

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY – (THIRD SESSION)-2024

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
REPORT ON
INSPECTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES (VTCs) IN KITUI
COUNTY.

Clerk's Chambers,
Kitui County Assembly Buildings,
P.O Box 694-90200
KITUI.

APRIL, 2024

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACJ	-Appropriate Carpentry and Joinery.
BCT	-Building and Construction Technology.
BOM	-Board of Management.
BT	-Beauty Therapy.
CLIDP	-Community Level Infrastructure Development Program.
EET	-Electrical and Electronic Technology.
F	-Female.
F.Y	-Financial Year.
FD	-Fashion Design.
GM	-Garment Making.
HD	-Hair Dressing.
KSHS	-Kenya shillings.
ICT	-Information and Communication Technology.
M	-Male.
MCA	-Member of County Assembly.
MPT	-Metal Processing Technology.
MVT	-Motor Vehicle Technology.
NITA	-National Industrial Training Authority.
VTCs	-Vocational Training Centres.
TVET	-Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Standing Order No. 190 and the second schedule to the same mandates and gives power to the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development to oversee the assigned County department and report back to the House with the findings and recommendations on a given situation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is on this basis that the said Committee undertook the inspection exercise on sampled Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) that represented the other centres that were not inspected.

Therefore, this report entails the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Basic Education, training and Skills Development during her inspection of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Kitui County that took place from 2nd to 5th May 2023.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

During the exercise, the Committee made a physical inspection of the said facilities and interviewed the members of the public and stakeholders of various VTCs visited. Of interest to the Committee and what forms the basis of this report was:

1. To establish the status of the facilities in terms of: -
 - i. The courses offered in the institutions and their applicability to the trainees during and after completion of the courses.
 - ii. The enrolment of trainees.
 - iii. Challenges that are affecting the performance of these facilities.
 - iv. Employment of trainers in the facilities.

2. To identify and recommend Improvements that need to be made to the existing facilities to ensure that there is prudence in the utilization of public funds as well as ensuring that the courses offered are of benefit to the trainees.
3. To find out if the County Government was providing the required support to these facilities as required by the law.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The exercise was fruitful since the Committee was able to: -

1. Establish that the numerous courses offered in most of these centres were relevant to the changing needs of society.
2. Realise that the graduates from these centres were able to establish their businesses or be employed locally, a result that made them benefit by earning a living for themselves and their families.
3. Establish that almost all the centres were in dilapidated conditions because of being neglected by the County government and a facelift for all was seriously needed. For instance, some buildings in some of the centres have cracked walls that are almost falling and others like in Mui Vocational Training Centre a latrine had already sunk.
4. Note that the County government was not providing the required support to the centres. This was evident because in all the centres visited there were no training materials, the structures were not enough (training workshops), there was one and in rare cases two county government-employed instructors (the burden of paying other BOM instructors was left to parents and trainees).

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Members of the Committee were heartened by the state of the VCTs inspected and thus made several recommendations in chapter five of this report. Some of the recommendations are as highlighted below: -

1. **Face-lifting of Vocational Training Centres.** This should be given priority to make them attractive and habitable. The exercise should include;
 - i. Renovation and painting of dilapidated buildings in all the centres;
 - ii. Construction of workshops and classrooms; and
 - iii. Fencing and gates of Vocational Training Centres that do not have the same.
2. **Employment of more instructors.** At the time of the exercise, there were 97 instructors employed by the county government against an enrolment of 7,223. According to TVET guidelines, an instructor is supposed to handle a maximum of 30 trainees. This therefore means that there is a shortage of 144 instructors.
3. **Capitation.** Assisting trainees in the payment of tuition and operations fees as done in all Technical and Vocational Educational training institutions. This will guarantee quality training through the supply of training tools, equipment and training materials. Each trainee should get Kshs 15,000.
4. **Payment of trade test fees for eligible trainees for certification.** Trade fees test currently is Kshs. 5,000; Kshs. 6,000 and Kshs. 7,000 for grades 3,2 and 1 respectively. This is beyond what the trainees can afford. Indeed many are enrolling but leave without certification because of the high trade test fees charged.
5. **Revision of time taken to graduate from grade three trade test from two years to one year.**

The National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) have adopted a program where the trainees take one year before being presented for the grade 3 test. Some county VTCs have also embraced such programs. Such a program relieves the parent of the burden of paying fees for two years. It is also cost-effective for the County government regarding capitation as well as ensuring that the trainees are released to the labour market.

