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Botswana: Ranaka youths unite for development

Ranaka, 09 Jan. — A Group of young people in Ranaka used the festive season to engage the village leadership on issues that affect them and their village. Both out-of-work and working youths met and formed a social club that they say will be a vehicle for bringing economic development to Ranaka. They intend to register the club to formalize its existence.

"We want to register the club so that when we approach companies and individuals for funding, we can produce something to show that we are legitimate," says its Public Relations Officer, Godiraone Kgositsie.

The main aim is to help bring economic development to their village, Kgositsie explains. As a non-profit making organization, they are about tackling the health issues such as HIV/AIDS, sensitizing youth on

alcohol and drug abuse and encouraging them to undergo safe male circumcision.

"Issues of HIV/AIDS are still a big problem the world at large, so we are trying to make a contribution by encouraging other young people to test for HIV/AIDS and know their status," Kgositsie says. The club's other focus will be on helping needy members of the community. Kgositsie notes that there are people in the community who struggle to make ends meet. "Even the vision of our country encourages us to help the needy," he says. "So we are just fulfilling our obligations as members of the community."

Kgositsie would like all of Ranaka's young people and other interested parties to join the club so that it may raise sufficient funds to meet its tasks. "To start

things rolling, we will have to start funding the club's activities from our pockets," he says. Therefore, the more the merrier." Members will be required to pay an annual fee of P50 and a monthly subscription of P20 each.

The club already has an interim executive committee whose members have been assigned different tasks. To achieve their mission more easily, the group will use soccer, music and other cultural activities to attract more young people. Kgositsie says since they are not always at the same place at the same time, the group has decided that members will hold online meetings by means of social networks on a monthly basis.

The club has a Facebook page under the name Ba Ga Ranaka. "However, the group will use each and every holiday to meet in

Ranaka to discuss issues for the benefit of those who do not have access to the Internet," he explains. The club enjoys the support of the entire leadership of the village, including the Kgosi and the local councilor. "Some of our members have met with the Kgosi and the councilor, and were received with enthusiasm," Kgositsie says.

They hope to work closely with the Village Development Committee (VDC) for the common purpose of developing Ranaka. "While we will not be under the VDC, we will work closely with them on many fronts," Kgositsie explains.

[Mmegi]

Egypt: Mufti - Peaceful protests one of guaranteed human rights

Cairo, 24 Jan. — MUFTI of Egypt Ali Gomaa urged Monday 23/1/2012 Egyptian youths through the history and benefit from the other revolutions' experiments that passed through the country.

for," Gomaa said in a meeting with youths organized by the National Youth Council. He noted that education and scientific research are bases for any country's progress.

He urged the youths to work more for the production cycle to be returned, saying many countries have suffered from wars and occupation but still they were others," he said.

able to be among the advanced states because they worked for that goal. Peaceful protests are one of the guaranteed human rights provided that they do not disrupt work or traffic, he said. "To protest to express your legitimate rights is okay but blocking roads and railway traffic are unacceptable acts because they harm others," he said.

He expressed fears over the increasing number of chanty towns, saying it is a destructive culture that creates many problems like thug-gery, street children and school dropping.

[All Africa]

Gambia: One-third of all HIV infected are young people says female rep

Bakau, 17 Jan. — THE Female representative in the National Youth Council (NYC) governing council, Adama Njie, has revealed that the estimates from the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has indicated that close to 33.3 million are people living with HIV/AIDS and most of them are living in Sub-Saharan Africa.

She said it also estimates that close to one third of all HIV/AIDS infected persons are young people who are between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Adama Njie made these remarks recently during a two-day workshop on HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol use among youths. The workshop was held at the President's International Award Scheme in Bakau.

AIDS prevalence rate, she believe that our approaches should be comprehensive, universal and to focus on the key drives of vulnerability of the young. We should focus on programmes that ensure the protection of young people and enhance their capacity and to participate in shaping their future".

"The use of both formal and traditional mechanism to curb drugs, alcohol and substance abuse is highly desirable," Madam Njie noted.

[All Africa]

Gambia's national HIV/ She went on: "I strongly

Gambia: NYC holds workshop on global youth work

Bakau, 16 Jan. — THE National Youth Council (NYC) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) in collaboration with De Montfort University in UK, last Wednesday held a one-day workshop on Youth and Global Youth Work at the President's International Award Scheme in Bakau.

Delivering the opening statement on behalf of the minister of Youth and Sports, Musa Mbye, the deputy permanent secretary at the said Ministry, outlined their moral duty as individuals, communities and as governments to care for young people in particular the youth who are marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

He added that their moral obligation is to reach out to the poor and the needy as they owe it to their children and grand children to address the issue of youth empowerment. He further described youth empowerment as a strategy for dealing with various problems affecting the youth, which includes youth poverty re-

sulting from many demographic, economic and social factors.

He highlighted the statistics of people threatened by poverty, illiteracy, risk of unwanted pregnancy and HIV/Aids, amongst others by the UNFPA, while lamenting that these challenges lie at the heart of the goals set by world leaders to reduce poverty and improve health and well-being. "It is clear that the Millennium Development Goals will not be met unless young people are actively involved in policy making and programming, their voices are heard, their needs are met, and their human rights are respected," he added.

According to DPS Mbye, unemployment looms as one of the most pressing development challenges facing developing nations particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa. "This is evidenced by the social and economic crisis that African nations are currently facing in terms of unemployment, human and natural resource depletion and low economic

growth rates," he observed. Mbye reminded the gathering of government's commitment to youth empowerment, stating that they champion the call for young peoples' right to education, health and employment.

"We recognize that investments in young people promote social and economic growth. Key to these efforts are keeping girls in school, building life skills, delay marriage and pregnancy until adulthood, and preventing HIV infection. Young people have the power to drive development forward," he stated.

He observed that the decision young people make will shape the world and the prospects of future generations, saying that yet underinvestment in the young ones means that they often lack the resources, training or information to act. "Government must inevitably lead the way in addressing this failing, but all of us - policy makers, civil society actors, and ordinary citizens- should contribute in one way, both large and

small," he recommended.

The government, he disclosed, recognizing that its long term development depends on human resources, of which youths contribute over 60%, has developed a National Youth Policy and put in place mechanisms and programmes that empower youth to harness their potentials. He stated that these programmes also provide the opportunities to contribute their quota to the socio-economic development of the country. "With policy directives, efforts have been made towards addressing challenges faced by young people.

Such efforts include the creation of the National Youth Service Scheme, which specifically seeks to train the youth to appreciate the dignity of labor, instill in them the spirit of self-reliance and encourage them to create rather than seek jobs; the National Youth Council; the President's International Award Scheme (PIA) which also seek to build the capacity of young people; the National Enterprise Development

Initiative (NEDI) and the emergence of youth centres countrywide, all contributing towards the amelioration of youth empowerment," he highlighted.

