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✓ BOTSWANA: PRESIDENT URGES MORE EFFORTS TO END HIV/AIDS SCOURGE

Gaborone, 1 December 2018 - Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi on Saturday called for intensified efforts to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

In his keynote address to mark the 2018 World AIDS Day commemoration at Mochudi village, about 60 km outside the country's capital city Gaborone, Masisi said complacency is seemingly reversing the progress made in the fight against the deadly HIV/AIDS.

While there is so much to be grateful for, there is no doubt that complacency has

crept in regarding the southern African country's efforts to fight the endemic disease, Masisi said.

"The fortitude that we showed in yester-years is slowly waning. And the time has now come to reinvigorate our programs and re-energize our individual capabilities to put an end to this scourge," said Masisi.

With Botswana's national HIV prevalence rate estimated at 18.5 percent, Botswana is ranked the third highest country globally after its Southern African Development

Community (SADC) counterparts in Swaziland and Lesotho.

Furthermore, national HIV incidence rate is about 1.35 percent. New HIV infections in a country of a population of just over 2 million people are estimated to be fluctuating between 10,000 and 14,000 per annum.

According to Masisi, the situation is compounded by recent indications of a surge in new HIV infections, especially among the youth.

He said this challenges Botswana (citizens of

Botswana) as a collective to reflect and interrogate that which the country is not doing right.

Masisi said the only indicator that would show that the country is heading the right direction would be the time when zero new infections start to be recorded.

To this end, Masisi urged Botswana to take time as individuals to introspect and be part of this fight so that the beautiful Botswana can be restored to an HIV-free country.

[Xinhua]

✓ MALAWI: YOUTH SET TO BENEFIT FROM K5 BILLION TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Lilongwe, 9 December 2018 - GOVERNMENT is mobilising Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) youth to benefit from the taxpayer funded K5 billion tree planting program.

The government funded project is set to employ 10,000 youth countrywide and will be managed by the Department of Forestry Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining.

Reports show that the DPP has also found a role in the program as the party is enlisting its cadets to take part in the tree planting while some senior members have already registered to supply the trees for projects.

A source who has penetrated the system and managed to register as a DPP member said the Department of Forestry does not know how the program will be managed and raised fears that the

party is planning to steal public funds through the project.

"Currently the DPP is mobilising its youth and other senior members to register where they can supply the trees. I have penetrated the system and have registered as one of their own.

"The responsible dept. up to this minute has no information how this program will be run despite making many inquiries from their parent ministry," the source said. Commenting on the issue, social commentator Onjezani Kenani said the issue should be cause for worry and described the conduct of the DPP as theft which must be stopped.

"It is not right for Peter Mutharika to play Father Christmas to his party's youth wing using government funds.

"This is theft and must be stopped forthwith. Malawi belongs to all of us. Is there a way for Mutharika and his party to do anything at all without thinking of theft?" said Kenani.

When presenting the 2018/19 budget in May, Minister of Finance Goodall Gondwe said trees will be planted in areas which require reforestation such as road sides, forest reserves, river banks, bare mountains and other catchment areas.

Government hopes the program will minimize the effects of deforestation and climate, provide vegetative cover to reduce soil erosion and control flooding.

It is further expected that the program will continue for the next three years.

[Malawi24]



✓ NIGERIA: 250 YOUTH GRADUATE FROM EDOJOBS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

Edo State, 9 December 2018 - NOT less than 250 young persons have graduated from an entrepreneurship training programme organised by the Edo State Government's skills development platform, EdoJobs and Genius Hub, a private partner.

The trainees, drawn from the state's three senatorial districts, underwent not less than two weeks of immersive training on catfish production, soap and perfume production, and cosmetology and bead production.

A cross-section of some of the graduands of the entrepreneurship training from the three senatorial districts of Edo State organised by EdoJobs in

partnership with Genius Hub, during the graduation ceremony held at the Edo innovation Hub, Benin City, the Edo State capital.

Cosmetology and bead production. Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Skills Development and Jobs Creation, Mrs. Ukinabo Dare, disclosed this in a chat with journalists during the graduation ceremony held at Edo Innovation Hub, in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

She said that the training programme is in line with Governor Godwin Obaseki's promise to create 200,000 jobs before 2020. According to her, "In Edo South, the training held at the Genius Hub office, in

Oredo Local Government Area. For Edo Central, it held at Igueben Local Government Area.

The training comprised of skills development in cosmetology (perfume production), bead production and catfish production in Edo South as well as soap and perfume production in Edo Central."

Director of Genius Hub, Mrs. White Isimeme, said that the organisation collaborated with EdoJobs on the training because of the state government's sincerity in creating jobs for youths and ensuring that they are self-reliant.

According to her, "I appreciate the Edo State

Government for giving the participants the opportunity to acquire the various skills. The graduands are encouraged to continually seek knowledge and put what they have learnt into practice."

Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Special Duties and Investment, Mr. Mandela Obaseki, said that more of such training programmes are in the offing as the state government is mobilising resources to ensure that youth in the state are properly engaged and are involved in wealth creation.

