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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2018

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
9 August 2018	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Melaka, Malaysia
12 August 2018	International Youth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
19 August 2018	World Humanitarian Day	Melaka, Malaysia
17—23 August 2018	International Youth Forum	Melaka, Malaysia
24 August 2018	WAY 69th Anniversary	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ ANGOLA: WHY YOUTH IS NOT WASTED ON THE YOUNG IN ANGOLA

Luanda, 9 July 2018 - THEY say that youth is wasted on the young. But that's not true in Angola. Today, young people constitute the majority of the population, about 70%.

They really are the future of the country.

Angola's current millennial generation faces a different situation from that of young people in 2002, when the civil war ended.

The generation who lived through the war was shaped by insecurity and uncertainty.

The war caused long-term disruptions to the social systems and infrastructure that typically supported youth.

Young people at the beginning of the century were eager to restart their lives and make up for the opportunities they missed, in education and employment.

Fourteen years later, Angola's young people, same as those the world over, are influenced and inspired by music, social media and new technology.

The Independent quotes a 26-year-old student: "Our generation did not live through many of the terrible experiences that the generation which governs us did.

Many of us did not feel the war ourselves.

Today, Angola's young people have a different set of challenges and opportunities.

The challenge is to cope with the effects of the decline in oil prices on the economy of Angola,

Africa's second-largest oil producer.

The opportunity is to develop and diversify their country beyond the oil economy. Angola's young people are the future of innovation in agriculture, tourism, healthcare, transportation and technology.

Angolans generally have a strong entrepreneurial culture.

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor ranks Angola among the most entrepreneurial countries in the world.

"Angolans are known in the international business

community as entrepreneurial," says a young technology entrepreneur in an interview on the site Radar.

And in fact, according to a report by the Angolan Women Entrepreneurship Federation (FEMA), more than 40% of women were entrepreneurs in 2015.

New technologies have helped to foster a new generation of entrepreneurs.

But this same young businessperson also notes in the interview that "the startup environment is heavily skewed toward restaurants, beauty parlors, corner stores and small fashion boutiques."

So part of the challenge is to provide the young people of Angola with what they need to launch the kinds of enterprises that will develop and diversify their country, and make a difference.

The government has recognized that young people need more assistance.

The National Institute of Youth announced plans to set up a youth support center, a permanent space

for young people to come together and share ideas, concerns and initiatives.

Continuing improvements in education and

infrastructure will also help. The private sector can also participate. For example, the African Innovation Foundation, established five years ago, has set up an innovation hub in Angola called the Fábrica de Sabão (the Soap Factory).

It's intended as an incubator hub that includes co-working spaces, a cultural exchange platform, local radio station and a residence program for visiting mentors.

The youth of Angola, open to change and unburdened by the past, have the future in their hands.

They will launch the enterprises that provide the solutions to Angola's ongoing development.

The youth in Angola today hold the answers for tomorrow.

[Huffington Post]

✓ BOTSWANA: PRATICAL SUBJECTS GATEWAY TO ENTREPRENUERSHIP- KWEREPE

Francistown, 11 July 2018 - ASSISTANT Minister of Basic Education, Mr Thato Kwerepe has encouraged learners to start their own businesses as well as employ their peers upon completion of their basic education using skills acquired through their practical subjects.

Mr Kwerepe said this during the official opening of the national practical subjects fair in Francistown on July 10.

He also indicated that upon completion of secondary education, learners would have acquired the necessary vocational and

entrepreneurship skills that would enable them to join the world of work immediately.

"I wish to encourage learners to take practical subjects seriously and take advantage of opportunities accorded to them by the government and non-government

organizations.

There are programmes such as youth grant scheme, LEA, CEDA that you can exploit," he said.



He further explained that one of the major intents of the fair, among others, was to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their talents in practical subjects as well as fosters cohesion and skills transfer.

"The fair provides an opportunity for all students who studies these practical subjects to compete in a

fair, supportive and inclusive environment," he added

For his part, practical subjects national coordinator, Mr Benny Phiri explained that the fair was a combination of seven subjects competing under one roof to impart practical skills onto students.

Mr Phiri emphasized that

students and teachers shared ideas when they came together, adding practical subjects fair displayed abundant skills that had been ignored for a long time.

He observed that practical subjects in Botswana faced a number of challenges which included financial constraints and lack of tools

and resources for practicals.

Meanwhile, North East region acting director, Ms Bose Tema noted that it was important for students from across the country to meet in one place and share experiences and learn from one another.

[Botswana Daily News]

✓ NAMIBIA: YOUTH CHARITY ENDURES FUNDING PROBLEM

Windhoek, 9 July 2018 - THE Physical Active Youth Namibia (P.A.Y.) which caters for 120 youths that come from low-income households, is seeking sponsorship for a feeding program that costs N\$16,400 monthly to daily feed scores of school children from destitute families.

This specific program exists to alleviate childhood hunger by availing a nutritious lunch and two sandwiches weekdays and on weekends.

The organization constantly has to approach family members, friends and partners to try and keep the scheme going. It currently

offers learners from grades 1 - 12 with a supervised after-school environment, that focuses on physical health, academic status, personal development, from 13h00 to 17h00.

Learners are allowed to make use of its library and computer room, participate in gardening activities and take a shower for those that do not have proper bathing or a shower at home.

The program has two full-time and four part-time staff members, and is supported by the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Project manager Ursula Matzopoulos said they all

participate in the day-to-day work such as cleaning, cooking, teaching and mentoring the children.

In what started out for her as volunteering from 14h00 to 17h00 ended with her doing it on a full-time basis. She stressed funding is their biggest challenge.

"We want children to do well in life, but how do you do well if you are hungry?" The program improves learners' mathematical skills, tutoring through educational games and robotic skills. They also include sporting activities such as BMX riding, soccer, swimming and basketball.