DPS Mbaye further de-

scribed the Youth and Sports Ministry as a key component of government that has a fundamental stake in poverty reduction and the ultimate attainment of Vision 2020. "It is bestowed with the responsibility to co-

-ordinate, facilitate and ensure the development of youth and sports in the country. It provides the policy direction for the smooth implementation of youth and sports activities and programmes throughout the

country," he explained. He finally commended the NYC for the noble job and urged them to keep the momentum.

[All Africa]

Ghana: Government transforms national youth employment programme

Accra, 05 Jan. — IT is estimated that the youth in Ghana constitute over thirty per cent of the country's total population while unconfirmed estimates also show that over three hundred young people from the junior high to tertiary level of education are discharged onto the job market every year.

Regrettably, the public sector cannot absorb this large number of graduates while the private sector is hardly expanding fast enough to accept them, resulting in youth unemployment and under-employment which are known to be potential sources of social discontent and instability.

Youth unemployment and underemployment imply

that investments in education and training are not yielding the desired results as the products of these investments are not being put into productive use, leading to low earnings, a reduced taxation base and a high welfare cost.

In an effort to address youth unemployment and under-employment and their concomitant impact, and realizing that the success of developed economies has been driven by effective youth employment interventions, the Kufour administration instituted the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), the implementation of which began in 2006 with about 46,000 beneficiaries placed in five different modules.

Under the Mills administration, however, the NYEP has undergone a radical transformation to become the flagship of Government's social interventions in job creation and youth development, engaging over 200, 000 beneficiaries in 18 modules.

First and foremost, having realized that it is not in the interest of the youth to remain in the programme perpetually due to its nature as an informal job placement scheme that has not made provisions for a life-time job security such as social security, pensions and allowances, the NYEP has formulated a well-structured exit plan for all beneficiaries of the programme.

Under the exit plan, which

is being implemented in collaboration with all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as private partners, the beneficiary youth, who have served their initial two-year tenure of temporary employment are absorbed into the respective organizations, provided they meet the minimum standards and have the prescribed qualifications.

For example, beneficiaries under the Community Protection Module are enlisted into the Police Service, a large number of them drafted into the private security services while teaching assistants come under the Exit Plan of Top-up Training Module and placed into formal teaching in the public and private institutions through Memoranda

Understanding (MoU) with the private institutions.

So far, the NYEP has recruited and financed over three thousand youths for training and eventual placement in the oil and gas industry, in which connection the NYEP and its partners—Goodwill International/Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) —are exploring the possibility of reserving a percentage of their recruitment for them.

As part of the Exit plan, a provident fund has also been established to support beneficiaries with a lump sum on completion of their tenure—the fund consisting of a contribution of five Ghana cedis (GH¢ 5.00) a month by beneficiaries on NYEP payroll, with the NYEP contributing another five Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 5.00) which is lodged into an account for them until they complete their terms and are being exited.

Another major transformation that the NYEP has witnessed is the establishment

of a Department for Persons with Disability which has recruited more than 600 persons with disability into various sectors of the economy.

The NYEP has also refocused its attention on self-employment modules that provide training and logistic support to beneficiaries to establish and run their own business while some of the youth with little or no education are given the opportunity to access the services of the NYEP without necessarily being on the payroll of government. The NYEP has, no doubt, become one of the most important public sector institutions in Ghana undertaking massive skills training and job creation in collaboration with private sector service providers.

However, the programme encounters one major challenge—lack of financial resources—which hampers its efforts at expanding the programme to cover a significant proportion of the remaining unemployed

youth. To overcome this challenge, the Office of

Mobilization has been set up to help mobilize funds from other sources.

Another key intervention by Government to improve the welfare of the youth in Ghana is the World Bank-supported Youth Enterprise Development Project (YEDP) which is expected to increase the coverage of employed youth from the present 250,000 to one million beneficiaries over a five-year period.

Under the YEDP, skills training will be provided in dress-making, film-making, hairdressing, bamboo-making, mobile phone repairs and training for the youth in oil and gas. The project is also directed at supporting the youth and youth-groups to establish and operate their own businesses in comparative advantage areas and facilitate a reliable and sustainable market for their products and services both locally and abroad.

One component of the project, referred to as “Village Enterprise” is targeted at

assisting the disadvantaged youth, especially those in the villages who are not in employment, education or on training, to get themselves engaged productively and, thereby, reduce extreme poverty. Under the project, it is expected that large scale investments will be facilitated and attracted into areas like aquaculture, livestock production and the cultivation of soya beans, yam, cassava, cocoa and shea nuts.

Apart from these, the project is also expected to venture into housing and general construction under the modules of Youth in Affordable Housing, Youth in Roads and Maintenance, Youth in Computer Manufacturing and Youth in Auto parts Refurbishment and Maintenance.

In addition, the project will also venture into the development of model markets, schools and industrial packs as well as engage in large scale investment into the secondary and tertiary sectors of industry such as refinery, gas processing, oil

and gas marketing and retail service, fertilizer manufacturing, plastic manufacturing and waste water processing and recycling. The YEDP, when implemented is, therefore, expected to offer one million sustainable jobs, both directly and indirectly, within the time frame of the Action Plan of the project, i.e. 2011 - 2015. There is, in fact, no doubt that the YEDP is one major intervention to re-orient the youth, particularly polytechnic and university students and graduates towards self-employment. The success of the project, however, will depend on the collective and collaborative effort of all partners and stakeholders, especially the private sector as well as the development of new and innovative ways of creating job opportunities, specifically in the area of value addition to the country's natural resources. [Ghana Government]

Namibia: Youths gather in name of democracy

Windhoek, 24 Jan. — ABOUT 30 different political, tertiary and social institutions met on Saturday under the Youth Leadership Development Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, the National Youth Council and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in Namibia. The gathering involved graduates who form part of the Youth Leadership Alumni Association. The aim of the association is to continuously promote a culture of dialogue and tolerance. "The meeting also highlighted credible engagements that will see some alumni members participate in regional and international forums of youth discussions," said a member of the Youth Leadership Alumni Association, Frans Koolike. The meeting intended to establish a working committee to spearhead preparations for the annual general meeting due to take place this year. "Based on discussions and prospects of activities lined up for the year, the meeting was fruitful," he said. The Youth Leadership Development Programme brings together past and present participants to interact and discuss issues relevant to the Namibian "development agenda". "Mostly, participants have democracy and tolerance in their deliberations. The recommendations from these deliberations are very useful in influencing policy-makers," said Koolike. The Youth Leadership Development Programme was accepted in 2007. For the past three years, the programme has been offered exclusively to emerging future leaders and youth leaders. [All Africa]

Nigeria: NYCN backs subsidy removal

Abuja, 11 Jan. — THE National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) has said that the removal of fuel subsidy is a welcome development, as it will revamp the various sectors in the nation's economy by stimulating foreign investment. This was made known on Tuesday by the deputy president of the council, Ambassador Dickson Akoh,

during a press conference in Abuja. NYCN said that which was the umbrella body of the Nigerian youth and youth organizations converged an emergency meeting on the state of the nation and resolved that the fuel subsidy removal was pertinent to the development of the nation.

