77.

Qi Group in a statement said Vijayaratnam leaves behind his wife Pushpavathy Chinniah, and two sons, Datuk Vijay Eswaran, 51, and Vijaya Vicknesh, 49.

Vijayaratnam, fondly re-

ferred to as the "Father of the Hindu Youth", founded HYO in 1949 and had contributed immensely to its growth, which now has some 90 branches in the country.

During his lifetime, Vijayaratnam had organized many Hindu Youth conventions in various parts of the country and he was elected the first secretary-general of the Malaysian Youth Council in 1962.

He also represented Malay-

sian youth at the World Assembly of Youth (WAY World Body) in Singapore in 1954, the World Assembly of Youth in New Delhi, India in 1958 and WAY Conference in Amhurst, Massachussets, US in 1964.

[The Malay Mail]

Worldwide

Since 1949

PHILIPPINES: NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCHES 'BUDGET DESIGN'

Manila, 14 Oct THE National Youth Commission has launched "Budget Design", an advocacy campaign encouraging the Filipino youth to participate in the House budget process cycle through info-graphics.

“The Commission feels that young Filipinos are disempowered in engaging their government when it comes to the national budget cycle because the process appears

to be complex and overwhelming, a matter left to the ‘grown-ups’. Though we share the sentiment that the process appears to be complex, with this simple initiative, we also wish to impart to our fellow young Filipinos that it should not prevent them from participating in the budget process. Participation begins with information,” Commissioner Gio Tingson said.

With the use of information graphics, Budget Design seeks to, first, explain budget preparation, legislation, execution and accountability in a digestible and appealing manner. Eventually, this project aims for the youth to translate knowledge to action, according to Tingson.

Evident in the budget process are segments open to the public where NYC hopes

youth and youth-serving organizations can voice their concerns pertaining to the people’s money such as the stakeholders consultations in the budget preparation phase and the committee hearings and plenary deliberations in the legislation phase.

[Mindanao Examiner]

THAILAND: A FLOOD OF SUPPORT FROM TODAY'S YOUTH

Bangkok, 14 Oct— THAILAND is at current fighting the worst floods it has faced in the last five decades. The ongoing floods have been continuously featured in the news for months, as teenage ‘Bangkokians’ have been surfing through TV channels; desperate to hear of something new. None raised their voices. None were ready to act. But things are different now.

Suddenly, the hearts of Bangkokian teenagers go out to villagers in Ayut-thaya who have lost their

livelihoods, or to those residing on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, who have lost their lives. The sympathy of Bangkok’s youth was finally revealed as schools in Bangkok initiated immediate fundraising activities to help sponsor boats for flood victims. As a school, NIST managed to sponsor a target of 100 boats in less than a span of two days.

At TEDxYouth host school Concordia International School, student-driven charity drives raised more than 100,000 Baht and truck-

loads of dry food, clothing, and blankets for those affected by flooding. Such is the power of the Bangkokian youth, supporting fellow victims with aid and relief, the change in their pockets making a difference in someone’s life.

Two days of fundraising has revealed the capability of today’s youth; for whom nothing is impossible. Together we can truly make a difference in the world – so great is the power that lies in our hands.

[TEDxYouth]

AZERBAIJAN: HIGH EXPECTATIONS FROM SIXTH FORUM AZERBAIJANI YOUTH

Baku, 24 Oct— NATIONAL council of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan will be represented by 80 people at the sixth forum of Azerbaijani youth including its chairman, board of directors, volunteers and representatives from all member organizations.

The statement came from spokesperson for the National Council of Youth Organizations Orkhan Ali.

This year has marked a

turning point in youth policies of the state, Ali said.

“The President’s meeting with the youth and the fact that the State Program on Azerbaijani Youth in 2011-2015 was developed and approved shows that the head of the state is interested in life, public, political, scientific and cultural activities of the youth,” the spokesperson added.

The forum to open tomorrow is one of the significant events for the future of the

country, he noted.

“We hope that this forum will bring the state closer to the youth, more opportunities will be created for the youth and will encourage the youth to be more active in public life. Our current activities and future projects aim to support youth policies of the state.”

The first Forum of Azerbaijani Youth was held on 2 February 1996 at the initiative of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev.

On 1 February 1997, the national leader signed a decree announcing 2 February Day of Azerbaijani Youth.

The Azerbaijani youth have held five forums so far in 1996, 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2008. The Sixth Forum of Azerbaijani Youth will take place in the Heydar Aliyev Palace on 25 October.

[News.Az]

BELGIUM: EU BUDGET IS NOT FOR BRUSSELS, IT IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Brussels, 24 Oct—ON 20-21 October the Polish Presidency in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament hosted in Brussels EU Budget Conference with 40 Members of the European Parliament, more than 100 Members of National Parliaments and representatives from the governments and the European Commission.