NAMAs award-winning

jazz saxophonist Susy Eises donated N\$15,000 from the proceeds she made during a fundraising gala dinner she held last month.

"I truly believe the work they do here is very important to the children. I was just attracted to this program and in a way, I'm helping them get opportunities in life which I also got when I was young," she explained. Matzopoulos urged private businesses or patriotic Namibians to visit the centre to witness first-hand the work being done and see how children interact with each other after school.

[New Era]

✓ NIGERIA: EDUCATION GATEWAY TO HARNESS YOUTH POTENTIALS – BUHARI

Abuja, 13 July 2018 - PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has described education as the veritable doorway through which the boundless potentials of youths can be positively harnessed for the benefit of society, and the country at large.

President Buhari stated this on Thursday when he received the outgoing Ambassador of Belarus, His Excellency Vyacheslav

Beskosty, who has spent over six years in Nigeria as the pioneer Ambassador of his country at the State House, Abuja.

According to him, "I am impressed by your successful tour of duty, particularly in the area of educational ties between our countries.

Over 600 young Nigerians are in your country, trying to guarantee a better future

for themselves through education."

The President according to a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Chief Femi Adesina said that the relationship between Nigeria and Belarus was sure to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Speaking at the farewell visit, Ambassador Beskosty said Nigeria had "big

potential for economic cooperation" with his country, adding that military and technical ties were equally proceeding satisfactorily.

to achieve food self-sufficiency" in Nigeria.



Noting that agricultural development was on the priority list of the Buhari administration, he added that Belarus, as the world's biggest producer of fertilizers, and a giant in production of tractors "has a

great role to play in the bid to achieve food self-sufficiency" in Nigeria.

The outgoing Ambassador commended the Buhari administration for its service to the nation, noting

that people were already seeing significant changes in the country.

[Vanguard]

✓ ZIMBABWE: NURTURE YOUTHS IN TOURISM

Harare, 12 July 2018 - TOURISM and Hospitality Industry minister Prisca Mupfumira says there is need to nurture youths in order to get them to develop society through different platforms such as tourism.

Mpfumira was speaking at the official commencement for preparations of the second edition of the Africa Youth in Tourism conference in Harare yesterday.

She said youths were important in social economic development.

"Youths with a sense of belonging and responsibility are more constructive citizens.

The government does not just realise the potential of young women and men as leaders of tomorrow but is also cognisant of the role for socio economic development.

We need to nurture our youths to play a critical role in eradication poverty and participating fully in the development of societies through different platforms including tourism," she said.

"My ministry, together with the ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation, has recognised the potential of our youths in driving the social and economic

wellbeing in our societies, job creation as well as poverty alleviation.

Gone are the days where our youths used to solely depend on their parents in terms of sustainability.

"With a young vibrant generation well educated and equipped with new innovations, there is no doubt we can have a bright and prosperous future.

Tourism policies and frameworks are already in place to support and encourage youth participation in tourism projects."

The Africa Youth in Tourism conference is expected to run from September 19 to 24 later this year in Bulawayo which was an initiative meant to bring together youth in tourism in Africa to exchange ideas and collaborate.

This year's edition will run under the theme 'Sponsoring Tourism Development and Innovation in Africa through Youth Participation'.

Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism director general Stuart Mutizwa said the conference was a brainchild of the ministries of Tourism and Hospitality Industry and Youth, Sports, Arts and

Recreation last year when the first edition was held. "This will be the second time hosting this Africa Youth in Tourism conference. As the director general in the Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism, I want to assure all of you that Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism is more than convinced that if the youth are given an opportunity to express their innovation and ideas they can forge and advocate for effective change in the tourism industry," he said.

More participants are expected at this year's edition of the Africa Youth in Tourism conference which is expected to draw both local and foreign tourism players.

[Newsday]





✓ ARGENTINA: SPORTS MINISTER TASKS YOUTHS ON TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Buenos Aires, 10 July 2018 - MINISTER of Sports and Youth Development, Solomon Dalong has advised youths in the country to develop their potentials in sports for them to represent the nation

in future sports competitions. The minister gave the advice on Saturday in Ilorin while declaring open the third edition of the National Youths Games.

He said one of the cardinal objectives of the Millennium Development Goal was to empower the youths to achieve their dreams.

the reason why his ministry endorsed the Youths games as a driving force to achieve the set goals and stem the tide of youth restiveness.

[Vanguard]

Dalong added that this was

✓ BOLIVIA: YOUTH INITIATIVE ADOPTED AT UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

Sucre, 11 July 2018 - AN initiative calling on global youth to combat desertification was adopted Friday in north China.

Global Youth Initiative for Combating Desertification was adopted at the Youth Forum of the United Nations desertification conference in Ordos City, in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The initiative defined young people's specific responsibilities and proposed strengthening young people's engagement in combatting desertification.

"We are the new forces to drive change with fresh

ideas, innovative technology, inventive methods and means that can eradicate poverty and pave the way to a new sustainable economy," said the initiative.

It also suggested that young people should join online and offline platforms for national and international dialogue, consultations, social media campaigns and volunteering in supporting land degradation neutrality.

The one-day forum was held during the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) that opened on Wednesday.

Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, said that young people will be the next generation in combatting desertification, which takes courage, hard work and vision.

Youth representatives from 25 countries and more than ten international organizations discussed about the challenges and opportunities of young people engaging in sustainable land management.

"Young people should work with each other from different organizations and projects, and integrate desertification work with climate change and biodiversity," said Lorena

Terrazas from Bolivia.

Oliver Gardner from Britain, suggested that good story-telling is needed to get young people in non-affected countries interested.

The UN desertification conference will last about two weeks, and its main task is to seek solutions for the UN sustainable goal of "achieving a land degradation neutral world by 2030" and to develop a new UNCCD strategy framework for the 2018-2030 periods.