The council, therefore, called on the Federal Government to immediately commence serious probing and sanitization of the oil sector in order to properly utilize funds accruable from the deregulation policy. The council also urged the Federal Government to commence all palliative measures necessary to cushion the effect of the hardship on

the masses which was created by the fuel subsidy removal. The council called on all Nigerian youths and the entire citizens of the nation to avoid any action or inaction that would hinder the scarce peace and harmony in the country. [Nigerian Tribune]

Nigeria: Niger Delta youths say fuel subsidy removal will not divide Nigeria

Niger Delta, 12 Jan. — THE Niger Delta youths have reiterated their commitment to the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria, saying that the ongoing dispute over the removal of fuel subsidy would not divide the country. They advised youths across the country not to allow themselves to be used to cause disaffection and chaos in the country. Mr Marvin Yobana, Vice President, National Youth Council of Nigeria, said the situation in the country should be carefully handled.

Yobana urged organized labor to call off the strike and negotiate with government and save Nigerian youths from dying in the streets. “The situation in this country is a situation that we have to thread very carefully. Carefully in the sense, that the sovereignty of this nation, the unity of Nigeria is predominant than any issue. Nigeria cannot divide because of fuel. If Nigeria must go to war, when Bakassi was taken away from Nigeria, Nigeria did not go to war. So, when fuel subsidy is removed from

Nigerians, we cannot go to war” Mr. Marvin Yobana said. He urged the Niger Delta youths not to take the laws into their hands or allow them to be used to cause breakdown of law and order. Comrade Sobomabo Jackrich, Director, Network for Defense of Democracy and Good governance, also called for calm and understanding between labor and government in the interest of the Nigerian people. “That Jonathan’s administration has demonstrated

sensitivity to the plight of the common man with the immediate roll out of palliative measures like the introduction of more than 1,600 mass transit buses, N15 billion assistance to the national union of road transport workers and plans to carryout turn around maintenance of four refineries.” Chief Diamond Tobin-West, Leader of the Niger Delta Patriots and former Chairman of Asari-Toru Local Government, says President Jonathan means well for the country and that subsidy removal would

benefit Nigerians. channeled to the provision of more capital projects across the country. He said that the money to be saved from the fuel subsidy removal would be [Leadership]

Nigeria: Subsidy splits NYCN

Abuja, 16 Jan — THE Internal crisis in the National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, has resumed with a move to enforce the initial suspension of its president, Olawale Ajani, Vanguard has learnt.

Members were drumming support for President Jonathan because of alleged financial inducement, while the president of the council, Olawale Ajani, and his faction are strongly behind organized labor to protest the removal of fuel subsidy. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General of NYCN, Mr. Saleh Kubah, told Vanguard that they were not in any way financially induced from any quarter. He added that Olawale Ajani was no longer the president of the executive council, following his suspension last year.

economy is not working. We cannot continue to spend trillions of naira to import fuel at the expense of developing our local infrastructure.

He said: “There is no financial gratification for this support. I want Nigerians to understand that the youths of this country are in full support of total deregulation in the oil sector, so that this money can be freed for infrastructural development.

“So we are sensitizing Nigerian youths to be able to support this policy of government and we call on youths to continue their support for President Jonathan.”

[Vanguard]

Uganda: Youth MPs threaten naked demonstration over jobs

Kampala, 04 Jan. — job creation. Minister Maria Kiwanuka extremely annoying to the YOUTH MPs have given over incompetence. They jobless youth of this country the government up to January 20 to release their news conference at Parliament this Wednesday morning, MPs flanked by National Youth Council (NYC) leaders also threatened to censure Finance Minister Maria Kiwanuka.

Addressing a stormy joint news conference at Parliament this Wednesday morning, MPs flanked by National Youth Council (NYC) leaders also threatened to censure Finance Minister Maria Kiwanuka extremely annoying to the jobless youth of this country,” Mr. Gerald Karuhanga said. If it needs demonstrating when we are naked, we are ready to do so. The problem with ministers these days, they are either corrupt or incompetent.

“The Finance Minister is corrupt or incompetent.

They have also accused the government of dillydallying at a time when most of the youth in the country are languishing in poverty.

“The Finance Minister is extremely annoying to the jobless youth of this country,” Mr. Gerald Karuhanga said. “If it needs demonstrating when we are naked, we are ready to do so. The problem with ministers these days, they are either corrupt or incompetent. If they promised us air, they should say so, but they should know that we are going to mobilize the 15 million youth who are jobless and on streets to camp at the Ministry of Finance until the government releases the money.”

In the 2011/12 Budget, the government announced the Youth Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Funds to help the jobless youth. However, halfway into the financial year, the youth have not yet received the money.

MPs led by the National Female Youth MP Monica Amoding, Peter Ogwang (Eastern Youth) and Gerald Karuhanga (Youth Western) have also threatened to stage a naked demonstration to show their discontent.

In her response to the MP's threats, Ms Kiwanuka said, “This is a 100 per cent bank and NGO money, the Memorandum of Understanding is still in the Office of the Solicitor General for approval before the banks sign. There is no deliberate delay, we are handling this matter seriously and the youth will soon access this money.”

As part of the Shs44.5 billion, the president last year allocated Shs25 billion to the Youth Entrepreneurship venture capital fund to support the Youth to start or expand their businesses.

The youth were to access loans ranging from Shs100,000 to Shs5 million or 20 per cent of injected equity for the youth group investments. The youth were also to undertake training in entrepreneurship skills and development to enable them create their own enterprises and the president has allocated Shs3.5 billion for the training. This would help to reduce the unemployment in the country.

[Daily Monitor]

India: NCPUL: Muslim youth need vocational training

Mumbai, 22 Jan. — EVEN as the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) makes its presence felt in the city, council officers feel that while they have to promote the language, those studying in Urdu schools need training in job skills to get employment.

At the 13th All India Urdu Kitab Mela organised by NCPUL, in association with Anjuman-i-Islam at Saboo Siddik Polytechnic, By-

culla, they asked the ministry of human resources development to start vocational training courses in Urdu. Community felt that a lack of proficiency in other languages such as English was the reason why the Muslim youth found it difficult to compete in the job market.

Mohammad Hariz, a businessman, said, “I studied in an Urdu school and when I entered junior college, it was difficult to understand

English. Lakhs of student face the same problem. The ministry must promote English medium education for everyone so that we can also benefit.”

Naseem Ahmad, principal publication officer of NCPUL, said: “We know that job markets are tough. We have requested HRD minister Kapil Sibal to start vocational courses in Urdu language so that these students get better job place-

ment. A committee has been

formed to finalise the work. We may soon get such training institutes at Varanasi for carpet industry, Moradabad for brass work, Aligarh for lock-key industry and in Bhiwandi for textile industry.”