[Vanguard]

✓ ZAMBIA: PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG YOUTHS, PRIORITY

Lusaka, 12 December 2018 - MINISTER of Youth and Sport Moses Mawere says government is prioritizing the promotion of entrepreneurship among the youths.

Mr Mawere said government fully supports the global entrepreneurship week which aims at exposing young people to benefits of entrepreneurship through different activities and also to motivate them to explore their own entrepreneurial ideas.

He explained that since its creation in 2008, more than 10 million people from 102 countries have participated in entrepreneurial-related activities during the Youth Entrepreneurship Week.

Mr Mawere said this yesterday when he

officialiated at the workshop on entrepreneurship, organised by the Lusaka Youth Resource Centre, the National Youth Development Council (NYDC) and the Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA).

"Around the world, researchers and policy makers engage in discussions to examine the underlying policies necessary to promote entrepreneurial growth.

This is more than just an awareness campaign. It is a platform for connection and collaboration, engaging all players along the entrepreneurship spectrum in strengthening ecosystems around the world", he said.

Mr Mawere disclosed that

his Ministry has continued to establish youth resource centres, such as the Lusaka youth resource centre to provide skills training to youth for both formal employment and self-employment.

The theme for this year's global entrepreneurship week is "recognising women, youth and inclusion in entrepreneurship".

[Lusaka Times]



✓ ZIMBABWE: EVERY MINISTRY MUST HAVE YOUTH DESK

Harare, 4 December 2018 - NEXT week all roads will lead to Matabeleland South where Zanu-PF, led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, will have its Annual National People's Conference, an opportune time to take stock, reflect and plan for the future.

We are aware that since last year so much has happened, we have engaged the world, with our leader taking the lead in ensuring that doors that have been shut during days of isolation are opened and in so doing he is neither looking West nor East but is looking everywhere to put the country on the map again and put it on a recovery path.

This is no mean task, but then it has to be done if we are to cure more than two decades of negativity and economic bleeding.

The wound is big and it will take time to heal, but it is clear that wound is starting to heal, thanks to the pragmatist that is President Mnangagwa.

We say to the youths of Zimbabwe, worry not because joy is coming. The sun is rising and shining on Zimbabwe.

Youths need to be counted in the economic struggle and the time is now.

Everything has been put in place and is fortunately on course, never mind the doomsayers and naysayers who wish nothing but ill on Zimbabwe.

The President has been engaging with everyone, young or old, rich or poor and yes even those in the

opposition who nonetheless feign radicalism just to waylay their supporters.

In spite of the temporary harsh economic conditions that are prevailing and which are being addressed by fine-tuning economic fundamentals, we have witnessed an opening of the democratic space with Zimbabweans enjoying universal freedoms. Unfortunately, some in the opposition are abusing the new dispensation's call for progress.

The major take away from this for the youths is that we have a listening President, who no matter how young or old, no matter your station in life he is ready to listen, thus a listening President who puts the interests of the people first before even his.

Now from that attribute, we would like the entirety of the National People's Conference delegates next week start to follow the example that has been set by the President.

As the Youth League we believe the party should direct Government, for a government is born from the party and in that vein we would like to ask for a place in the sun for the youths who despite accounting for 60 percent live on the economic fringes excluded from major economic activities only being used by clowns in the opposition as purveyors of violence and as campaigners with nothing to live on.

But that has to change, on that front we implore our National People's Conference to make sure

that at the end of the conference resolutions would have been put in place to ensure that every ministry has a youth desk for virtual inclusion.

Gone are the days when the youths were simple bystanders, marginalised and only remembered as an afterthought, now is the time for inclusion with special consideration to realities reflected in demographic patterns.

The youths are the future and we have to set an example through their inclusion in vital sectors whether security services, mining, agriculture, health or social, the time for the youths to take ownership is now for the future is now and here.

Apart from the land downsizing and other downstream benefits such as farming, the youths who do not have collateral that most banks demand upfront also want to be included in Government programmes such as the Command Agriculture facility.

We are aware that there are vast mineral deposits in Zimbabwe.

Our call is, therefore, for the National People's Conference through the leadership of the party to direct that the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development establishes a desk for the youths and also come up with a legislative framework that protects youths from exploitation by political opportunists.

Our hope is that the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development

ensures that the youths easily get mining claims, that land that is underutilised is given to youths with the zeal to treat farming as a business.

There are thousands of mining claims that are lying idle or are underutilised because of a lack of tools and other equipment necessary to ensure productivity. The requirements of the youths in this regard are by no means expensive but affordable and the ministry should come up with a policy to ensure youths are equipped and mechanized to economically exploit the abundant mineral resources.

The same call also goes to all ministries, which should listen to the youths' call for their participation in the socio-economic development of our great country.

We need inclusion in the energy, tourism and environment sectors. In fact, we need inclusion in everything because the youths have the energy and will most certainly avail various skills acquired from world-class institutions and ensure that the Vision 2030 of making Zimbabwe a middle income country becomes a reality.