The European Union's Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 has been

one of the main topics discussed at the event - a first in the history of budget negotiations. During the event, in his opening speech, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso put a lot of emphasis on the Europe 2020 strategy and mentioned the importance of investing in the EU: "So as you go back to your respective Member States and institutions today or tomorrow, let me ask you one thing - to make the case for Europe. To resist some of

the tendencies that sometimes we see here and there trying to manipulate data, trying to manipulate some facts, trying in fact sometimes to give in to populism if not sometimes to very narrow nationalism. Don't be misled by the myth that this is money for Brussels. It is not. It is money for our young people who cannot find work. Money for our researchers and innovators to bring their ideas to market. Money for our SMEs and entrepreneurs to do

business across our continent more easily. Money for our regions so that they can promote green growth, sustainable growth."

In November the European Commission will publish a proposal for the new EU budget, including details on the funding of EU Youth Programmes. Despite Barroso's words, the future of EU investment on youth is uncertain. The European Youth Forum and its Member Organizations are

working to make sure that the value that youth organisations bring to the European project will be properly recognised and supported also in the post-2014 budget. [European Youth Forum]

BERMUDA: COX MAKES PITCH FOR YOUTH VOTE

Hamilton, 21 Oct—PLP Premier Paula Cox made a clear appeal for the youth vote as she laid down the battle lines for the next general election.

In a keynote address to the party faithful Ms Cox — backed by her entire Parliamentary team — told the audience the ruling PLP was at “a defining moment” in its history.

And, in a clear bid to win the youth vote, she said:

“Young people must know what we stand for. We doubt ourselves, but our young people are clear.

“Many are prepared to take a leap of faith and to give this country their vote of confidence. We must not have the unwelcome mat for our young people.”

Ms Cox said that the party would “revitalize” the National Youth Council – and take careful note of their views.

She also signaled that jobs, economic security, education, health and creating a more equitable society would be the party’s rallying calls. She added: “Our children are growing up in this new global economy.

They need to be prepared. If we intend them to succeed, then action is needed to ensure they have a viable future with education, skills, training and opportunities.

The future is full of potential. However, we are working not just to enable them to have material success but also a fairer community.”

“Economic empowerment of young Bermudians is not only vital and necessary, but the lack of it is the root cause of most of the violence, hopelessness, disrespect and social deterioration seen so often in the community today.

“That is why the Government is revitalizing our Na-

tional Youth Council. We intend to hear live and direct from our youth – they will provide input into our policies.” The appeal ties in with an easing out of the party old guard in the constituency primary progress to make way for fresh faces as the PLP gears up for a General Election.

And she said: “When times change, Government priorities, policies and programmes also change – but the work of compassion continues.

Ms Cox said that the PLP was committed to high-quality education in schools and the Bermuda College, affordable healthcare for all and good services for seniors.

She added: Now is the time to use the Price Commission as an effective tool to help Bermuda’s people find ways to make the cost of

living more affordable.”

She added that the party was determined to boost international business and tourism – and said Transport Minister Terry Lister would soon be announcing a new airline coming to Bermuda.

Ms Cox told the party faithful: “Let’s offer new hope for a stable economy, let’s resolve that the state of a family’s health never depends on the size of a family’s budget.”

She said that every Bermudian has to play their part, from making businesses more efficient to taking more responsibility for children’s welfare.

[BDA Sun, Online Edition]

SCOTLAND: 'BLATANT DISCRIMINATION' AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE MUST END

Dundee, 18 Oct—THE Chairman of Dundee's youth council says young people are struggling to make ends meet as they become caught in an unemployment "trap".

The chairman of Dundee's youth council says young people are struggling to make ends meet as they become caught in an unemployment "trap". Matt Landsburgh was reacting to the launch of a campaign by Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) to end the "blatant discrimination" against young people in the benefits.

The charity has branded the current situation both "illogical" and "unfair". With UK youth unemployment now at the highest level since

records began in 1992, growing numbers of young Scots are having to rely on welfare support as they struggle to find jobs and housing.

However, says CAS, people under the age of 25 receive 20% less in Jobseeker Allowance than those aged 25 and over. The under-25s are also eligible for lower housing benefit payments than their older neighbours and are not entitled to working tax credits — simply because of their age. CAS head of policy Susan McPhee said: "Young Scots have been hit as hard as anyone by the recession.

They face exactly the same pressures as everyone else — high bills, falling incomes, and an uncertain future and yet the benefits

system blatantly discriminates against them by restricting many of their entitlements, purely on the basis of their age. This is illogical as well as unfair. "Bills don't make any distinction based on age — you pay the same for a pint of milk, a loaf of bread, a litre of petrol or a month's rent, regardless of how old you are, yet the benefits system restricts your income — not on the basis of your circumstances but purely because of your age, she said. "It's time to end this unfairness now. Young Scots did nothing to create this recession and, indeed, they are the ones who will have to build our economic future and stop it happening again. They deserve the same support as everyone else." Mr Landsburgh, a student at Dundee University, said:

"I think all young people are struggling in the economic climate and, I think, disproportionately to other age groups with things like the basic cost of living and especially with things like transport.