6. **Construction of ICT workshop and equipment of the same.** Wi-Fi connection to all VTCs equipment and workshop is required. Currently, there are 52 operational VTCs and only 25 have ICT workshops.

7. **Establishment of a centre of specialization & home craft centre at Manyenyoni and Kanyonyoo (Current KIYODEC and Leather Industry) in Masonry and Leatherwork.**

The equipment and machines at the centres can be utilized to offer training in masonry and leatherwork. Through this, the centre will be sustainable.

8. **Nomination and induction of VTCs Board of Governors.** As of the inspection date 51 VTCs were operating with an executive Board of Governors because the term of service for BoG expired in March 2020.

9. **Formulation of training and skills development policy.** The policy will guide the operations in providing services to the public and for effective decision-making about staff in the department. Further, the policy will give a general sense of direction in the day-to-day operations of the department.

10. **Capacity building of County Vocational Training Centre managers.** To sharpen their managerial skills which will eventually lead to an increase in trainee enrolment, managers need to be capacity built. This will also help

them in the smooth running of the institutions as well as helping to prepare trainees for competitive job markets.

1.0. PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is my honour and privilege to present to this House, the report by the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development on the findings and recommendations of the inspected Vocational Training Centres in Kitui County.

1.1 Committee's mandate

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Sectoral Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development derives its mandate from the provisions of Standing Order No. 190(5) and the second schedule to the Standing Orders, which define the functions of the Committee as follows: -

- a) Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned department;
- b) Study programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c) Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d) Study, assess and analyse the relative success of departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;

- f) To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order No. 185 (Committee Appointments); and
- g) Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

1.2 Committees membership

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation comprises of the following members: -

1. Hon. Mark Kitute Nding'o - Chairperson
2. Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi - V/chairperson
3. Hon. Gabriel Mutunga Munyao - Member
4. Hon. Mercy Muliwa Muema - Member
5. Hon. Paul Maluki - Member
6. Hon. Charity Kathathi Musyoka - Member
7. Hon. Cyrus Kisavi Musyoka - Member
8. Hon. Immaculate Wanza John - Member
9. Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite - Member
10. Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi - Member
11. Hon. Alphonse M. Mukwayu - Member

Mr Speaker Sir,

The Committee conducted a projects assessment exercise of Vocational Training Centres across the County from 2nd to 5th May, 2023.

In undertaking the inspection exercise, the Committee acted within the provisions of **Article 185 (3)** of the Constitution which states that; -

“A County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs;

2.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The conceptualization and development of this report was made possible by the selfless commitment of numerous individuals who contributed expertise and diverse human resources to see this assignment come to completion.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I take this opportunity to express my reflective gratitude to the members of the Committee for making up time despite being on their recess to carry out this imperative exercise. I also appreciate the secretariat to this Committee for her technical support and compiling of this report.

In addition to this, the Committee extends its appreciation to the members of the public and various stakeholders who participated in providing crucial information without which this work would have been impossible.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Finally, special mention must go to the office of the Speaker of the Assembly and that of the Clerk for the facilitation accorded to this honourable Committee in fulfilment of its oversight mandate.

Thank You,

SIGNED

HON. MARK KITUTE NDING'O, (MCA)

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

DATE

30/4/2024

3.0 VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES VISITED DURING THE INSPECTION EXERCISE.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

During the inspection exercise, the Committee was able to visit nine (9) Vocational Training Centres across the County as listed below: -

1. Mukelenzuni Vocational Training Centre.
2. Mulango Vocational Training Centre.
3. Kyatune Vocational Training Centre.
4. Ngwaani Vocational Training Centre.
5. Mwingi Baptist Vocational Training Centre.
6. Nguni Vocational Training Centre.
7. Mutonguni Vocational Training Centre.
8. Kauwi Vocational Training Centre.
9. Mui Vocational Training Centre.

3.1. Committee's Findings, Observations, and Recommendations on Individual Vocational Training Centre.

3.1.1. Nguni Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Nguni Vocational Training Centre is in Mwingi Central Sub- County, Nguni ward; Muthuka village along Mwingi Garissa highway. It is the only public vocational training centre in Nguni ward.

Nguni Vocational Training Centre was started in May 2019 as a Day institution that was constructed by the County government of Kitui. It sits on a 5-acre piece of land that is owned by the institution.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

During the Committee's visit, the trainees were on their April holiday but the Committee was able to meet the trainer who gave members information regarding the institution.