[The Herald]



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 15 December 2018 - THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

The YDZ is a community initiative launched in 2011 that offers services to the youth population living in North East Hamilton. Family Centre provides YDZ with child and family counselling and, by end of last September, had worked with 77 families.

In addition to counselling, Family Centre helps to

coordinate other services for YDZ children and their families, including collaboration with Bermuda Police Service, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, Bermuda Coalition, Workforce Development, Salvation Army, Mirrors, Team Street Safe and a local church representative. According to a press release, these efforts help to ensure that social services are more accessible to residents living in the North East Hamilton area.

Martha Dismont, executive director of Family Centre, stated: "I would like to

thank Argus for being a loyal supporter of the Family Centre year after year.

For us to be accessible to the communities that we serve, we rely on generous donations from sponsors. Without them, we couldn't have the impact that we do."

Lauren Bell, executive vice-president of Life and Pensions at the Argus Group, and a member of the Argus Group's Charitable Donations Committee, stated: "Our core values include integrity, fairness, excellence, respect,

professionalism and teamwork.

We believe that it is only fair for everyone to have access to professional services like the counselling that Family Centre provides.

"Their YDZ programme involves teamwork with partners throughout the community to ensure families who otherwise would not have access to important services can do so.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: CANADA SUMMER JOBS 2019 APPLICATION SEASON KICKS OFF

Toronto, 17 December 2018 - CANADA's prosperity increasingly depends on young Canadians succeeding.

By supporting them in getting good quality summer jobs, young Canadians will gain valuable skills and workplace experience towards starting a meaningful career, all while helping build our workforce.

Today, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced the launch of the employer application period for the 2019 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program.

Not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and private employers with up to 50 employees can now apply for funding to hire a young Canadian this summer.

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program creates good quality summer job opportunities and valuable work experience for youth aged 15 to 30.

Summer jobs are a great way for young Canadians to gain skills and valuable experience to help build their resumes, all while earning a fair wage.

They also help organizations fill labour gaps during the busy summer months.

Changes have been made to CSJ 2019 that will make it easier than ever for employers to provide good quality summer jobs, and for young people to access them:

Fewer barriers to good quality jobs: expanded eligibility to include all youth between the ages of 15-30 who are legally entitled to work in Canada not just students.

Updated eligibility criteria: to reflect feedback received from employers and organizations, the eligibility criteria have been changed to set out what is and isn't eligible for funding.

Better job matching: All positions will be posted on jobbank.gc.ca and on the mobile app, to help match young people with employers and good quality jobs.

Small businesses with 50 or fewer employees, not-for-profit employers and public sector organizations that can provide good quality summer jobs for youth are invited to apply for funding from the Government of Canada.

Employers are strongly encouraged to open an account on the secure Government Grants and Contributions Online Service portal, a one-time process that will allow them to apply for this and other funding opportunities across

Employment and Social Development Canada.

[Canada NewsWire]



✓ CHILE: CHILE TO HOST WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC YOUTH

Santiago de Chile, 13 December 2018 - THE University of Santiago De Chile (USACH) will host the 9th World Congress of Scientific Youth from November 15-19, with the participation of a hundred exhibitors from 18 countries.

The event, which will be organized jointly by USACH and the International Federation of

Scientific Societies, will be attended by specialists from NASA and the two-time participant of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mexican Ana Maria Cetto.

Towards a more human science, is the conclave slogan which is held every two years and for the first time has Chile as its main host.

Adriana Ocampo, director

of NASA's New Horizons Program, and NASA exoplanet specialist Mario Perez will also be at the event.

According to the top university center, the meeting will address issues such as climate change, electro mobility, migration and gender, through workshops and conversations.

By opening a space for the promotion and exchange of different disciplines, the University greatly contributes to the strengthening of knowledge in Latin America, said the Vice Rector of USACH, Dr. Julio Romero Figueroa.

[La Prensa]

✓ JAMAICA: CONFERENCE GIVES YOUTH CHANCE TO EXCHANGE CULTURES, IDEAS

Kingston, 11 December 2018 - MORE than 30 Kingston youth gathered on the weekend to celebrate and explore multiculturalism in their community.

Staff with Youth 2 Kingston (Y2K) partnered with the Immigration Services Kingston and Area (ISKA) youth group, a group for youth who are newcomers to Kingston, to host its eighth annual Youth Forum.

The youth group is involved with and Kingston Immigration Partnership (KIP) and they partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston and Area for the first day of the event.

On the second day, the event took place at the Kingston Community Health Centres.

The conference this year gave youth the chance to share their own cultures and learn about the cultures of others through discussion, workshops and cooking.

Youth explored language, racism, Islamophobia and violence against women, participated in a soccer

tournament and learned how to cook dishes from around the world.

“We do a lot of things in the community, we work with organizations and groups to amplify youth voice and really put young people’s voices into action,” Noor Huda said.

She is the network manager of Youth 2 Kingston. “A big thing that they wanted to do this year was share their culture but also learns about other people’s culture, and share that exchange.