The council is publishing new editions of Unani medicine books and 100 such books are expected to be out in the next three months.

[Daily News & Analysis]

Pakistan: Youth Assembly: An effective forum to train future leadership

Islamabad, 05 Jan. — experiences. PRESIDENT of the National Youth Assembly (NYA), Hanan Ali Abbasi on Wednesday highlighted importance of NYA and said it was an effective forum to impart training to the leadership of future. Talking to APP, he said, well-known personalities from political, bureaucracy and social backgrounds had joined the NYA, which would be helpful for the younger generation to learn from their expertise and

He said an advisory board had been constituted aimed at educating the members of the NYA about working of the Senate and National Assembly (NA) and role of their members in legislation process. Former foreign affairs secretary general Akram Zaki, Election Commission of Pakistan executive secretary Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad, PML (N) Deputy Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, ANP leader

Senator Ilyas Bilor, Senator Saleem Saifullah Khan, former senior joint secretary Sohaila Mushtaq and the leader of Pakistan Movement Brig (r) Iqbal Shafi are member of the advisory board.

The president further said the aim of programme was to share past experiences with future leaders in an ideal training environment. Personalities of international fame like Malala Yousafzai - nominee of

world child peace prize, Amir Atlas Khan, International Squash player and many other national achievers have joined the NYA. The NYA is a model Parliament House for county's youth from diverse backgrounds, collaborating each other to imagine what they would do if they were members of the parliament. There are 430 seats throughout the country that is according to the latest population census of the

country. The NYA has brought together future leaders from more than 100 districts of the country and also provides the opportunity to learn about politics, democracy, social work and parliamentary system in a best learning environment. Every member of the NYA has the chance to write model legislation, add input during meetings, or participate in youth-related activities. The NYA's Youth

Ambassadors are also representing Pakistani youth in various countries like, USA, UK, France, Sweden, KSA, Canada, Afghanistan, etc. Hanan Ali Abbasi said the NYA had two party systems 'Hope and Change'. Hope party represented moderates; however the change party represented liberals. The NYA has successfully established working relationship with credible inter-

national youth organisations, also with Punjab Assembly and Youth Ministry of KP. The discussion in the NYA will not only help the young members in their personal development but also help to articulate the views of youth relevant to the national and international issues. The NYA has not only proposed much pragmatic legislation to the government has also launched various philanthropic projects from its

own platform like iftar project, ration-distribution from which more than 20 districts of the country got benefit and fed. Abbasi said added that the talent-hunt program 2012-13 was continuing, and interested candidates could join the NYA through official website www.nya.com.pk. App [Daily Times]

Pakistan: Youth brimming with ambition: PM adviser

Islamabad, 26 Jan. — THE Youth is an integral section of any society as it plays a pivotal role in the economy for sustainable growth and development of a nation. Youth, being 60 percent of Pakistan's population, are a hope for rapid socio-economic growth and development for a better life. Adviser to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs and Punjab People's Youth Organisation (PYO) President Mian Muhammad Ayub, in an exclusive interview to Pakistan Today, said that

the youth in Pakistan was brimming with ambition, enthusiasm, dynamism and commitment to rise. However, Pakistan does not have hitherto, any comprehensive National Youth Policy though the subject has been pondered over since 1989. "The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government has already done a lot in the current tenure for the youth of this country, formulating the first youth policy – 2008 in the history of this country to expose the youth to works in various walks of life and to instil a passion to

excel," he said. He said, "It is in my wish list to have a separate television channel for the youth of this country to engage the youth in positive activities rather than to hand them over to extremists to prepare them for suicide attacks." He said that he also wished for a FM radio channel to be launched in all colleges and universities in the country. "Besides, I also wished to establish a 'Youth Bank' to provide Rs 500,000-1000,000 in loans to the youth and a 'Youth

University' to impart free and quality education to the youth of the under-privileged areas as I want to force them to come out of their house to take active part in making the nation prosperous rather than to sit at home, using internet and watching cable television all the time," Mian Ayub said further. He said he wants to see the vigour of Quaid-e-Azam, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto and Faryal Talpur in the youth of this country. As the ministry of youth

affairs has been devolved under the 18th amendment, the adviser said that the provincial governments have to show extra responsibility to provide the means and environment in which the invaluable human resource could attain the optimal growth potential. He said government should reconsider the step of devolution of the youth ministry, under which all the mechanisms have been decentralized.

He said, "The 'Youth Award' and 'Youth essay writing competition' are among the steps taken by the youth ministry to encourage active participation by youth, while on May 29, 2011, the ministry had arranged 'Provincial Convention', where the youth of Pakistan showcased their support for the PPP. "In order to promote national integration and harmony among the young generation of the country and also to provide them an opportunity to share their

experiences, youth ministry has initiated 'National and International Youth Exchange Programme', established 'Youth Activity Centre', started 'National Internship Programme' and the 'National Volunteer Movement'," Mian Ayub maintained.

Elaborating upon the National Internship Programme (NIP), he said, "The NIP was designed for the benefit of 40,000 young unemployed postgraduates and graduates all over the country, who have completed sixteen years of education from recognized universities or degree awarding institutions, including external candidates." "The scheme was intended to provide financial relief with a stipend of Rs 10,000 to fresh graduates and also to keep them engaged and interested in acquiring additional knowledge and work experience, thereby facilitating their employability in the country.

The programme will also be of advantage to the government organizations that have a shortage of officials in various cadres," he said, adding that Rs 3.6 billion had been spent on this scheme.

Mian Ayub said further, "The National Volunteer Movement (NVM), is an organization dedicated to providing a platform for people's contribution in the society, creating a pool of individuals that can be mass-stimulated to act promptly and effectively in natural and man-made disasters," adding that, "In the recent months, we have arranged the 'Youth Award' for the promotion of expertise rendered in various fields by the youth.

Answering a question, Mian Ayub said that he was against stopping students from participating in politics. "If student politics was stopped on campuses, how could political leaders be produced when the country badly needs them?" he re-

sponded. He said that all political and religious parties should take the country's youth on board in making Pakistan a prosperous state and to engage them in positive activities.

"The period of life which the youth represent is the most productive and useful by virtue of the nascent energies that the youth are endowed with by nature. The young people aspire for full participation in the life of a society. If appropriate opportunities are made available to put their natural endowment to creative, productive and useful channels, the Pakistani youth is indeed capable of working miracles," the adviser concluded.

[Pakistan Today]

Philippines: First Baguio youth parliament set up

Baguio, 19 Jan. — ONE hundred sixteen participants, two hundred thirty-two resolutions, and three days. The National Youth Commission, in cooperation with the City of Baguio, the Youth Council Federation of Baguio, the Cordillera Youth Leaders, and Brotherhood for Peace, and the National Youth Parliament Alumni, are sponsoring the First Baguio Youth Parliament (BYP) on January 27 to 29 at the Skyrise Hotel in Baguio.