The Committee was informed that the enrolment of trainees was as follows: -

- a. Hairdressing (8 trainees)
- b. Fashion design (8 trainees)
- c. Carpentry & joinery(12 trainees)

Total of twenty-eight (28) trainees

Further, the Committee was informed that the institution offered the following courses: -

- i Appropriate carpentry and joinery
- ii Fashion design and garment making
- iii Hairdressing and beauty therapy

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In terms of structures, the Committee observed that the institution had the following; -

- (i) One (1) twin workshop.
- (ii) Two (2) twin pit latrines.
- (iii) Chain-link fenced compound with a gate.
- (iv) Two (2) plastic water tanks (a) 10,000 litres.
(b) 5,000 litres.

In addition, members of the Committee were informed that the centre had three (3) trainers and one support staff as shown below;

- a. One (1) Trainer (Manager) under the county government
- b. Two (2) Trainers under the Board of Management. (B.O.M)
- c. One (1) watchman.

Committee recommendations on this facility.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Several challenges were highlighted by the in-charge. Thus, the Committee makes the following recommendations against each of them as follows: -

1. **Electricity:** The Committee observed that there was no electricity connection since the centre was using a generator for lighting which was a burden of expenditure given the meagre available resources. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the County government considers connecting the centre with electricity. This will go a long way in helping the institution offer metal processing and welding courses, Electricals and Electronics, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy which are in high demand in the market thus improving the livelihoods of the expected trainees.
2. **Absence of dormitories:** Members observed that the centre had no boarding facilities. This has discouraged enrolment because the centre only attracts learners from within the area. The Committee recommends the construction of two dormitories(one for male trainees and the other one for female trainees). This will help to attract more trainees especially those who fail to join the centre due to long distances travelled to access the institution.
3. **Inadequate funds to run the institution.** The Committee established that the institution lacked funds to pay B.O.M trainers and support staff and purchase

training materials. This is coupled with the employment of unqualified or low-level instructors. Therefore, the Committee recommends capitation of the trainees by the County government. This will enhance the smooth running of the institution.

4. **Inadequate equipment, tools and training materials.** The Committee observed that the institution had inadequate equipment and tools needed for the learning process. Thus, the Committee recommends that the concerned department put in place a mechanism to address this challenge by buying enough tools and equipment for the institution to help in the production of highly qualified trainees as well as improving content delivery from trainer to trainees.
5. **Inadequate training workshops.** Members of the Committee observed that there was inadequate space for training since most of the courses were undertaken in one workshop. Thus, the Committee recommends the construction of another Twin workshop to separate courses that are undertaken in one room and also cater for the facilitation of more courses. This will go a long way in improving the catchment area as well as expanding the number of courses offered in this facility.
6. **Absence of Staff toilet.** Members of the Committee observed that there was no toilet for the teaching staff. Instructors and trainees used one two-door toilet. Thus, the Committee recommends the Construction of a staff toilet. This action will help in separating the teaching staff and the trainees because good practice calls for separation to maintain cordial teacher-learner relationships and respect,

3.1.2. Mwingi Baptist Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Mwingi Baptist Vocational Training Centre is in Mwingi Central Sub-County Mwingi Central ward which was started by the Baptist church as a community-based training centre but was later handed over to the government in 2007.

The centre is a mixed day and boarding facility that serves 378 trainees from different parts of the larger Mwingi.

During the Committee's visit, the trainees were on their April holidays but the Committee was lucky to meet the manager of the institution who was very instrumental in providing the Committee with the information that was required.

The manager informed the Committee that: -

1. The centre sits on a 5-acre piece of land and began as a community-based project by the Baptist Church but was later handed over to the Government in 2007.
2. The institution is a mixed day and boarding with an enrolment of 368 trainees.
3. The institution offered the following courses; Carpentry and Joinery, Mechanics (wiring and body), Electrical/electronics, Metal processing, Plumping, Food processing, Entrepreneurship, ICT and Driving (part-time).
4. The school has 14 instructors (5 employed by the County Government and 9 under the Board of Management) and 5 support staff.
5. The day scholar trainees pay a school fee of Kshs. 26,200 while boarders pay Kshs. 30,800 per year.
6. The school has four (4) plastic tanks i.e. one 10,000-litre tank and three 5,000-litre tanks.
7. The school was facing the following challenges;