We had a lot of different workshops on learning and experiencing different cultures.”

The event looks different each year, depending on who is involved and what focus the organizers pursue. This year’s big focus was on learning.

“We host a youth forum every year,” Huda said.

Its part of the collective work we do.

We try every year to host what we call the Youth

Forum, where young people can share their voices on different topics that are important to them.”

Jack Toner is a youth network facilitator for Y2K. He tries to connect youth in the community with programming that’s available, and he also provides a youth perspective into programming planning.

Haya Hassouneh and Ally Pajak prepare tabbouleh, a traditional Middle Eastern vegetarian salad, during this year’s Multicultural Youth Conference in Kingston on Friday and Saturday.

“The point of this weekend is to engage cultures,” he said on Saturday during the cooking workshop, where he and others learned how to make falafel.

“The people at ISKA are already very intertwined with each other’s cultures, but for us, we don’t know what’s going on.

So it’s been really interesting to figure out how other people do things.”

Giving a voice to youth of

all backgrounds is crucial, Huda believes.

“I think it’s always really important to have a space for young people to be heard,” she said.

“As people are seeing, young people are forming and changing our society in such a great way, so to amplify that more and give them that space is really important. This is one very clear way to do it.”

Having spaces for young people to share their thoughts, opinions and backgrounds not only provides learning opportunities for youth, but also for the adults in their lives and in their communities.

“We have a lot of adults that come to events that are able to learn from the young people here, and take back what they learn to their organizations or the work that they do,” Huda said.

“So it’s been really great for the community.”

[The Kingston]



✓ USA: YOUTH SUMMIT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH END OF DEC

Kellogg Center, 11 December 2018 - MSU's Global Youth Advancement Network will be hosting its inaugural Global Youth Advancement Summit at the Kellogg Center on June 11-13, 2019.

GYAN serves as a coordinating platform for research and international development activities related to the education, entrepreneurship, mentoring and leadership training of youth and adults between the ages of 10 and 35.

The summit provides an opportunity for MSU faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and donors to come together in support of young people 18–35 years who are addressing and developing innovative solutions to the grand challenge of global inequity.

Importantly, the summit provides a platform for young people themselves to lead sessions as solution providers rather than just beneficiaries.

The participants (called delegates) will exchange ideas, showcase innovative products and services, pitch their business ventures and build genuine networks that will enable them to collaboratively define their future in a way that is equitable, just and sustainable.

Approximately 200 people from 50 countries are expected to attend. The delegates will be selected through a competitive proposal process, which is currently open until Dec. 31.

To ensure that the summit is accessible to the world's brightest innovators, irrespective of their financial status, GYAN is seeking partners that will provide scholarships to help offset the costs associated with participation (i.e., international or domestic airfare, ground transportation, accommodation and visa support).

There are currently five guaranteed scholarships for each major region of the world (Africa, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Latin America and North America), and the number of scholarships available continues to grow with support from the MSU community and beyond.

MSU students are welcome to submit proposals. Faculty are invited to join the summit in a number of ways including as a mentor to a small group of delegates that are doing work in a similar field.

For more information on the summit, please visit www.msuyouthsummit.com, or contact the GYAN office at GYAN-conf@msu.edu.

[Michigan State University]

MSU



✓ CHINA: NATIONAL IDENTITY STRENGTHENS AMONG YOUNG CHINESE: SURVEY

Beijing, 12 December 2018

- YOUNG Chinese people have a stronger national identity and are more confident in the country's development than previously, according to a survey carried in China Youth Daily Tuesday.

Of 6,081 respondents, 92.9

percent think that the country has developed in a positive direction since its reform and opening up in 1978.

This is 3 percentage points higher than statistics from a similar survey conducted by the newspaper 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, 96.1 percent of those surveyed constantly feel proud of the country's achievements, while 93.5 said that if given another chance to choose their homeland, they would still choose China.

More than 73.4 percent of the participants in this year's

survey, conducted by China Youth Daily and the official microblog of the Communist Youth League of China between Nov. 20 and 28, were born between 1990 and 2000.

[Econs]

✓ INDONESIA: \$200MLN FROM ADB TO DEVELOP HIGHER EDUCATION & SKILLS

Jakarta, 9 December 2018

- THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to upgrade four higher education institutions in Indonesia and improve the technical and vocational training programmes that will help youth obtain the job skills needed in the evolving global economy.

The Advanced Knowledge and Skills for Sustainable Growth (AKSSG) Project will improve the quality of education and research in three universities in Sumatra Jambi, Riau, and Malikussaleh in Aceh and the Indonesia University of Education in Bandung, West Java, by strengthening their collaboration with industry, as well as international and domestic universities.

The project will also finance the construction of new lecture halls, laboratories, and other infrastructure equipped with climate-proofing design features.

The universities in Sumatra will establish research centres for sustainable agriculture and natural resources, as well as marine and aquatic science, to support local economic

development.

The Indonesia University of Education will focus on improving the quality of technical and vocational education and teacher training in areas such as information systems and technology; artificial intelligence and robotics; industrial instrumentation engineering; and renewable energy engineering.