"That is one of the things that the youth council is keen to look at and we will be taking forward once we have finished our consultation to find out the issues that matter to young people."

He went on: "It is particularly hard for young people when it is difficult to find a job because young people are caught in the 'no experience, therefore no job, therefore no experience, therefore no work' trap."

[The Courier]

UNITED KINGDOM: COPELAND YOUNGSTERS FORM FIRST YOUTH COUNCIL

Cumbria, 17 Oct— TWENTY one young people from across Copeland have come together to form the first Copeland Youth Council. Councillor Hugh Branney, portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and

Youth, said: "This is a really exciting time for young people across Copeland. Not only do we have a full programme of activities on offer across the borough to appeal to a wide range of ages and interests but now

we also have a formal way for their voices to be heard. " There are currently six youth forums across Copeland. Representatives from each forum were invited to put themselves forward to

form a youth council which will sit above the forums. The actual format of the youth council, its structure, roles and responsibilities will be decided by the young people over the next few meetings.

The attendees at the first meeting, who ranged in age from 11 to 18 years old, chose to retain the two-tier structure, which isn't the case elsewhere across Cumbria.

The main aim of the youth forums and the youth council is to provide a way for

young people to influence decisions and have their say on the big things that are happening in their locality and across the borough.

The six youth forums are working with their localities to inform the local plans and ensure young people's views are taken into consideration.

Youth Engagement Officer, Emma Dickinson said: "Copeland has a very active youth scene. I am delighted that we now have a Copeland Youth Council. This means that not only do the young people have a say in what happens in their borough but their views will

also be able to be taken forward to the national Youth Council arena." The next meeting of the Copeland Youth Council will be on Tuesday 7 November at Shackles Off, Seascale.

[Cumbria crack news]

UNITED KINGDOM: UNEMPLOYMENT HITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1994

London, 12 Oct— UNEMPLOYMENT in the UK has hit a 17-year high, with more than 2.5 million people now out of work, the Office for National Statistics has revealed today.

The total number of unemployed people increased by 114,000 to 2.57 million in the three months between June and August, representing 8.1% of the workforce, the ONS reported. According to the International Labor Organization measure, this is the highest number of jobless people since 1994.

The rise in the quarter was also steeper than the 50,000 increase reported in the previous three-month March to May period.

Youth unemployment has hit the highest level recorded since figures started to be kept in 1992, according to the ONS. The government blamed the slowdown in the world economy. Employment minister Chris Grayling said: 'It is clear that we are seeing the effect of the international economic crisis on the UK labor market.'

He said that the government was working to support growth and create jobs, including last week's announcement that the government would increase council tenants' right-to-buy discounts in a bid to boost house building. However, public sector union Unison said that the rise in

unemployment showed that the government should 'act quickly to get our recovery on track'. General secretary Dave Prentis said: 'Here is yet more proof that this government's policies are wrong for the economy. Our recovery is not even off the starting blocks, and the toll of job losses keeps on mounting.' He called for the government to introduce a tax on financial transactions, and use the money to stimulate growth.

The ONS reports that unemployment has hit 991,000 for those aged between 16 and 24, a rise of 74,000 over the previous three months. But the total includes 269,000 people in full-time education. The

CBI said that the figures made 'grim reading'. Chief policy director Katja Hall said: 'The continuing rise in youth unemployment is a grave concern for us all. With jobs falling in the public sector, it's vital the government does everything it can to support businesses to grow and create jobs, and help young people to get into work.'

The Commission on Youth Unemployment, set up in August by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organizations, said the figures represented a 'wake-up call'. Commission chair David Miliband, the former Labor foreign secretary and leadership contender, said that the jobless

totals represented ‘a challenge to the whole country’.

He said: ‘Youth unemployment scars people for life, particularly if it is prolonged, and at today’s levels it will be costing the country millions of pounds a week. ‘Our aim is to understand the problems we face, arrive at the right solutions, and then act. We must not let the scourge of unemployment leave a permanent mark on the hundreds of

thousands of young people living through it today.’

Acevo said that more than 100 charities, local councils, businesses and others worried about youth unemployment levels have submitted evidence to the commission. It will make policy recommendations when it reports this winter.

[Public Finance]

BAHAMAS: YOUTH ADVOCACY GROUP SPEAKS OUT ON POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Nassau, 13 Oct—THE National youth advocacy group known as the Advisory Youth Council of The Bahamas says that the Government of The Bahamas has a "narrow focus" on reducing its country's fiscal deficit and employment levels and that despite indications of "insubstantial" levels of economic growth and a few Bahamian industries strengthening, unemployment levels are expected to remain persistent throughout the year.

