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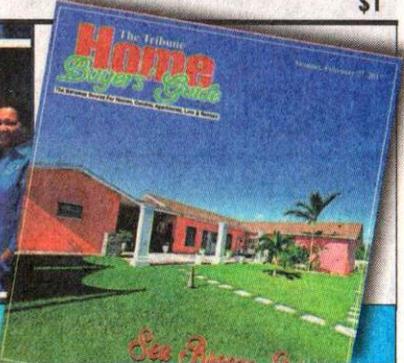
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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME LAUNCHES FIFTH ANNUAL EVENT

By **RICARDO WELLS**
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THE Youth Empowerment Programme on Friday officially launched its fifth annual YEP month, with executive officers touting continued success as the prime reason corporate Bahamas should get on board and aid the campaign as it continues

to “exceed limits”. The series of events - which is built around a church service, radio commentaries, a fun run/walk health fair, a beach volleyball tournament, speech finals, debate finals, a basketball tournament, government courtesy calls, a talent and step show, luncheon, a pride and t-shirt day, a community day and a family fun day - commences

on Sunday. Programme President and CEO Delano Munroe said through the help of its sponsors, YEP has been able to engage students from both private and public schools using a diverse curriculum for much of the past five years. YEP, a non-profit, volunteer mentorship initiative consists of a 30-week after-school schedule that

includes several supplementary activities that expose students to needed social and career skills. “Our curriculum remains diverse to cater to the ever-changing times we now live in,” said Mr Munroe, a one-time political hopeful, at a press conference at the British Colonial Hilton. “We keep our students actively engaged and involved with

internal and external activities throughout the entire programme. “YEP remains committed to helping students realise their dream of a college/university education. We are the only youth organisation to host a college road trip in the United States and Canada giving our students more exposure.” “YEP students are statistically heading to col-

lege and university or the job market immediately after graduating from high school.” According to programme representatives, YEP operates in 25 schools in New Providence and aims to expand throughout the Family Islands. Several corporate partners and the Ministry of Education currently sponsor the programme.