- i. Shortage of water; although there was piped water on the site, it was not reliable.
- ii. Inadequate classes due to the large number of trainees which has forced the manager to mix 1st years and 2nd years in the same class.
- iii. There was an incomplete building that needed timber and iron sheets for roofing.
- iv. There was a great challenge with the payment of school fees by the trainees. This slowed down the performance of the institution.
- v. The school has an ICT lab with eighteen (18) computers but there is no Wi-Fi connection to fully operationalize the ICT programme.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Owing to the mentioned challenges the Committee recommends the following: -

1. The County government through the Department of Polytechnics, Vocational Centres and Home Craft should consider employing more instructors to relieve the parents and trainers of the burden of paying instructors.
2. Installation of Wi-Fi in the ICT lab to enable trainees to benefit from the programme.
3. Allocation of funds by the relevant Ministry to finish up the incomplete classroom to enable the management to separate the 1st and 2nd-year learners.
4. Completing the unfinished building to separate trainees and improve the learners' performance.

3.1.3. Mulango Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

it is worth noting that trainees and the management were on May holidays during the visit.

The institution was in the advanced stages of becoming a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This meant that it would no longer be under the County Government of Kitui. Therefore, the Committee had little or no interest in the institutions.

3.1.4. Kyatune Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

This is the largest VTC in Ikanga/Kyatune ward that sits on a five-acre piece of land. At the time of the visit, the trainees were on April holiday but the Committee was privileged to meet the management of the school who provided information that the Committee required.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The manager of the institution informed the Committee that at the time of the visit, the centre had a population of 287 trainees (where three-quarters of the population were boarders and the rest were day scholars).

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Further, the Committee was informed that the institution had two (2) County government-employed instructors, eight (8) BOM-employed instructors and four (4) support staff. The eight instructors and the four support staff are cumulatively paid Kshs. 98,780 per month and Kshs. 1,185,360 annually. This burden is left to the parents and guardians of the trainees.

Further, the Committee was informed that the centre offers the following courses:

-

1. Carpentry
2. Hairdressing and beauty therapy
3. Fashion design and Garment making
4. Motor Vehicle Mechanics
5. Metal Processing
6. Building Construction
7. Electrical Wiring
8. Driving
9. Information and Communication Technology

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee was disheartened by the state of infrastructure and other support systems in the centre in that: -

1. The dormitories were in a pathetic state with cartons serving as window panes.
2. Boys' bathrooms had been temporarily constructed using old iron sheets and timber which is hazardous.
3. The teaching materials that were used for courses like driving and motor vehicle mechanics had nothing to offer to the learners because many parts of vehicles had been worn out or were absent. In addition, there was no operational vehicle for the driving course.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The manager of the institution also informed the Committee that the centre was experiencing several challenges and to this end the Committee makes recommendations against each challenge as follows: -

- i. Poor payment of school fees; On this matter, the Committee recommends the return of the capitation programme to cushion the parents on the financial burden.
- ii. Employment of instructors by the County government; The Committee recommends that this matter should be given priority because the issue of VTCs is a fully devolved function.
- iii. Water shortage; The Committee recommends that the ministry either sinks a borehole in this centre or supply enough plastic tanks for water harvesting during the rainy season.
- iv. Lack of internet connectivity (Wi-Fi) in the centre; The Committee recommends installation of Wi-Fi in the institution by the County government to enable ICT trainees to benefit from the course.
- v. Shortage of teaching-learning materials in all the departments; The Committee recommends that the Ministry provides enough teaching-learning materials as required by the law.
- vi. Incomplete fence; This poses insecurity issues thus the Committee recommends completion of the fence by the County government.

3.1.5. Mukelenzuni Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

This centre is in Yatta Kwa Vonza ward. It was constructed by the County government of Kitui in the financial year 2013/2014. The centre sits on one acre of land donated by Mukelenzuni Primary School. It has two classrooms and a workshop. The centre had a five-door toilet.

At the time of the visit, the institution looked deserted and some structures like the toilets were in a pathetic state (the doors had been eaten up by the termites) because the centre had never been operationalized.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee observed that there was a waste of public resources since the buildings were wearing out but it learned that there was great potential for getting trainees upon operationalization of the facility.

Therefore, the Committee recommends operationalization of the facility by: -

1. Employing instructors,
2. Providing teaching-learning materials
3. Renovating the already worn-out buildings to ensure that public funds are not put to waste.
4. Creating awareness to the public about the existence of the facility so that parents and guardians may take their children for the acquisition of skills and knowledge.