"Indonesia has one of the world's youngest populations, which is expected to boost the country's labour productivity in the next few years. It is important that this young working population has the skills that the labour market demands", said ADB senior social sector specialist Rudi van Dael.

"ADB's assistance will increase student access to higher education and support the advancement of skills and knowledge among Indonesia's youth".

While enrolment in higher education in Indonesia has increased to 7.5 million in 2018 from 4 million in 2004, Indonesia faces a shortage of skilled workers as its economy shifts to more technology-intensive and services industries,

which require higher levels of technical proficiencies in areas such as data mining and robotics.

"The demand for students majoring in engineering and technology is high. With 20 per cent of the students enrolled in these fields, there is room for growth", said ADB senior project officer Sutarum Wiryo.

"Students can benefit if their skills meet the demands of the job market and if teachers have the qualifications to teach".

The total cost of the project, which is expected to be finished by the end of 2023, is \$266.5 million, with the Indonesia government contributing \$66.5 million.

[AEC News Today]



✓ MALAYSIA: ANWAR: GOVT SHOULD LISTEN TO VOICES OF THE YOUTH

Petaling Jaya, 11 December 2018 - IT is crucial for the government to listen to the grouses of the youth, says PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He noted that the youth treasure their new-found democratic freedom to express their views under the seven-month-old Pakatan Harapan

government.

"Our universities are livelier with debates and discussions that involve both government and opposition leaders.

"There now exist avenues to critically analyse views, highlight concerns and even hold rallies without the fear of state intervention," he said in a statement Tuesday

(Dec 11).

Anwar added that he enjoyed his recent visit to University Putra Malaysia on Dec 10, where he was given a chance to listen to the concerns of the students.

"I must confess that I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the bright minds and passionate students of

UPM.

"I hope to continue engaging with students from across the country and continue to listen to their ideas, concerns and expectations," he added.

[The Star Online]

✓ PAKISTAN: OVER 30,000 SOUTH WAZIRISTAN YOUTH TO GET JOBS: GOVERNOR

Islamabad, 10 December 2018 - KHYBER Pakhtunkhwa Governor Shah Farman has said that government will explore all possible options for the development of tribal districts.

Speaking at a scholarship awarding function here on Sunday, he said that more than 30,000 youth of South Waziristan tribal district would get jobs during the next few months.

He said that government was keen in resolving matters relating to merger of Fata with the province. He claimed that 95 per cent issues were resolved.

The ceremony was organised at Dr Abdul Qadeer Auditorium at Gomal University by Wana Welfare Association (WWA).

It was attended by IG FC South Maj Gen Abid Latif, DIG Dar Ali Khattak, Commissioner Javed Khan Marwat, DIG Saeed Khan Wazeer, provincial government spokesman Ajmal Wazeer, elders of South Waziristan and a large number of students.

The governor said that several mega projects were underway in South Waziristan that would improve living standard of the local people.

He called upon the elders of the region to extend support to the government and identify major public issues so that the same could be resolved.

Mr Farman said that 500,000 families of South Waziristan would get health cards while youth of the area would be recruited in FC, Levies and other departments.

The governor also distributed scholarships among the talented students belonging to South Waziristan tribal district.

[DAWN.com]

WANA



✓ QATAR: NAMA CONCLUDES YOUTH-CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Menafn, 7 December 2018 - SOCIAL Development Centre (Nama) has concluded the second edition of the youth-capacity building initiative, 'Tamayoz Nama', launched to activate its role to empower and rehabilitate the youth in order to contribute to the realisation of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The programme enhanced the experience of the participants and developed their project management professional skills, in order to make the trainees highly competent and qualify them to become professional project managers, Nama said in a statement.

The Tamayoz Nama 2 initiative was based on the investment in young people's energies, driving them on the right path to serve the community through carefully selected programmes for the project categories in a way that suited age and capacity.

The programme aimed to graduate a batch of capable youths equipped with abilities such as initiation, innovation and interaction with community as well as a leadership spirit, the statement explained.

The programme included a number of youth initiatives aimed at building the capacity of participants and developing their individual skills in addition to enhance their knowledge in all areas of life, whether professional or social.

It also sought to rehabilitate youth and raise their

abilities in many personal directions such as enhancing creativity and social responsibility and developing a spirit of initiation to become active partners in building and promoting their societies, according to Nama. Further, the programme aimed to develop the capabilities of Tamayoz Nama youths, develop human capital and provide the labour market with professionals in all vital fields with internationally recognised certifications.

This is to ensure that the labour market is equipped with highly qualified youths in various fields, including 37 qualified graduates in the project management field, the statement added. The programme was delivered in Arabic.

The participants benefited in both scientific and technical terms, and received a professional certificate in accredited project management.

The programme targeted 25 -35-year-old participants, those involved in fields that required project management knowledge, interested youth and entrepreneurs, in addition to social entrepreneurs and those who wished to work in project management areas.