The parliament seeks to enjoin the youth of the city to discuss pressing issues affecting them in relation to their barangays and the nation. According to Jason Balag-ey, co-chairman of the event, the youth parliament will bring together 116 youth leaders from the 128 barangays of Baguio to talk on these matters and hopefully come up with resolutions which can be addressed by local governments and government line agencies.

“The first step is for the potential participants to come up with a maximum of two resolutions to be submitted to the BYP secretariat on or before January 24,” Balag-ey said. These resolutions may be on rules, privileges and legal matters; education and culture; health and social services; participation; values; employment or entrepreneurship; special need; environment and sustainable development; and other relevant and emerging youth issues of the day.

After these have been submitted, the participants will discuss the resolutions in order to firm up its content so it can be forwarded to concerned local governments or government agencies. “The outcome will also be brought out in the National Youth Parliament scheduled on May,” Balag-ey added. The National Youth Parliament will be held in Naga City and will be participated in by select youth leaders from all over the country.

Through the Baguio Youth Parliament, the NYC hopes to come up with ideas which are applicable in the local setup. “Even school policy can be discussed during the youth parliament,” Balag-ey added.

Interested participants may submit their resolution to the BYP secretariat at email address: baguio_youth_parliament@yahoo.com or byp_secretariat@yahoo.com.

[Sun Star]

Singapore: Inter-religious youth group to be set up in July

Singapore, 09 Jan. — "Its motive is to promote friendship and trust among young people of varying religions," said Master Chung Kwang Tong, 28, secretary-general of the Taoist Federation's Youth Group and head of the IRO Inter-Religious Organization (IRO).

At an event to launch a book titled *Twenty Years Of Taoist Practice: 20th Anniversary Commemorative Book Of Singapore Taoist Federation*, he told my paper that several organizations have pledged their support. Participating organizations include Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, Sikh Sewaks Singapore, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery and the Singapore Jain Religious Society.

He added that the formation of the group is still in its infancy, and many details remain tentative. However, plans are in the pipeline to organize bonding activities

such as environmental or about a faith, members of highlighted the importance portant for the young to overseas community pro- the group would (be able to) of family and religion in share the right values with jects, as well as visits to old share their perspectives, helping young people cope one another. folks' homes. The IRO backed by the values learnt with the pervasiveness of hopes the group will be able from their religious up- the Internet. (See sidebar) "It's better to start young to go online to help young bringing," said Master Master Chung revealed that because as they get older, people who may have Chung. an IRO Youths Facebook they may be too set in their doubts about religious is- group and an online forum ways," he said. sues. The guest of honour at the are in the works. The Rev- event, Minister of State for erend Gabriel Liew from [Asia One] "For example, if a youth National Development and Kampong Kapor Methodist expresses a misconception Manpower Tan Chuan-Jin, Church agreed that it is im-

Sri Lanka: Youth camp held in Vavuniya

Vavuniya, 26 Jan. — OF- sored by the National Youth Vavuniya and Badulla dis- guest at the training pro- FERING a novel experience Services Council, at Va- tricts, which streanghtened gramme which continued to the youths in the North vuniya "Seva Lanka" Insti- Sinhala and Tamil brother- for 5 days, emphasized that and the South based on mu- tute. hood. such types of training camps would definitely help mutual understanding, co- The special feature at this The Youth Affairs and to cure the hurtful minds existence and confidence, a venture was that 80 partici- Skills Development Deputy and link the hurt minds. youth training camp was pants were disabled youths, Minister Duminda Dis- held recently held in Va- representing youth clubs in sanayake, who was the chief [Daily News] vuniya organized and spon-

Vietnam: National competition to enhance talent in high school students

Hanoi, 10 Jan. — TNAM'S Vietnam Television Net- Through four rounds of the study programmes in re- Youth Television Network, work, launched the compe- competition, young people nowned universities in the VTV6, the country's first tion aimed at helping high will be able to boost their UK, if they win in the com- national channel dedicated school students nationwide confidence, discover their petition. specifically to youth pro- to be able to interact better hidden talents and abilities and also have an opportu- Interestd candidates can programmes, and the British with their surroundings and nity to win many prizes. register to participate in the Council have just launched create more awareness of competition on website: a competition called "I'm their own potential and abilities in the fields of gen- This competition is a www.toitainang.com.vn talented" for teenage abilities in the fields of gen- eral study, scientific pro- gress and new technologies dents to access international [Saigon daily] groups. VTV6, part of a broader in the modern era. modern education through

Jamaica: GB's youth congratulates Jamaica's PNP

Kingston, 03 Jan. — IN significance of Jamaica's that have led to the emer- their talents will allow the
Addition to a new year, the emerging democracy. We gence of a strong and viable young among us to respond
year 2012 will also brought are certain that the People Caribbean Democratic Sys- effectively and make mean-
a new Government to the of The Bahamas and all tem. The bonds between our ingful contributions in the
Island of Jamaica as the Bahamian youths are com- two countries continue to be future development of our
People's National Party mitted to partner with and strengthened and deepened nations."
swept the Jamaican 2011 collaborate with Jamaica in as a result of our continued
election in December. Na- a manner and with a spirit social and economic inter- The organization offered
tional Youth Organization, to secure a promising future actions and exchanges of words of congratulations
Youth Advisory Council of for all the youth of the re- culture and resources. and encouragement. "We
The Bahamas has issued a gion." wish the PNP and its leader-
statement, which notes the ship every and all success as
cultural and economic ties The released continued, "It share vital principles and they form the next govern-
between The Bahamas and is with great pleasure that values that fosters the mu- ment of Jamaica. We do
Jamaica and offered con- Advisory Youth Council of tual fabric of our nations assure you that the youth of
gratulations to its incoming The Bahamas convey our and our peoples. It is our The Bahamas look forward
government. heartfelt congratulations view that the future of Ja- in strengthening the bilat-
and support to Portia Simp- maica's youth are in good eral relationship with Ja-
son-Miller and the People's hands" the organization maica's youth in building a
National Party as they cele- said. better Caribbean for future
brate their General Election generations to come. The
victory and commit their In light of the recent people of Jamaica have cho-
resources to develop their changes in governments sen their future and we
beloved country, Jamaica." throughout the Caribbean stand with them as they
The organization noted that including St. Lucia and Ja- write the next chapter in
the Bahamian Democracy maica, the organization Jamaica's history."
and the Jamaican Democ- noted "as change continues
ratic System share a to foster throughout the In The Bahamas, elections
"mutual and long lasting region and as both countries are set for this year and
relationship that has been are continuously challenged must be held on or before
forged and rooted through by the difficult social and May 2, 2012.
history." economic problems that
"Historically, both The Ba- confront us daily, we are [The Freeport News]
hamas and Jamaica have encouraged and confident
made valuable contributions that the abilities and skills
of our youth, along with

USA: Youth ownership will be major factor in teen centre

Alaska, 07 Jan. — AS John Brown entered Soldotna City Hall Thursday night to take part in a meeting regarding the possibility of building a local teen centre — he had no idea what he was getting in to.