[Xinhua]

✓ CANADA: GOVERNMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN EDMONTON

Edmonton, 6 July 2018 - Building a strong middle class means giving Canada's youth the tools they need to find and keep good jobs.

Today, the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods and Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced a new project that will give youth in Edmonton job skills training and hands-on work

experience. Randy Boissonnault, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, joined Minister Sohi in making the announcement.

Up to 84 recent immigrant youth will participate in the project, which will be delivered by the Africa Centre thanks to more than \$1.3 million in Government of Canada funding through the Skills Link program.

The youth will develop skills to help them find and keep jobs, such as job search techniques and interview preparation, and

will receive tips from guest speakers. They will also gain valuable work experience in such fields as accommodations, food services and tourism, business and the trades.

Skills Link supports projects that help young people who face more barriers to employment than others develop basic employability skills and gain valuable job experience, which, in turn, assists them in making a successful transition into the workforce or to return to school.

These youth could include those who have not completed high school, single parents, Indigenous youth, young persons with disabilities, youth living in rural or remote areas or newcomers.

[Canada Newswire]



✓ JAMAICA: FOOD FOR THE POOR AWARDS GRANTS TO JAMAICAN YOUTH

Kingston, 18 July 2018 - FOOD For the Poor (FFTP) - Jamaica continues its commitment to the education of Jamaica's youth by awarding educational grants to 299 students who are studying from basic to tertiary levels.

FFTP made the grant presentation at its Ellerslie Pen, St Catherine office recently.

The grants awarded will ensure that back-to-school expenses, such as textbooks and/or tuition fees, are covered or are paid in part.

David Mair, executive director of FFTP Jamaica, lauded the donors who offered their support and made it possible to equip students with much-needed resources to go back to school.

"Close to 300 students from basic to tertiary institutions will benefit from the

disbursement of educational grants this year.

None of this would have been possible without the consistent generosity of our donors, sourced through our head office, FFTP Incorporated," Mair said.

In his welcome remarks, Mair urged the awarded students to be good stewards of the gift. "Study hard, stay focused, and make us proud by maintaining an A or B average at all times," he said.

He also challenged parents to encourage their children and become actively involved in their lives.

The importance and the impact of this educational grant was not lost on the students, who were all appreciative of the gesture. Their faces lit up with joy, optimism, and gratitude as they collected their cheques from Mair and Craig

Moss-Solomon, a director at FFTP Jamaica.

Chante Williams, a student at Wolmer's High School for Girls, expressed her gratitude.

"This programme has helped me a lot to acquire most necessities for back-to-school, such as to purchase books," she said.

"This is very important for a student. You need your books to analyse and really comprehend the subjects you are being taught, so, I would like to say thank you to Food For The Poor and its donors for creating this programme to aid children, such as myself, to succeed," she added.

Parents of the awardees were also grateful for the donation. Samantha Barrett, who has two children benefiting from the back-to-school programme, was one of those parents.

"The day when I got my children's book lists, I waved it in the air and I said, 'God, you are their heavenly father, so I am looking to you to provide for them.'

In the afternoon, I got a call from Food For The Poor about the back-to-school programme and what I needed to provide," Barrett said.

FFTP Jamaica has been administering its back-to-school programme for more than 20 years and has seen great academic achievements from awardees, up to the tertiary level.

The organisation has pledged to remain committed to the educational development of children across Jamaica.

[The Cleaner]

✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: YTC YOUTHS WELCOME SECOND CHANCE AT MATH

Port of Spain, 11 July 2018 - TWENTY-NINE young men attached to the Youth Training Centre (YTC) have embraced "a second opportunity" to study mathematics as a formal subject as they graduated from the 2017 bpTT Young Adult Math Experience workshop at the facility at Arouca recently.

"I didn't like mathematics in the past and never really put my mind to it when I was in school. But this workshop has been very interesting.

Our tutor used practical examples to teach us the

subject and made it really simple to understand. I hope to be an electrical engineer in the future and I know, for sure, that I have to pass math to achieve this goal," said 16-year old Joel Rambally.

A release said the Annual bpTT Young Adult Math Experience offers young men and women a second chance to study mathematics, a taxing subject for many, in a relaxed and fun environment.

Now in its seventh year, the initiative started off with students from the Civilian

Conservation Corps (CCC) it covered training at five locations this year, Port of Spain, Diego Martin, Mayaro, YTC (Arouca) and Tobago. The workshops are facilitated by training agency, Cross and Associates, with tutor Nicole Lord overseeing the YTC session.

This year marks the second edition of the annual math experience at the YTC, with Acting Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, Avellina Augustine-Kanhai, lauding BPTT for giving the youths a second opportunity to revive their interest in the subject.

"It is always a pleasure to see learning taking place, especially among youths. Within the service, we have a programme of education and skills training and we ensure that everyone is afforded the opportunity to learn and improve themselves.

"We thank BpTT wholeheartedly for enhancing our learning activity and providing these young men with this chance to move forward in life.



I also want to thank all the coordinators of the programme, parents and the facilitators, for partnering with us to make a real difference in the lives of these young men.

Joel Primus, Community Sustainability and Stakeholder relations Advisor, bpTT, told the graduates that while some people tend to have a negative view of YTC youths, their participation in the workshop demonstrated that something positive and heartening was taking place at the institution.

“Your graduation this morning shows that you have already embarked on a new life for yourselves which will usher great hope for your future.

Irrespective of what happened in your past, it is important to look ahead and plan for the future. Use this math experience as a building block for your new life,” Primus urged the young graduates.

He gave the assurance that bpTT would continue to support the math experience at the YTC “and will support this initiative in other ways to help in your development for life”.