Speaking on the subject of the economy the group said The Bahamas' vulnerable economy does not have the capacity to withstand the reoccurrence of an economic crisis and that "The current economic condition has contributed to a consistent increase in poverty among Bahamians. The current administration monetary and fiscal policies and the mismanagement of the Bahamian economy, has led to the complete annihilation of its country's middle-class."

The group further commented on the Government's economic strategy claiming that it "did little" to directly address the unemployment challenge. "The policies focused on infrastructural development, much of which was carried out by foreign nationals, emergency unemployment benefits, and temporary job initiative which was a short term reaction to an economic crisis," a spokesperson from the group pointed out.

As it relates to youth in The Bahamas, the AYCB says that youth of The Bahamas are more susceptible to unemployment and poverty than others and that females are more "highly vulnerable" than males.

"Unemployment has a detrimental effect on the lives of young people, being unable to provide the basic needs for themselves. Without a sustainable means of income, there are limited means of ensuring their

personal survival, with poverty being its only option.

The government must recognize the importance of its nation's youth, besides in an election environment. The government must go further than providing low-wage temporary jobs that offer few employment safeties. The current government employment's policies offer no hope for a long-term solution" the group said.

The AYCB acknowledged that a young person, who is advanced in technical and educational skills have some employment safety and noted that "other individuals are susceptible to unemployment because they lack the essential skills required like literacy and numeracy."

On the subject of poverty, the group says that the government of The Bahamas has offered "no plan to eradicate poverty," besides sharing their personal experiences. "There are Bahamians who are currently

lacking sustainable income and productive resources to ensure the livelihood of themselves and their families, having limited access to food, the basic services, and being unable to prepare their children for school. It's imperative that the Government of The Bahamas address the roots of poverty, fulfilling its mandate of providing assistance for its people in their time of need.

"The government must identify with needs of its people and foster and promote entrepreneurship, provide a better way of life, create and harness a more successful pathway for its nation's youth, focus on its country's fiscal debt, restore the country's confidence in their governance, and lastly invest in the future of our country by placing Bahamians first," the group said.

[Nassau Guardian]

America News

JAMAICA: YOUTH CONCERNED ABOUT EARLY ELECTIONS

Kingston, 25 Oct—The National Youth Council of Jamaica said it is concerned that thousands of youths will not get the chance to vote if an early election is called and the May voter's list is used.

General elections are due by the latest December next year, but with Bruce Golding stepping down as prime minister and Andrew Holness being sworn in, speculation is mounting that there could be an early election.

If elections are called before the next voter's list is published in November 30, then the May voter's list will be used.

However, Chairman of the

National Youth Council, Ryan Small, said he suspects youths account for a large number of the more than 40,000 persons reported to have registered to vote, since the last list was published.

He said he's concerned these youths will not get a chance to vote, if there's an early election.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Andrew Holness called the head of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), to a meeting reportedly to get an update on the readiness of the Office to hold general elections.

However, Director of Elections, Orrette Fisher, has

declined to speak about his discussions with the Prime Minister saying any disclosure would have to come from Holness.

The director of elections also declined to comment on whether his Office would be in a position to hold the general elections if they are called in December.

Meanwhile, when asked about the state of preparedness of the EOJ, the director of elections said the Office is currently identifying trainers, training Election Day workers and procuring equipment.

While not giving a specific timeline, Fisher said these

activities will be wrapped up soon.

[The Gleaner]

Australia News

FIJI: YOUTHS TO BE OBSERVERS AT COMMONWEALTH FORUM

Suva, 25 Oct—TWO youths from Fiji will get to act as observers in the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Australia this week.

National Youth Council of Fiji chairman Usaia Cirikivai and secretary Venina Niumataiwalu have joined youths from 44 other countries at the forum in Perth.

The forum is organized by the Australian Government in association with the Commonwealth Youth Ex-

change Council and the Commonwealth Youth Program which aims to develop young people's understanding of the Commonwealth and its values and create a platform for young people to contribute to the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, Director for Youth and Sports Makereta Sauturaga said the department has seen an increasing need to support invitations for National Youth Council of Fiji members and affli-

ates to regional and overseas youth forums.

She said they have supported close to 20 youths' participation at international events and forums this year.

[Fiji Village]

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MR. ALHAJ M. FAZLUL HAQUE (Bangladesh)



(Europe)



(Latin America)



World Youth Complex
Jalan Lebu Ayer Keroh
75450 Ayer Keroh
Melaka, MALAYSIA

Phone: +606 2322711/1871
Fax: +606 2327271
E-mail: office@way.org.my
Website: <http://www.way.org.my>