



Career Fair attracts large crowd

HUNDREDS of young adults converged at the John Dial Community Centre in Bacolet/Mt St George, Tobago, on August 11, exploring future career opportunities as the Youth Energised for Success (YES) programme held its first Annual Career Fair.

Representatives from different sectors were on hand to provide information on career options to the young people. These included health, business, the environment, institutions, agro-processing, tourism and hospitality, arts and craft and skills training. Some enterprising persons even walked with copies of their resumes and filled out application forms.

Nkocy Fletcher – A mark of confidence

For Nkocy Fletcher, 19, student of Mt St George, the career fair was very interesting and eye-opening. "I loved the variety of stakeholders who were at the fair because it didn't only focus on those who are academically-inclined. I do not want to limit myself to the academic sphere but to equip myself with trade skills. It was amazing to see the wide range of career options available right here in Tobago. It is up to us, the young people, to maximise the opportunities that are presented to us," said a confident Fletcher.



LAUNCHED in 2012, the groundbreaking Youth Energised for Success (YES) programme is already bearing positive results and has been hailed as a benchmark for nurturing an environment that has created sustainable employment and led to the stability of the young men and women of Tobago.

YES is one of the signature initiatives of the Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Finance and Enterprise Development (DFED), headed by Secretary Joel Jack. Basically, it helps to provide the skills required for promoting pathways for employment, leading to financial independence.

According to Assemblyman Jack, "Our

Division is focused on expanding and enhancing opportunities through strategies such as investment in entrepreneurship. We are trying to build a better future and the custodians of that future are Tobago's youth. That is why YES blends both youth development and entrepreneurship. When young people ask if they can achieve their dreams, open a business or have a career; we are here to tell them emphatically, YES!"

The Vision of YES calls for collaboration with other Divisions of the THA, the private sector and other local, regional and international agencies, to expand and enhance training, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for young



Visitors get information on the YES Programme at the booth hosted at the BDU Expo during Finance Week.

Improving life skills

Some 30 young persons participated in the Life Skills Workshop under the YES programme. They completed a variety of sessions aimed at enhancing personal and professional skills to bring about a change in attitudes and behaviours that are requisite to becoming well-rounded and respected individuals in the society.

The sessions covered topics such as Understanding Self, Life Choices 1 & 2, Job Search and Interview, Setting new Goals, and Financial Success – Personal Finances.

Conducted at the Victor E. Bruce Financial Complex, the workshops were facilitated by Ms. Lisa P. Beckles. The Unit intends to re-introduce the Life Skills Workshops into the communities and conduct six sessions in the DFED training room in 2017.

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Assemblyman Joel Jack and YES staff members at the YES Outreach, Gulf City Mall, Lowlands.

Tobagonians, thus preparing them to lead in the development and diversification of the Tobago economy. Since its inception, approximately 1,220 young men and women have registered with YES, with some 300 doing so during fiscal 2015-2016.

Interns get hands on experience

The Summer Internship Programme is proving to be one of the main platforms of the 'YES' initiative in empowering young people and investing in the human capital of Tobago.

The YES Unit conducted its fourth edition of the internship during the July-August 2016 vacation for 40 young professionals who were enrolled at secondary and tertiary education levels, a noted increase from the intake of 24 in 2015.

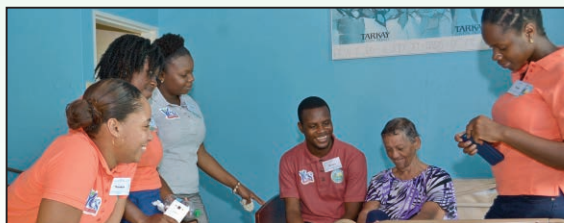
Interns were assigned to various THA Divisions and state bodies commensurate with their qualifications, experience and interests. They were able to gain valuable hands-on experience at institutions such as Cove Eco-Industrial Park, Tobago Regional Health Authority, Unit Trust Corporation, T&TEC and Orange Advertising. Some were also placed at units within the DFED, such as Cooperative Development, Economic Research Unit, Scarborough Esplanade and Registry.

To foster a 'Service above Self' mindset, interns were introduced, for the first time, to Service Learning and Volunteerism. This is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service to enrich learning experiences, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

An eye-catching feature arising out of the Summer Internship was a debating component among interns who were provided a platform to utilise their critical and analytical skills through workshops and presentation sessions.



Assemblyman Joel Jack poses proudly with these YES participants at the Career Fair in Mt. St. George.



YES participants spend some quality time with persons at this home for the elderly.



A member of the YES staff shares some information with students at the Youth Empowerment Forum.