Also addressing the graduates was Andrew Cross, Principal/Consultant, Cross and Associates, who told them that their graduation celebrated the end of a programme and heralded the celebration of a new beginning.

“Mathematics is a vehicle for positive change in your life.

Whenever you make

mistakes, you need to correct them.

That is the objective of math and this opportunity should serve to change your life for the better,” Cross advised the graduates.

[Trinidad Guardian]

NEWS



✓ INDONESIA: INDONESIAN YOUTH URGED TO CHART COURSE FOR COUNTRY

Jakarta, 13 July 2018 - YOUNG Indonesians have helped propel their country forward at critical junctures in its turbulent history and they must once again flex their political muscle to help chart the nation's course during a period of global change and uncertainty, an upcoming young politician said yesterday.

"Political ignorance among the youth will be detrimental in the long run," said Mr Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, the 39-year-old son of former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

He was delivering a lecture at the Marina Mandarin Singapore organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Mr Agus cited history yesterday, recounting how university students sparked the Reformasi movement that led to the end of the 30-year New Order regime of strongman Suharto.

A group of young intellectuals had also founded the country's first political movement, Budi Utomo, marking the start of Indonesia's modern nationalism. Decades later, in 1945, it was young activists yet again who pressured the nation's founding fathers to proclaim independence.

"Young people in Indonesia have always been at the forefront of changes, and they are always present at critical junctures in our history," said Mr Agus, who is the executive director of The Yudhoyono Institute, a think-tank aimed at developing young Indonesians.

"This is exactly why I urge many more young Indonesians to participate in the politics of the country, to one degree or another," he said, adding that this could be through voting, joining a political party or stepping forward as a candidate.

Youths not only have to face challenges on the economic front, including fierce competition and a changing world economy, but must also contend with threats to the country's social fabric such as the rise of hate speech and identity politics.

Mr Agus also pointed out that the young were already a key force at the ballot box, with nearly 52 per cent of eligible voters in Indonesia aged between 17 and 35. He said young politicians made their mark with their "fresh approaches, energy, and stamina" in June's regional elections, citing the example of 33-year-old Emil Dardak, a Raffles Institution alumnus, who paired with the veteran, Khofifah Indore Parawansa, and won in East Java.

A former army major, Mr Agus himself left a high-flying military career in September 2016 to contest in the gubernatorial election in Jakarta.

"I want to set an example for young people to actively exercise their political rights," he said yesterday. Mr Agus' political journey did not stop after his failed bid for office in 2017.

Mr Agus also made clear yesterday that the young need not just contribute in the political arena.

"Patriotism in the 21st century takes a different meaning than in the past. They do not need to raise arms or fight wars," he said.

"There are many paths to contribute... I have high hopes and confidence that the young generation of Indonesia will be able to collaborate and work together towards a better future."

[The Straits Times]

✓ MALAYISA: MAHATHIR, 93, AIMS TO LOWER MALAYSIA VOTING AGE TO EMPOWER YOUTH

Kuala Lumpur, 23 July 2018 - MALAYSIA's youth are likely to get more power after backing 93-year-old Mahathir Mohamad to topple a regime that ruled the Southeast Asian nation for six decades.

Malaysia is "very serious" about reducing the voting age to 18 before the next elections due by 2023, Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, 25, told Bloomberg in an interview in Kuala Lumpur.

The two-month-old cabinet plans to ask the Attorney-General's office to look into what laws need to be amended, he said.

Lowering the voting age to 18 from 21 would add an additional 3.7 million voters, Saddiq said, increasing the number of registered voters by about 25 percent from the election in May.

Voters aged 21-39 make up around 40 percent of the Malaysian electorate, twice the number of voters over

60, according to Election Commission data.

"That means the youth voter block becomes bigger and stronger, and therefore, they cannot be sidelined in the Malaysian political scene anymore," said Saddiq, a member of Mahathir's political party and Malaysia's youngest-ever cabinet minister.

High youth unemployment proved to be a critical factor in a vote that ousted former Premier Najib Razak, who championed economic poli-

cies favoring the Malay majority and now finds himself facing charges in a corruption probe at state fund 1MDB.

Najib, who denies wrongdoing, had made a last-ditch effort to woo younger voters on the eve of the vote, pledging income tax exemptions for those aged 26 years and below.



Unemployment among Malaysians aged 15 to 24 stood at 10.8 percent last year, World Bank data show.

That's more than three times the national rate of 3.3 percent.

Joblessness among local graduates meanwhile increased more sharply than non-graduates since 2011, according to data from the central bank.

"The youth care about two primary issues," Saddiq said. "One is about bread and butter issues, which is cost of living, affordable housing, good employment opportunities, and quality of life," he said.

The second is getting their voice heard in the nation-building process, he said.

"Power should be returned back to the people," he said. "That means opening up

more democratic spaces, which means more young people can join and speak up."

About 75 percent of younger voters backed the opposition, according to Ibrahim Suffian, the executive director of pollster Merdeka Center, which tracks voter sentiments.

The Merdeka Center estimated a voter turnout of about 81 percent for youths, with urban areas of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor seeing more young people outpace their elders in casting ballots.

"Young voters are the true kingmakers in the elections they were the ones who brought us into government," Saddiq said.

"But also a word of caution, they could also be the ones who take us out from government, because they are not loyal to any political party."

Syed, who has pledged to reshuffle youth associations to make sure they're led by people under the age of 35, also wants to phase out political appointees in sports and give more attention to student programs that involve coding, automation, and artificial intelligence.

Reducing the voting age will help break the "youth glass ceiling" and encourage young people to be more active in political organizations, Saddiq said.

Still, it's not going to be smooth sailing.

In April, Saddiq was called a "greenhorn kitten" by Hishammuddin Hussein, who at the time was vice president of the ruling United Malays National Organisation.

"Almost everything I do, including what I wear, will be scrutinized," Saddiq said.