[Gulf Times]

NEWS



✓ GERMANY: YOUTH BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Berlin, 18 December 2018 - THE Don Bosco Forum in Bonn provided a platform for more than 400 guests to discuss social marginalization of youngsters.

“It is our goal as Don Bosco to get youngsters out of isolation” emphasized the managing directors of Don Bosco Mondo (Christian Osterhaus) and of Don Bosco Mission Bonn (Nelson Penedo).

Hundreds of young and long-term members of Don Bosco institutions worldwide, interested parties and representatives from politics and society attended the meeting at the University of Bonn. At the end of the Don Bosco Forum the participants of the prior scheduled International Youth Conference presented the results on the topic “Marginalization”. 40 teenagers from Europe and the Middle East were

searching for ways out of radicalization. They presented the Forum with a video pleading for more tolerance and peace. In addition, their dancing performance served as an impressive testimonial of the meaning of marginalization.

The teenagers experienced the encounter with participants from diverse countries as enrichment. One female attendee concluded: “the more we know about each other, the more tolerant we become.”

Father Thomas Koshy (SDB), Director of the Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YAR) with headquarters in New Delhi, is aware of the meaning of marginalization of the young. Roughly ten million children live in the streets in his home country India. For decades he has been promoting the welfare of street children.

Education is an important key to success.

The caste system constitutes a major problem in India demanding a strict separation of social classes.

Accordingly, the so-called “untouchables” are excluded from society being forced into doing menial work such as toilet cleaning and trash disposal. Fr Koshy laments a culture of exclusion preventing progress.

There are also many youngsters in Germany who are marginalized encountering rejection. “There is one form of emotional marginalization which leaves young people heavily scarred”, Simon Härting (SDB) stated, the educational director of the Don Bosco Youth Aid Center in Sannerz close by Fulda.

“We had one boy with us who was rejected by his parents, grandparents, by

his entire family. Nobody wanted to be in contact with him.

As a protective measure, he built armor, also physically. We did not manage to establish a relationship with him for a year, this being the most important factor we must build up a relationship with the youngster.”

“Sometimes we reach our physical limits when the youngsters become aggressive or offensive which can hit us also physically.

It is important to be well protected and to keep the focus on what is doable and what not. Regardless, Don Bosco always facilitates a fresh start over.

We adhere by our familiar quotation, “In case of a doubt, we grant a tenth chance.”

[The Guardian

✓ GEORGIA: YOUTH DETENTION CENTER BRINGS JOBS AND SUCCESS FOR INMATES

Tbilisi, 10 December 2018 - A youth detention facility is coming to Laurens County.

The facility has one goal in mind, that’s to set youth up for success when they leave the detention center.

Cadwell RYDC is a multi-million dollar project, and has been in the works for years. Commissioners say they want the facility to give youth a sense of family, versus jail.

“Kids sometimes get disappointed that they’ve done something wrong, and

maybe no one wants to forgive them, but once they start feeling that forgiving nature of any citizens that come to them and say yes we want you to come back to our communities and continue to be successful and productive citizens,” Community Services Division Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts said.

The Cadwell RYDC is a \$21-million state funded project.

“This facility is a facility that that’s designed so kids can reach their full

potential,” Georgia Department of Juvenile Corrections Commissioner Avery Niles said.

“It’s important that this facility is just not a facility that we lock kids up. It’s a facility in which where kids come here short-term,” Niles said.

Commissioners say this facility will give kids what they need so they can become productive citizens.

“Treatment of services, substance abuse, anger management, all of those

things that interfere with the traditional classroom.

These kids will be able to function here and learn the life skills and take those life skills away from here, back home to make their home life better,” Niles said.

The facility will bring youth life skills needed outside of Cadwell’s walls.



“The culture program teaches them how to deal with nature itself, we also have some cooking programs that will teach them how to be chefs, and we also have other programs to educate them as far as a GED,” Cadwell

RYDC Director Gary Darrisaw said.

Commissioner Victor Roberts says giving the youth love, guidance, and something to look forward to goes a long way.

“It’s not the same family, but you want to make that environment feel as close as possible so they can feel connected to someone,” Roberts said.

The facility is bringing over 150 full-time jobs. Darrisaw

says a lot of their applicants are from Middle Georgia. Cadwell RYDC will officially open early next year.

[Georgia Today]

✓ ROMANIA: ILO UNEMPLOYMENT IN ROMANIA DOWN 0.7PP Y/Y IN OCTOBER

Bucharest, 3 December 2018 - THE unemployment rate on Romania, reported under ILO (International Labor Organization) standards and seasonally-adjusted edged up by 0.1 percentage points (pp) to 4.0% in October, but it was 0.7pp lower than one year earlier.

The rate has constantly declined since the end of

2015 after it had hovered around 7% over the previous five years.

The number of persons declared unemployed under ILO methodology (meaning they are actively seeking employment, as opposed to the registered unemployment measuring the share of those registered with the employment agencies) increased to

370,000 in October from 355,000 in September but it was lower than the 434,000 reading in October 2017.