But after an hour of sitting across the table from Mayor Peter Micciche, Police Chief John Lucking, Soldotna City Council member Brenda Hartman and passionate residents and youth, the Soldotna High School junior was convinced the project was something he could get behind.

“If you’re able to go to a place where you can have fun, relax, hang out with friends and be yourself and do the things you want to do — I think it’s a good way to relive stress,” Brown said. “Because school can sometimes be a stressful time.” Soldotna community members and officials are exploring what it would take to create a teen centre in Soldotna. The centre would provide a safe place for teens to go after school or

on the weekends. Still in the preliminary phase, there are many details that need to be hammered out before the centre could come to fruition. The second committee meeting took place Thursday, with more meetings planned in the coming weeks as the process picks up steam.

Brown found out about the meeting Thursday at school from his classmate, senior Owen Phillips. Brown belongs to the school’s National Honor Society, where Phillips is the president.

“I thought it would be a cool project to take on,” Brown said. “It sounds fun, and it sounds like it’d be entertaining and would be cool to do.” For Phillips, 18, being a part of the Teen Centre preliminary steering committee, is one of the many hats he wears.

President of SoHi’s National Honor Society and a member of student government since his sophomore year, Phillips has had plenty of practice getting things

done. A teen centre, he said, could provide kids a place to go instead of them going to someone’s house or a coffee shop to hang out, a place for dances, tutoring, competitions in billiards or ping-pong among other possibilities.

“You know, typical teenage activities,” Phillips said. But the most important part to Phillips is that other youth get involved and feel a sense of ownership of the centre.

“Oh that was really cool when (we) went on Friday and we (watched) a movie or whatever,” he said, citing what he thinks the typical reaction would be, adding “And then say, ‘Oh, we should help out to keep it going.”

The youth’s ownership in the possible centre is something Soldotna Mayor Peter Micciche said is paramount for the centre to exist. “This is for them, it’s about them,” Micciche said. “Before we ask the community if they’re interested in supporting the facility — if

it’s going to occur, we need to know the youth of Soldotna is going to be invested.” Having Brown and Phillips involved from the very beginning will give the steering committee a perspective that not many adults seek when starting a project like this, Micciche said.

“It will certainly give us the inside scoop on what they would like to see,” Micciche said. “Coupled with our expectations for a safe facility that’s well-run by qualified individuals.” The teen centre preliminary steering committee is not the first time Micciche and Phillips have worked together.

“It’s refreshing working with Owen,” Micciche said. “What I like about (him) is that he’s not shy about how he honestly feels and he’s not shy to go out and survey other youth that may not be exactly like him or have his exact opinion. “I think he brings a lot to the table.”

Phillips said his experience

of running the blood drive at SoHi, so he knows what is expected of completing a task. "So if Mayor Micciche says, 'OK Owen, this is what you need to do, this is how you do need to get it done,'" Phillips said. "I know the ways to go about getting it done."

Phillips and Brown belong to the centre's preliminary steering committee, which has been meeting to gather information on where the centre could be located and what costs would take the centre to be operational. After the information is gathered, and it is apparent what is needed to run the centre, a formal committee will be formed made up of educators, various organizations, law enforcement and young people, Micciche said. "I think the community will buy in and help support and sustain a teen centre," he said. "This is more or less a pilot project to demonstrate to community the benefits of having a safe place for young people to hang out." Being an Eagle Scout, Phillips and Brown feel a sense of pride when he talks about his involvement with the teen centre. "It's a good feeling knowing that I'm contributing to the community and helping," he said. "Because the community has given so much to me, it's good knowing I can give something back."

[Peninsula Clarion]

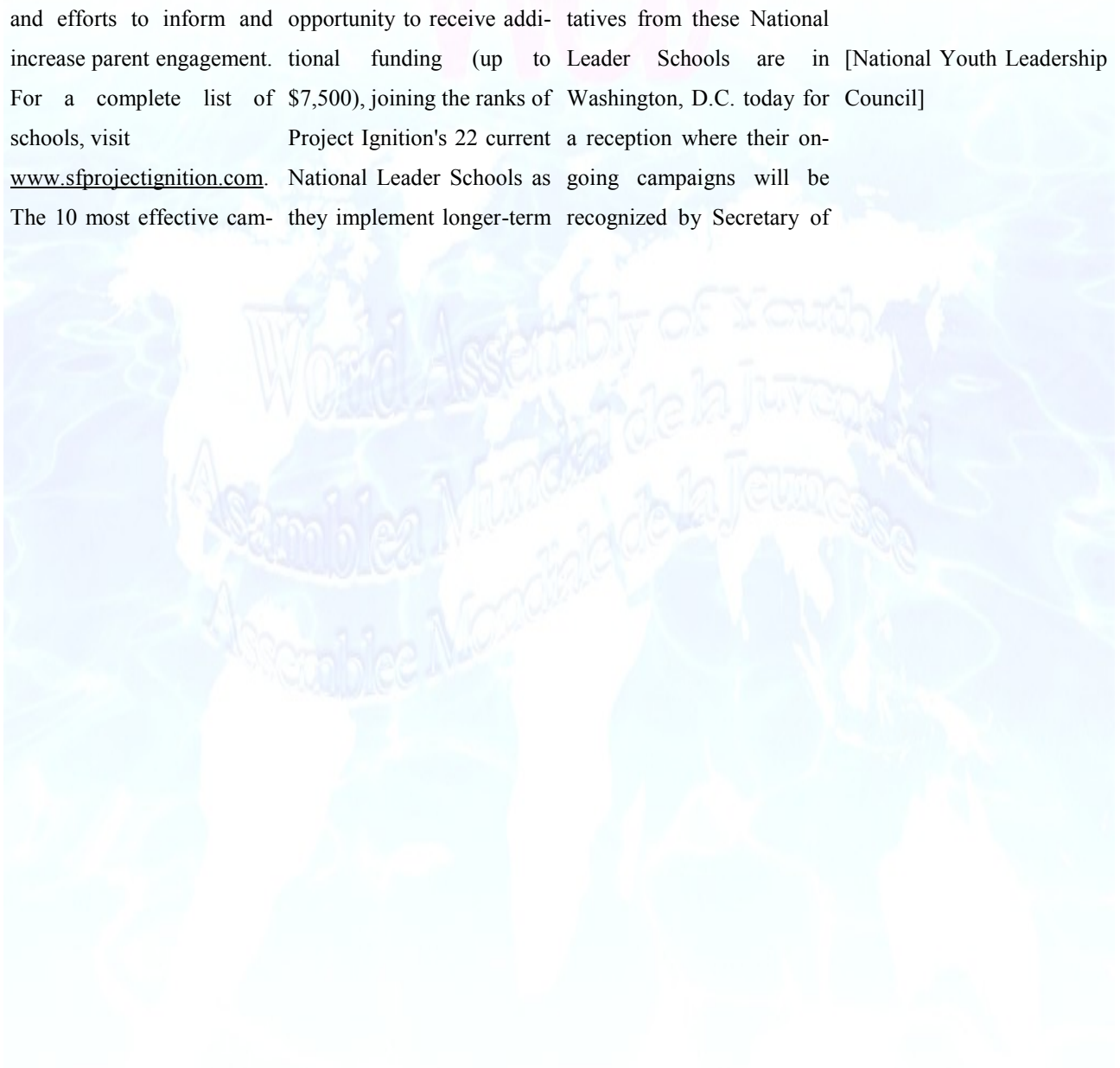
USA: 25 high schools receive project ignition grants to promote safer, smarter driving