"But I don't see that as a liability.

While the limelight can crush a person, that limelight can also be translated into positive vibes and energy. If we succeed, we will set a new precedent that appointing young ministers is not bad." Saddiq also praised Mahathir, saying "he loves to teach and ramble in good ways." Mahathir has asked him why young people show up late for appointments and always play with their phones during meetings, Saddiq said.

"It's not about politics, it's a lot more about a relationship between a son to a father," he said. "Or a son to the grandfather."

[Bloomberg]

✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH NEED NOT BE IMPATIENT

Islamabad, 14 July 2018 - YOUNG men and young women of Pakistan have to face a plethora of problems.

As soon as they enter adulthood, most of them are unable to find suitable

employment. As a result frustration stares them in the face which sometimes results in mental illness.

The youth in Pakistan are unaware of their strengths

and their weaknesses.

They are unaware of the endless career opportunities they'll find along the path only if they are patient enough to remain persistent with their efforts.

The youth of today should realise that things don't materialise overnight and one has to be patient to reach his or her goal in life.

[The Express Tribune]

✓ PHILIPPINES: YOUTH MONTH TO FOCUS ON HEALTH, SOCIAL ISSUES

Balanag city, 27 July 2018 - THE Provincial Youth Council (BYPC) announced Tuesday that the upcoming Youth Month celebration this August will focus on health and social issues.

"During our recent meeting, mental health problems which include depression and suicide are among the

issues raised by the member-agencies," Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office Head Marilyn Tigas disclosed.

As such, BYPC will be holding in August a Healthy Lifestyle and Mental Health Awareness seminar for the members of the Pag-asa

Youth Association of the Philippines-Bataan Chapter. Meanwhile, after drawing flak in previous years brought about by being a non-performing asset (NPA), the new leadership of the youth has vowed to become productive members of the community and work for the interest of the public.

Precious Manuel, the Newly elected Federated president of Sangguniang Abadan (SK) who is an ex-officio member of the provincial board, said that she joined the youth organization not for profit but for service to the public.



In an impromptu interview with this writer, SK president, an accounting graduate, said that she also wanted to prove that the SKs can play a major role in pushing for the interest and welfare of the youth, contrary to the claim of others that the SKs are doing nothing except receiving their salaries.

“ I want to prove that we can work hand in hand with

the local leadership of Gov. Abet Garcia to attain the objectives and programs intended for the youth,” pointed out Manuel..

Manuel and the other leaders of SKs in various towns and city took their oath before Gov Garcia inside Louis restaurant over the weekend.

Noting their major role in the community, Governor

Garcia challenged the new leaders of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in the province to unite and work for the betterment of the youth.

Gov.Garcia’s told the youth leaders that the election was just one day and “ it is now time to embrace your once political opponents for the sake of unity and the province.”

To give her moral support,

Ms. Manuel was accompanied by her mother Maricel and the president of Association of barangay captains Basilio S Layug of Dinalupihan town, who is also an ex-officio member of the town council. “Ms. Manuel is bright, talented and industrious,” said Layug.

[Manila Bulletin]

✓ QATAR: NAMA’S WORKSHOP CALLS FOR BETTER USE OF YOUTH SKILLS

Doha, 11 July 2018 - THE Social Development Center “Nama” yesterday organised an extensive workshop on the Qatari youth and its role in comprehensive development, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

A number of experts and researchers interested in issues of development and empowerment, as well as specialists in youth studies and their roles at various levels, especially those related to their participation in comprehensive community development plans, attended the workshop.

The workshop discussed the results of a study prepared by Nama in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) under the title “Youth in Qatar: Situation Analysis and Response Assessment” as part of a project in which the two sides will cooperate for a year and a half on the same issue.

It also discussed a number of concrete recommendations on how to improve the working methods with young people

in Qatar, in order to achieve progress and advancement of the State.

CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Amal Abdullatif Al Mannai, said that the workshop comes in the context of a joint project between the Nama Center and UNFPA, which was signed in October 2017 in order to provide technical support to the centre and achieve its objectives in building the capacities of the Qatari youth, activating their positive contributions and promoting constructive participation in the knowledge-based community and the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030.

She added that this joint project, which was the result of the cooperation protocol signed by the Qatar Foundation for Social Work with the UNFPA in 2015, takes 18 months and this workshop aims to discuss the outputs of the first phase, which lasted four months.

Al Mannai expressed the hope that the results of the study discussed by the workshop will outline a roadmap for the

development of the “Nama” plans and youth centres operating in the country, which also participated in the event.

She underlined that Qatar Foundation for Social Work operates according to a methodology based on research, studies and knowledge of the needs and the impact of the centres on the target groups.

Therefore, it cooperates with internationally accredited research centres that have great experience both inside and outside the country.

Director of Community Services Department at Nama, Mariam Al Mannai, said that the workshop is part of the efforts made by Qatar Foundation for Social Work in support of the development process in Qatar under the directives of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and in the framework of achieving Qatar National Vision.

Representative of the UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States, Samir Anouti, praised the great efforts exerted by Nama in the implementation of the joint

project and the achievement of its objectives represented in building the capacities of Qatari youth and activating their positive contributions through promoting their constructive participation in achieving the goals of sustainable development of Qatar in accordance with its National Vision 2030.

[The Peninsula Qatar]



✓ AMERNIA: ONLY 35.4% OF ARMENIAN YOUTH PURSUE PROFESSION

Yerevan, 12 July 2018 - GENERATION of Independence: Research Among Young People” found out that Armenia’s youth today is “vulnerable and incomplete”.

The study was carried out by the Armenian branch of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with Faculty of Sociology of YSU.

They surveyed 1200 people aged 14-29 from Yerevan and 10 marzes of Armenia.

According to the research, young Armenians have uncertainty in public life, and social activity is more characteristic for the males.