By gender, the ILO unemployment was 1.4pp higher for men (4.6%) than for women (3.2%).

By age, the latest data (reported on a quarterly basis), the unemployment among youth (15 to 24 years age bracket) was

16.2% in Q3 after having constantly declined over the past four quarters (from 19.7% in Q4, 2017).

For the 25 to 74 years age bracket, the unemployment rate was 3.2% in October down from 3.6% last year.

[Romania Libera]

✓ SPAIN: BOOST TWO-BILLION EURO TO REDUCE YOUTH’S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Madrid, 10 December 2018 - LABOUR minister Magdalena Valerio told Spanish press that many people in their 20s are ‘dependent on their parents, and grandparents’ because of a lack of opportunities.

According to reports,

overall unemployment levels in Spain have been slowly dropping since the economic crisis, but at 14.5 per cent, are still the second highest in Europe, after Greece.

Unemployment figures for the under 30s stands at 33

per cent and Spain’s Socialist government wants to slash it to 23.5 per cent by 2021.

As such, it has announced two billion euros will be spent training this particular age group in languages and digital skills, with improved

guidance.

It also aims to promote training programmes with the promise of work on completion, by working in conjunction with companies and potential employers.

[Euro Weekly]

✓ UK: HOME SECRETARY OPENS BIDDING PROCESS FOR YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

London, 10 December 2018 - THE Home Secretary Sajid Javid has launched the bidding process to choose an organisation or consortium that will run the £200 million Youth Endowment Fund.

Announced in October as part of the government’s long-term plan to tackle serious violence, the Fund will provide a 10 year investment to support interventions steering young people away from becoming involved in violent crime or reoffending.

It will also build the evidence base for the most effective interventions for tackling serious violence.

Launching the bidding process to run the Youth Endowment Fund, Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

The Youth Endowment Fund will significantly strengthen our response to serious violence and support action we are already taking, such as the Offensive Weapons Bill and National County Lines Coordination Centre.

I want it up and running and saving lives as soon as possible, and look forward to receiving the proposals to run this substantial investment.

The Youth Endowment Fund will be run by an independent organisation or body, similar to the Education Endowment Foundation. It will invest £200 million and use the proceeds to fund projects designed to guide vulnerable young people away from violent crime, and develop and share new knowledge of the

approaches that are most successful.

The successful bidder will need to demonstrate its ability to:

- use sector
- knowledge and
- available evidence to identify the best
- projects to fund
- ensure robust

evaluation of the projects, using this evaluation to build a body of evidence on what works in stopping children and young people from becoming involved in crime and violence.



- share this evidence and best practice in order that it might inform policy making,
 - academic research and the local
 - commissioning of services
 - seek to grow the value of the Fund through attracting further contributions
 - administer and manage the Fund as a long-term investment from April 2019
- identify and take down online material inciting violence which will open early 2019.

[Gov.uk]

Prospective bidders to run the Fund will need to submit their proposals by 23 January. Full details on the application process are available on the call for proposals webpage.

The Youth Endowment Fund is one of three innovative new measures announced by the Home Secretary in October which also includes a new legal duty to underpin a 'public health' approach to tackling serious violence, for which a consultation is due to be launched shortly, and an independent review of drug misuse to ensure law enforcement agencies and policy teams are targeting and preventing the drug-related causes of violent crime effectively.

The government also continues to deliver the 61 commitments outlined in the Serious Violence Strategy, including seeing the Offensive Weapons Bill to restrict access to dangerous weapons through Parliament, delivering the £17 million Early Intervention Youth Fund, a new £3.6 million National County Lines Co-ordination Centre to disrupt violent drug gangs and a £1.4 million social media hub to

NEWS



✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH INTERNSHIP SCHEME FAILING DESPITE \$2.5M ADVERTISING BLITZ

Canberra, 15 December 2018 - THE government's youth internship scheme is failing to attract participants and businesses at a staggering rate, despite a \$2.5m advertising blitz.

Having promised 30,000 internships a year for young job seekers, documents provided to the Senate by the Department of Jobs and Small Business reveal only 4,785 internships were completed in the first 18 months of the \$250m program.

The department also

confirmed it had no employment target for the low-paying scheme which unions argue equates to roughly \$4 an hour for participants.

Businesses receive \$1,000 for each intern they host, but the department revealed only 3,645 businesses have so far taken part, well short of the 18,000-20,000 it needs to attract to hit 30,000 interns a year.

The documents reveal 227 people had begun an internship as a fast-food cook and there were 214

internships for people working as housekeepers. The low take-up from businesses was despite the government spending \$2.52m advertising the scheme to prospective employers in the 2017-18 financial year.

It was also outlined that, in one case, a business has hosted 17 interns without offering a job to a participant. That business is one of seven that have been excluded from the program. Overall, the department said 8,091 internship placements had been commenced

between April 2017 and October 2018.

About 60% of those who completed an internship or 2,918 people were then employed by their host business, the department said.

Asked by the Labor senator Doug Cameron what employment target the program hoped to meet, the department replied: "There are no employment targets for Youth Jobs PaTH."