ST. PAUL, Minn, 09 Jan. — COORDINATED by the National Youth Leadership Council® and funded by State Farm, Project Ignition has selected 25 high schools from throughout the United States and Canada to receive \$2,000 service-learning teen driver safety grants in 2012.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, auto crashes are the number one cause of death for teens in this country. Project Ignition is a youth- and schools-led response that connects academic goals to address the issue of teen driver safety through service-learning. The grants will support student-designed and student-led campaigns aimed at preventing car crashes in their community. "Young people have unique capacity to influence their peers' behaviors. Especially when supported by adult allies, students can save lives by changing practices such as seat-belt use or the decision to not drive under the influence," said Kelita Svoboda Bak, NYLC CEO. "Together with State Farm, we are honored to provide students and teachers the support they need to transform their ideas into realities and make a measurable difference in teen driver safety. Recognition of these efforts affirms the capabilities of young people to lead effectively on issues that affect their community." Students' plans ranged from integrating their project with physics, chemistry, calculus, health, physical education, and driver's education curriculum at Pine Lake Preparatory in Mooresville, N.C. to having students in Algonquin High School, North Bay, Ontario learn about issues related to teen driver safety and then sign a contract to drive smart. Other schools will lead through student-based research projects, demonstrations that help youth motivate their peers while teachers will simultaneously link these activities to academic curriculum.

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understand the impact of campaigns that emerge from teen driver safety campaigns. Transportation, distractions while driving, these 25 will be given the campaigns. Ten youth representatives from these National and efforts to inform and opportunity to receive additional funding (up to \$7,500), joining the ranks of National Youth Leadership increase parent engagement. tional funding (up to \$7,500), joining the ranks of Washington, D.C. today for [National Youth Leadership For a complete list of \$7,500), joining the ranks of Washington, D.C. today for Council] schools, visit www.sfprojectignition.com. Project Ignition's 22 current a reception where their on-going campaigns will be National Leader Schools as going campaigns will be The 10 most effective campaigns they implement longer-term recognized by Secretary of



Australia: Youth council plans street carnival curtain-raiser to home grown gig

Cowra, 10 Jan. — COWRA Youth Council is planning a carnival-style prelude to this year's Home Grown concert which will highlight the talents of town and district bands and solo artists during National Youth Week. "We plan to close off Darling St outside the Civic Centre and have other entertainment, street stalls and street theatre running...it's going to be a fantastic night, so we'd encourage all young local musicians to give it a go and start rehearsing," says Cowra youth councilor and concert team leader, Dylan Oliver (pictured right).

The Cowra Youth Council (CYC) has secured a \$2500 grant to assist in staging the concert during Youth Week, which runs from Monday to Tuesday, April 13 to 22. Now in their third year, Home Grown concerts give Cowra artists the opportu-

nity to perform before a live audience, presenting country, pop, progressive rock, acoustic and heavy metal/grunge music from a wide variety of genres.

The concert is an all-age, drug- and alcohol-free event. Home Grown 2012 promises to be even bigger and better, says Mr Oliver. The CYC, working with fellow Indent grant recipients from West Wyalong's Youth of Bland Shire to include a headline band in the line-up this year.

Indent, the peak youth network for contemporary music and a project of Music

NSW, distributes funds in the form of partnership grants across two categories, an Event Development Grant and a Grass Roots Grant.

It was set up to help young people aged 13 to 25 in New South Wales to access

all-age, drug- and alcohol-free entertainment by providing funding for events, workshops, training, advice, support and resources.

During its first year of operation, the CYC positively contributed to the local community through a successful movie night, Newton's Nation Skate Park Day and participation in the Indent Tour last November.

The CYC once again has been invited to participate in the 2012 tour based on the success of its previous work with Indent under the partnership grants, the organization says.

"The 2012 Indent Tour will engage young people in a professional development opportunity to work on an industry standard event and the tour of a professional band through regional NSW," Indent says on its website.

"In addition to the 2012 grants, Indent can provide further assistance to young people wanting to find out more about the all ages industry through the launch of X Festival: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Running Music Events, the annual Open Day Mini-Conference on March 9 and the continued annual workshop program."

[Cowra Community News]

England: Kent County Council could pay employers to create jobs

Kent County, 20 Jan. — a meeting on Friday with a final decision expected in March.

EMPLOYERS could be paid to give young people jobs in a scheme put forward by Kent County Council (KCC) to tackle youth unemployment. KCC would give £3,000 to an employer to hire a non-graduate for 18 months and £6,000 to hire a graduate.

The council would fund the scheme from its £2m Big Society Fund and also seek further government funding. Plans are being discussed at

them find employment. He said: "Young people who have been out of work for a long time lose the confidence and the ability to get a job and we are trying to make sure we help the young people of Kent"

If it goes ahead, the first young people would start work in April.

Councilor Mike Hill, cabinet spokesman for communities, said the plan was to give young people some work experience and help

crisis in youth unemployment and stop young people getting trapped in a cycle of unemployment.

On Wednesday, figures from the Office for National Statistics showed the number of young people looking for work across the UK had hit a new record of 1.043m, taking the unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds to 22.3%.

[BBC]

was to ease the short-term

England: Jack Stopforth: We can work together to tackle youth unemployment

Liverpool, 03 Jan. — LIVERPOOL Chamber of Commerce CEO Jack Stopforth urges local action to help young people. Youth unemployment is a criminal waste of resources that blights young people's lives and corrodes society.

In 2012, employers of all types and size of business in the Liverpool city region can benefit from taking on apprentices without the responsibility of actually employing them during training. A new Community Interest Company has been created by Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Community College.

Trading as Liverpool Futures, the new venture is an Apprenticeship Training Association, or ATA, which will employ the trainees and assume all the responsibilities associated with employing people – from paying sick pay and agreeing holiday entitlement to dealing with disciplinary issues and behaviors.

The host business will pay the trainee an agreed wage and be expected to exercise due care and attention and observe statutory health and safety regulations when the apprentices are on their premises, but the many legal and regulatory requirements around employment that can sometimes inhibit smaller businesses, especially, from recruiting staff will be the responsibility of the ATA, not the host organization.