The youth don’t trust state agencies and display minimal political involvement.

“We initiated the research to understand young people in Armenia, as they are the sector of society that starts changes, moves forward and succeeds.

Our goal was to stress the importance of young people’s role in the society and political decision making,” Director of the FES South Caucasus Office Julia Blazius told the press today.

She noted that the research outlined main problems and

stressed certain points in education and employment.

The research discovered that one of serious problems is lack of financial resources for acquiring professional education. 24.3% of young people in Armenia don’t want to continue their education for that reason exactly.

On the other hand, professional knowledge doesn’t guarantee a job, and only 35.4% of the youth pursue their respective profession.

Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Armenia Karine

Harutyunyan attached importance to such researches.

“They raise awareness in the ministry about young people’s problems, help us plan the efforts and make targeted decisions,” Deputy Minister said.

According to her, those problems aren’t new, and the research contains important issues and stresses, such as lack of state funding for higher education and resulting low quality of education, etc.

[Armenian Weekly]

✓ AZERBAIJAN: AZERCELL DECLARES FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH

Baku, 25 July 2018 - AZERCELL CEO Vahid Mursaliyev met with the students who had obtained the title of Azercell scholars.

The operator reports that Mursaliyev stated at the meeting that in addition to monthly stipend from Azercell, the program will also provide the students an opportunity to enrich their knowledge about telecommunications, participate in Azercell’s

corporate events and social activities, receive various trainings, as well as take internship at the company. “Azercell has supported the youth and students since the company started its business activity. A number of student programs, internships and other projects have been carried out so far.

We also concluded cooperation agreements with the universities you study in. All these steps are

aimed to develop our education”, he stated.

The stipend winners currently study in Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, ADA University, Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Gafqaz University, Ganja State University, Nakhchivan State University, Baku High Oil School, State Oil and Industry University,

Azerbaijan Technical University, Mingachevir State University, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and Ganja Agrarian University. Azercell has conducted the Student Bursary Program annually since 2008. Over 130 students from various universities in Azerbaijan have benefited from the Program.

[Azerbaijan Business Center]

✓ CROATIA: 300 JOBS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH, SAYS FARQUHARSON

Zagreb, 10 July 2018 - NEARLY 300 jobs are expected to be made available to young persons in the country during the third and fourth quarters of this year.

This was revealed by Labour Director Robert Farquharson during an interview with The Bahama Journal over the weekend.

The Department of Statistics Labour Survey revealed that while there was a decline in the unemployment rate among youth (15-24) (From 25.1 percent to 24.1 percent) it was still considerably higher than any other age group.

“Department of Labour in conjunction with the

Ministry of National Security has embarked on the Citizens Security and Justice Program and the employability aspect of that program is about to kick in during the third and fourth quarter of 2017,” Mr. Farquharson said.

“This will involve the training and employment of 200-300 young people between the ages of 16-29.

We expect it to have a direct impact on those numbers.

“It’s a four-year program and over the four years we are expected to train about 1,600 persons and have all these persons employed.”



The Citizens Security and Justice Program was launched in May 2016 by the previous administration.

The Progressive Liberal Party quickly moved to capitalize on the survey results, with PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts saying Friday that the statistics from 2012 to 2017 show

that 39,505 jobs were added to the economy, 7,770 of which were added in the final six months of the Christie administration.

“Regardless of what is said about the PLP government under Mr. Christie, those are the objective numbers and the unvarnished facts,” Mr. Roberts said.

The program focuses on non-violent conflict resolution, youth employment training, the strengthening of the Public Employment Services, the continuation of the successful work of the Swift Justice Initiative, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. The program, funded by a

\$20 million loan from the Inter-American Bank (IDB), represents the “single largest investment in a coordinated and comprehensive policy to address crime” in The Bahamas.

[Novosti]

✓ ROMANIA: YOUNG PEOPLE SET TO MAKE LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO ROMANIA

Bucharest, 12 July 2018 - A GROUP of young people from North Belfast are gearing up for a potentially life-changing trip to Romania.

Twenty youths, aged between 15 and 18, who are part of the Romania Project in the New Lodge area, are to travel to the country in just a few weeks.

The New Lodge Youth Project, as part of Ashton Community Trust, started back in 2015 and enabled young people to get involved in an extensive programme which involved personal development,

supporting young people with disabilities at the 174 Trust, volunteering to help Belfast’s homeless and intergenerational work with the local elderly.

Youth worker Sean McMullan, who is in charge of the project, said the project was much more than just a trip abroad. “The young people learn so much throughout the year within the programme which benefits them whilst out in Romania,” he said.

“The young people volunteer weekly in the 174 Trust with young people with disability, taking part

in homeless work and also learning a lot about themselves.

“Whilst in Romania the young people work in a local disability centre, orphanages, family homes and engage with young people their age to experience the culture of a young person living in Romania.

“The young people are a credit to us at the youth centre, to themselves and to their families as well. The Romania Project experience is one that is life-changing and it is a privilege to be a part of this experience with all of these dedicated young

people.

“Whilst already making a big impact in their community I know that these young people will be great role models for other young people in their youth centre and community for a long time to come.”

The project has won two awards for positive change and continues to impact positively on young people’s lives in the New Lodge district.

[Belfast Media Group]

✓ SPAIN: MAJOR YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE FOR DAY ONE AT DENBIGH

Madrid, 4 July 2018 - THE village is to be the venue for students who are currently engaged in agriculture studies from Manchester, St Ann and St Catherine, to apply for the Rio tinto alcan scholarship fund, which is managed by the development bank of Spain and the applicable programme executed by the Spain 4-h clubs.

Youth in agriculture day on Saturday is to involve close to 200 youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years, competing in events including agricultural jingle, business model/

plan, agri-animation, agro-processing and the agri-quiz competitions.