[The Guardian]

✓ FIJI: YOUTHS URGED TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

Suva, 11 December 2018 - ABOUT 30 youths from the Eastern Division have been urged to start their own business and take advantage of Government initiatives intended to create a more conducive environment for the youth.

Addressing the youths at the two-day workshop in Suva yesterday, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism director Economics Sekove Tamanitoakula told youths of the Government's commitment towards their development and the various schemes in place to

assist them.

"The Government is very accommodating when it comes to starting your own businesses and there are programs in place that specifically targets youths of this country," Mr Tamanitoakula said in a Government statement.

"These initiatives include the Young Entrepreneur Scheme (YES) and the Micro and Small Enterprise Scheme.

"Young people in our country are fortunate that

we have a Government that is focused on their growth and development and has put in place clear pathways to enable business establishment and growth." Mr Tamanitoakula added that sacrifice, hard work and a commitment towards their dream would ensure their success in life.

"Remain focused and disciplined and try and keep it simple. All big things begin small and your perseverance and commitment toward your goals will be realised," he said.

"Use workshops such as these to establish networks and communicate with government officials who will link you to the right ministry or department regarding your business ideas."

The two-day workshop themed 'Start your own businesses will also see participants visiting successful agro-based businesses in the Central Division.

[The Fiji Times]

✓ GUAM: YOUTH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVES SWORN IN

Hagåtña, 19 December 2018 - THIRTY of Guam's youngest leaders were inaugurated as representatives in the 32nd Guam Youth Congress on Saturday.

"Today we usher in a new wave of change makers," Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee said during the ceremony at the Guam Congress Building.

"Whether it's fighting to raise the smoking age, striving to improve education or working to protect our environment, the Guam Youth Congress has made clear that our young people are committed to playing their part in shaping the future of our island."

First established in 1972, GYC "has played a pivotal

role in representing the desires and aspirations of our island's youth," according to a Guam Legislature press release.

GYC representatives chose Christian Valencia as speaker, Jacob Richards as vice speaker and Stephanie Lorenzo as secretary following their inauguration.

[The Guam Daily Post]



✓ SAMOA: YOUTH TRAINED IN AGRIBUSINESS IN SAMOA

Apia, 13 December 2018 - THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has organised a workshop to address employment challenges for the youth of Samoa and build the capacity of young farmers on agribusiness management.

The training are part of a broader FAO funded project called Strengthening capacity of youth for employment and livelihood in agriculture, which aims to train youth to pursue agriculture as a livelihood

and employment option. "Employment for youth is a big challenge for Samoa," said Tommy Tuuamalii, national project coordinator from MAF.

"Young women and men need to develop the knowledge and skills to enter the labour market, and to be provided with additional supportive services to secure employment opportunities."

FAO agribusiness value chains specialist, Shukrullah Sherzad said, "Through the following value chain approach, FAO is building the capacity of young

farmers on production, processing and agribusiness management."

Sherzard noted that successfully managing a farm as a business requires farmers to know the value of its production, the income they receive from their farms and better knowledge of market access and farm management."

Through the agribusiness management and contract farming workshop, FAO is building the capacity of young farmers on farm as a business management and access to market through contract farming.

The FAO trainings are part of the wider United Nation Youth Employment Programme, where FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development Division for Youth, are collaborating to build the technical capacity of young farmers and school pupils in various aspects of agriculture development in Samoa.

[Samoa Observer]

✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MAIN CONCERNS FOR SOLOMON'S YOUTH

Honiara, 20 December 2018 - UNEMPLOYMENT, teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse were some of the main concerns raised by youth in Solomon Islands during a recent UN peace building forum.

More than 200 young men and women from across the Western and Choiseul provinces met in Gizo last week to talk about their challenges and hear about and discuss ways to overcome them.

The three-day forum was part of a UN Development Programme peace building project and was hosted in collaboration with UN Women and the youth departments of both the local provincial and national governments.

Its project manager, Tony Cameron, said the forum focussed on using innovation and social entrepreneurship to address

unemployment, pollution and other challenges affecting youth in the fragile border area between the western Solomons and Bougainville in PNG.

"Essentially we have used this innovation forum as the groundwork to perhaps extend the impact or the reach of these motivated young people maybe into decision making and political kind of arenas where they will have a voice to make decisions for themselves on behalf of the youth at a provincial and also a national level," he said.

[Radio New Zealand]

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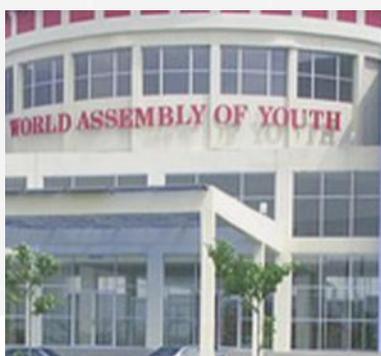
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World Assembly of Youth
World Youth Complex
Jalan Lebu Ayer Keroh
Ayer Keroh 75450
Melaka, MALAYSIA

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