For young people aged 16 to 18, the full cost of relevant training, customized as far as possible to the employers' needs and professionally delivered by fully-accredited training

providers, will be met by the Government and administered by Liverpool Futures. Training will be geared to the needs of the business, as well as benefiting the trainee.

Apprentices aged 19 or older will also have a significant portion of their training costs met, and this applies not only to newly recruited trainees, but to already-employed staff who might benefit from specialized training or a higher level apprenticeship. If an employer has a particular training provider in mind for the approved apprenticeship framework, then, so long as the ATA is satisfied with their credentials, they can deliver the course. If no provider is proposed, the ATA will broker an appropriate trainer.

Naturally, we aim to generate long-term employment for apprentices, and the host is able to make an offer of employment at any stage, but is under no obligation to do so. If the host business's circumstances change mid-training, it will be the ATA,

as the employer, that will take the responsibility of finding another organization to enable the trainee to complete his or her qualifications with no penalty to the original host business.

In short, we aim to make it easy for businesses, public agencies and charities to offer places to our apprentices while ensuring that the trainees are well looked after and not exploited. The flexibility of the ATA model is its strength, because it provides the trainee with secure employment with Liverpool Futures, while, at the same time, enabling host employers to benefit from having an apprentice. And there is plenty of empirical research to suggest that businesses that use apprentices fare better than other businesses.

Liverpool Futures is a joint venture in which Liverpool Chamber of Commerce is the majority shareholder, supported by Liverpool City Council and the Community College, as well as other partners, such as the well-regarded Eldonians. Potentially

trainees will be interviewed by the ATA and coached in the interpersonal skills needed in the workplace.

Our aim is to work with unemployed people from across the city, but to ensure that host companies interview young people who are, effectively, work-ready. The apprenticeships offer cover a wide range of disciplines and are work-based, not classroom-based. They're designed by the Sector Skills Councils and reflect the real world of work, not a civil servant's idea of what training business needs.

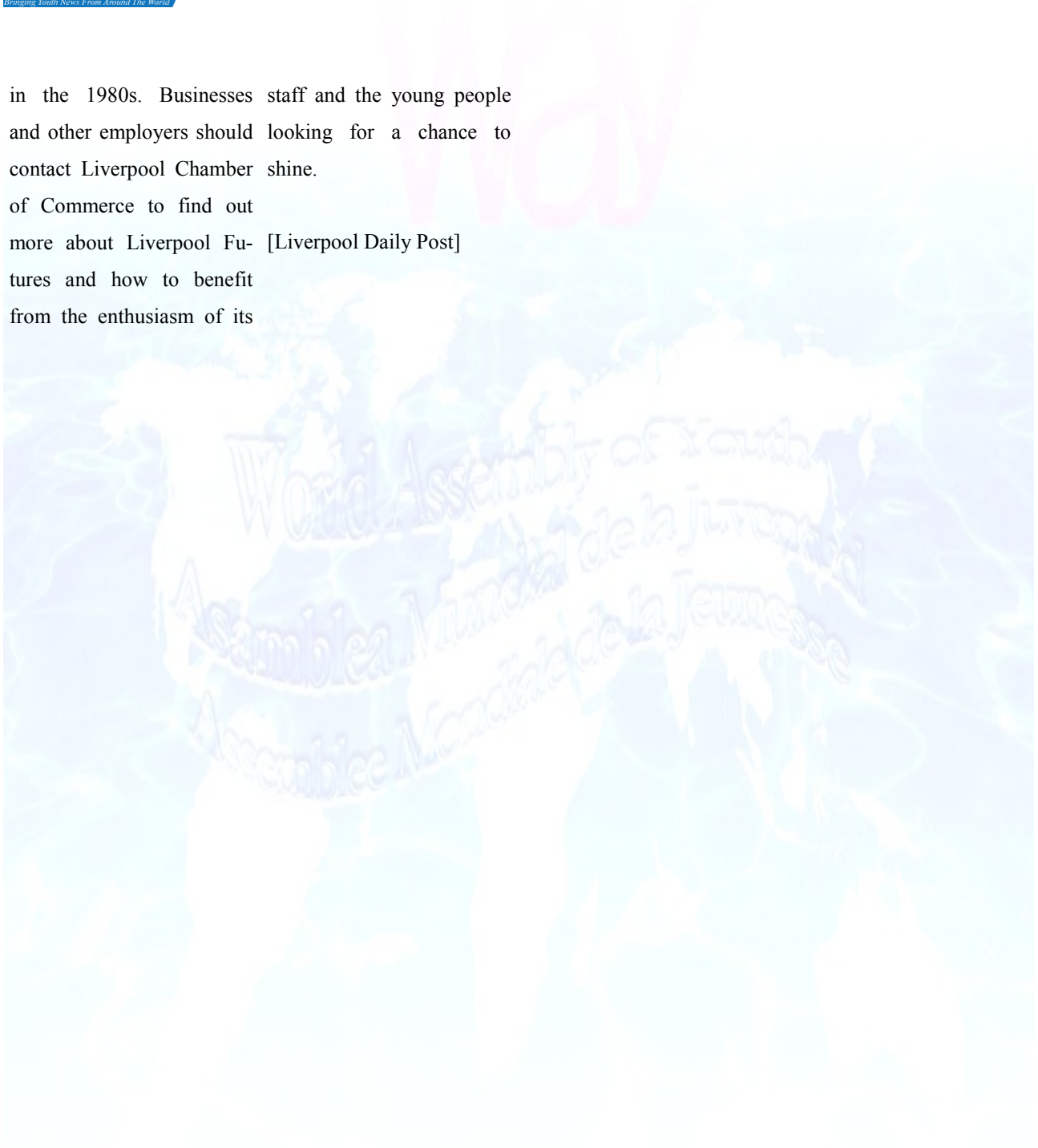
Courses are geared to the needs of the host organization and lead to the award of nationally-recognized qualifications. Depending on the sector and the job description, apprenticeships can last between one year and four years. Around 80% of businesses with apprentices believe they improve productivity, and more than 80% of consumers, when interviewed, said they would be happier buying

from businesses who utilize apprenticeships. Some of the best businesses in the country are committed to the National Apprenticeship Service, and many see the scheme as their principal route for replacing future skills.

There are many inspirational examples on the National Apprentice Service's website. This is a city that has been bucking the national trends for most of the past four years. The huge economic impetus generated in the build-up to our year as European Capital of Culture, in 2008, carried us through the worst of the credit crunch-induced recession and we continue to generate success in sectors like advanced manufacturing, green energy, biomedicine, retail and tourism.

By working together on youth unemployment, we can continue bucking the national trend and mitigate at least some of the awful social consequences of writing off a generation of the young people, as we did

in the 1980s. Businesses staff and the young people and other employers should looking for a chance to contact Liverpool Chamber shine. of Commerce to find out more about Liverpool Fu- [Liverpool Daily Post] tures and how to benefit from the enthusiasm of its



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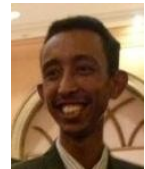
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