Under the theme, ‘youth farmers: budding nation builders,’ the village will be open daily throughout the show, between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. The village is one of the main focuses of the national youth in agriculture programme that is led by the Spain 4-h clubs, the youth training arm of the ministry of industry, commerce, agriculture and fisheries.

The 4-h clubs have been at

the helm of the youth in agriculture programme since 2008, when it was mandated by the government to lead the multi-agency planning committee which is geared at, among other things, stimulating youth involvement in agriculture, and preserving fostering national food security.

[ABC]



AUSTRALIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SOUTH WEST AND PEEL 10TH HIGHEST IN AUSTRALIA

Cranberra, 9 July 2018 - THE South West and Peel ranked tenth highest in Australia for youth unemployment with 21.6 per cent of people aged 15 to 24 years unable to find a job.

The figures were released in the State of the Regions 2018-19 report published by the National Economics/Australian Local Government Association.

The report stated job prospects for students graduating from universities had improved with 72 per cent of people with a bachelor degree finding a job in 2017.

Employment opportunities for young people without qualifications were far more uncertain with disengaged youth and inequality seen as major concerns.

According to the report, the unemployment rate in the South West and Peel regions had increased 6 per cent since 2003 making the area one of the most disadvantaged youth employment regions in the country.

It was estimated that the national average for youth unemployment was 16.1 per cent, rising from 13.1 per cent in 2017.

Premier Mark McGowan said he accepted youth unemployment was still high, but there were some positive signs.

Mr McGowan said initiatives the government had undertaken to create

more jobs for young people included investing \$520 million in job-creating infrastructure across the South West and Peel including the Bunbury Outer Ring Road.

He said the government had frozen TAFE fees, opened a jobs and skills centre in Bunbury and Peel, developed an economic plan for Collie and Bunbury and spent \$40 million to boost tourism.

“We also know that drug use among young people in the South West is particularly high,” he said.

“That is why we are implementing our meth action plan and investing more than \$9 million to fast track 33 more alcohol and drug rehab beds in the South West.”

Mr McGowan also said the growing lithium industry provided enormous opportunity for jobs in the South West.

“Talison Lithium is spending \$320 million on expanding its Greenbushes lithium mine already the world’s biggest, and Albemarle is planning a lithium hydroxide processing plant in Kemerton.”

“The WA Industry Link portal will help local businesses to secure work on government contracts. WA Industry Link will ensure more opportunities are created for WA businesses, meaning more jobs for local workers.

“As part of the advisory service, local content advisors were available to provide advisory services to businesses in regional areas.

“Their focus is on helping support regional businesses compete for State Government supply opportunities.”

South West MLC Steve Thomas said the labor government had perpetuated a fraud on the people of the South West and Peel region by abandoning their number one promise of job creation and job retention.

“By abandoning the younger generation who seek employment within their local communities, and who wish to remain in their local communities, the true metro focus of this regionally disconnected government is once again exposed,” he said.

“Empty gestures and tokenism do not provide employment opportunities for young people in the South West, and the McGowan Government will be held to account for its hollow promises and blatant regional neglect.”

Vasse MLA Libby Mettam said while the Peel and the South West region have been combined as a region of significant unemployment, the youth unemployment rate for the Busselton local government area was considerably lower at 11.3 per cent.

“It is widely recognised there are significant parts of the community that are

underrepresented in the workforce, including youth, women, people with a disability, Indigenous Australians, and older workers,” she said.

“Unfortunately the current landscape presents very significant challenges for young people and current policies are inadequate to meet their needs.”

Ms Mettam said people were attracted to the South West because of its natural beauty and premium quality food and drinks which could be exported.

She said by further developing new markets in Asia where growing population and emerging markets seeking high quality fresh produce could lead to increased demand for South West produce.

Attracting large scale events strategically positioned on an annual calendar to help maximise visitation, Ms Mettam said would encourage further tourism opportunities through increased destination marketing.

“Unfortunately, the McGowan government appears to be doing the opposite with events funding cut for annual events such as the Margaret River Gourmet Escape,” she said.

[Busselton Dunsborough Mail]



✓ FIJI: YOUTHS, THE HOPE AND FUTURE OF FIJI: MERVYN

Suva 24 July 2018 -

YOUTHS can make the world a better place just by being the person that the public would like to meet, to talk to because youths are the hope and future of this nation, Fiji.

Youth Advocate and President of Ignite4Change Broderick Mervyn made this comment while speaking at the Centennial Celebrations of the late South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nelson Mandela.

The South Africa High Commission in collaboration with the University of the South

Pacific had organised Mandela Day Celebrations at Laucala Campus in Suva recently where Chief Justice Anthony Gates was the chief guest followed by a panel discussion comprising of youths, academics and a retired soldier.

“Indeed, I wish to acknowledge the South Africa High Commission, as well as the University of the South Pacific on the success of Mandela Day and for giving me the opportunity to speak about the life’s work of Mandela and how he has impacted me as a leader,” Mr Mervyn said.

He emphasised on how

people should not rest on the accomplishments of the past, even the accomplishments of those as historic as Nelson Mandela.

Meanwhile, Ignite4Change member Eremasi Narawa expressed on Mandela’s exemplary life and that the virtues and principles Mandela adopted could be applicable to our societies today.

“Indeed, how does a man who spent 27 years in prison, put there by an oppressor and come out of that experience with not a heart of stone but a heart that was willing to forgive and embrace; only Nelson Mandela could have done

that,” he said.

This year’s theme was ‘Be The Legacy How Can We Do Something Good Everyday, In Order To Change The World For The Better?’

The Mandela Day Campaign is a celebration of our collective power to create a global movement for good and make a positive impact on the world.

The day was a call to everyone to make the world a better place.

[The Fiji Times]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: OUR YOUTH ARE FINANCIALLY ILLITERATE

Wellington, 16 July 2018 -

FOR the majority of English-speaking secondary schools across the globe, it’s apparent that our young students continue to be educated in traditional subjects such as chemistry, math and history.

A topic evidently absent, yet inherently important, is that of financial literacy or well-being. In fact, it is only when one enrolls in finance-based tertiary education or employment that their financial literacy can be drastically improved.

Unfortunately, for the greater New Zealand public, if financial literacy cannot be ascertained in school it is equally as difficult to acquire it in later life.

Particularly when, with the exclusion of class advice, there are only around 1800 authorised financial

advisers (AFAs) that are registered under the Financial Markets Authority (FMA) with that already small number decreasing over the past year.

The financial risks surrounding youth cannot be understated given that at the tender age of 18, when many have left school, the options of debt become readily available.

These include overdrafts, personal loans, credit cards and student loans just to name a few.

Given the average net worth for those aged 15-24 is a mere \$1000 this is indeed an issue that needs to be addressed. Seemingly, people are more comfortable talking and moving into debt than they are about investing (stocks, bonds, managed funds), saving (transactional and

cash) or protecting (insurance).

In fact, Nigel Latta’s TV series, *Mind Over Money*, shockingly informed the New Zealand public that we are, on average, saving a mere 2% of our income.

This is undoubtedly a pity, particularly for the youth of New Zealand who could benefit from the wonders of dividends, capital appreciation and compounding interest.

It has been reiterated by many investing gurus, including Benjamin Graham and Warren Buffett, that the greatest asset we have is time. The sum of investing or saving now, for the most part, will create impressive returns in ten years time.

The sheer differences in demographic and life

aspirations make it increasingly difficult for individuals to know what financial advice to acknowledge.

While our younger generation do not have the capacity to change the educational system to address these shortcomings, the one strategy they can implement is one that can apply to everyone. The importance of monitoring net worth.

Net worth, put simply, is what you own less what you owe. There are many assets that comprise what you own and this includes more than just cash. It is inclusive of vehicles, property, bonds, stocks and retirement funds; just about anything owned with a ‘+’.



In turn, what you owe is inclusive of all debts, for more accurate figures it's worth including debts owed to family members and friends as it is still essentially a liability against your name.

It is important to remain honest and realistic.

For example, if a car is joint owned then its value for an individual would need to be halved. Remaining

objective allows for the figures to be accurate and therefore helpful.

The input of these figures can easily be put into many net worth applications available for Android and iPhone. All of these software will provide a single numerical figure or net worth amount with some providing graphs overtime and other useful information.

Spending two minutes to input as often as one gets paid provides reassurance, or in other cases, alert to the fact that one's net worth is either improving or diminishing over time.

This allows individuals to make adjustments to life habits, goals and spending or saving patterns.

This is generally a solution to an issue that needs to be addressed by educational

reform.

It is imperative changes are made to overturn the 'hush' revolving around topics of money and instead educate people early in life on how they can take control of their future and build a prosperous future.

[Stuff.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA CALLS ON OLDER GENERATION TO LISTEN TO YOUTH VOICE

Apia, 16 July 2018 - SAMOA's deputy prime minister has called on the older generation to listen to the voices of the youth and support their initiatives as they will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Speaking at the opening of Youth Week in Apia, Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa acknowledged many young people's achievements and contributions to Samoa's development.

Youth make up 64-percent

of Samoa's population.

She also encouraged the youth to utilize their talents and skills to develop their families, villages and the country and acknowledged those who have excelled in sports on the world stage.

Fiaame made particular reference to Samoa's recent gold medal won at last month's Commonwealth Youth Games rugby sevens tournament.

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: OUR SOARING YOUTH POPULATION

Honiara, 11 July 2018 - DESPITE some hiccups, the 10-day event was a resounding success.

We thank the local organising committee for putting on such a show. It's an event to be remembered in years to come.

We wish our Melanesian brothers and sisters safe journey home as they depart our shores in the coming days.

Let's hope they return with fond memories of MACFest and Solomon Islands.

That being said, it's time we turn our attention back to our nation.

If there's one thing that stood out during MACFest, it is the number of young people who attended the

show each day.

Obviously, our youth population is soaring. At the end of the show each day, you see them walked the streets back home. You can tell that we have a youth population.

The evidence is there and our leaders need to open their eyes to this reality. These are young people with aims and dreams.

Some are still at school, while others have completed their education. Most of these young people are unemployed.

The Government needs to seriously take heed to the rising youth population.

It must prepare to engage with them in ways that will keep them busy and become

useful and valuable citizens.

As someone has said, "An idle brain is the devil's workshop". To turn a blind eye to our youths is to condemn them to the streets of Honiara.

Today, every young man and woman who leaves the schools in the village will think of nowhere else but Honiara as their next place of residence. This is why our villages are empty of young people.

They are all in Honiara, looking for leisure, entertainment, and economic opportunities that do not exist. There's nothing for them in the villages.

Although millions of dollars are allocated for rural development each year in the national budget, the

government has nothing to show for in our rural areas.

Those development funds simply disappeared in the hands of the MPs who managed them. We need to spread development out of Honiara before the capital city becomes overcrowded.

Our soaring youth population is a time-bomb. We need to work around it now before it explodes on our face.

[Solomon Star]

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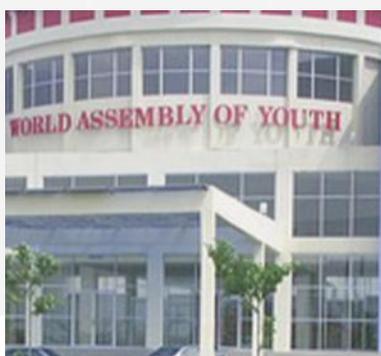
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