3.1.6. Mutonguni Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The facility is in Mutonguni ward which is in Kitui West sub-county. It is one of the oldest facilities in Kitui County.

The Committee observed that the facility is well-fenced and has a gate therefore security in the facility is guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee members were received by one of the instructors who was on duty during the April holiday. The instructor informed the Committee that the centre

had a population of 250 trainees representing both day scholars and boarders. He also informed the Committee that the centre had a Dining hall, a kitchen and seven (7) workshops that are used by the trainees and instructors to offer various courses which include: -

1. Metal processing (welding);
2. Motor vehicle mechanic;
3. Electrical installation;
4. Fashion design;
5. Hairdressing and beauty;
6. Plumbing and pipe fitting;
7. Leatherworks;
8. Carpentry and joinery and
9. Masonry and short courses like
 - i. ICT
 - ii. Driving lessons.

Further, the facility has staff quarters with four units which house seven staff members.

In addition, the Committee was informed that the institution has thirteen (13) instructors where three (3) are under the County Government of Kitui and the other ten (10) under the BOM.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

This large number of BOM instructors has further increased the financial burden on the parents who are already burdened by the school fees i.e. Kshs. 19,000 for boarders and Kshs. 17,000 for the day scholars.

The instructor told the Committee that the centre was facing several challenges.

These include: -

1. Absence of plumbing workshop; despite offering Plumbing and pipe connection. Therefore there was a need for the same to be constructed.
2. Unavailability of a staffroom; therefore one is needed for the instructors to prepare for the lessons as well as keep their belongings.
3. Absence of computers in the ICT workshop; the Committee recommends equipping of the same by the County government.
4. Bad state of many structures due to their age; thus the Committee recommends renovation (which should include reroofing of some buildings and installation of window panes in all the dormitories and hostels).
5. Shortage of plastic tanks for harvesting and storage of water. To this challenge, the Committee recommends the supply and installation of plastic tanks by the County government through the relevant ministry.

3.1.7. Kauwi Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

At the time of the visit, the Committee met the manager of the institution, Madam Milcah Martha who gave the Committee information as follows: -

Kauwi Vocational Training Centre was started by the County government of Kitui in 2017 to offer technical training to youth and other interested people.

The enrolment of the training centre is as shown in the table below;

1 st years			2 nd years		
F	M	Total	F	M	Total
48	101	148	73	137	210
Total			358		

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Further, the Committee was informed that the centre offers the following courses to the given trainees;

1. Fashion design/garment making – 48 trainees.
2. Moto vehicle mechanic – 89 trainees.
3. Hair dressing/beauty therapy – 70 trainees.
4. Building Technology – 45 trainees.
5. Arc – welding – 41 trainees.
6. Electrical wiring – 31 trainees.
7. Appropriate carpentry – 14 trainees.
8. Plumbing – 19 trainees.
9. Information communication technology for all trainees.
10. Driving (both classes)

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In terms of structures, the Committee observed that there were: -

- i. Two (2) permanent workshops.
- ii. Three (2) unfinished dormitories for both boys & girls.
- iii. One (1) pit latrine for boys with 8 wings.

- iv. Two pit latrines for girls, one with 6 wings and the other one with 2 wings.
- v. Unfinished kitchen.
- vi. Permanent gate and chain-link fence.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The centre has three (3) County government trainers, seven (7) B.O.M trainers and three (3) support staff.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

During the interactions with the centre manager, Committee members were informed of the challenges that the centre was facing. These included but were not limited to: -

- a) Inadequate funds to pay B.O.M instructors and support staff since the centre has seven instructors and three support staff all under B.O.M.
- b) Inadequate learning /teaching materials. This hindered the proper delivery of skills and knowledge to the trainees.
- c) Insufficient workshops since the centre has only two workshops compared to the courses that are offered.
- d) Huge electricity bill due to the metal processing course and other courses that required electricity in their training.
- e) Lack of girl's dormitories,
- f) Lack of dining hall.
- g) Inadequate tanks for storage of water.
- h) Lack of administration block and furniture.
- i) Lack of enough tools in all trades.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The centre management made the following requests: -

- i. Employment of more county instructors to ease parents' and trainees' burden of paying the BOM instructors;
- ii. Construction of more workshops to allow practicals to be done with ease and avoid theory;
- iii. Construction of dormitories for boys and girls to attract trainees from different parts of the County;
- iv. Additional toilets for boys and girls each with 4 wings to settle the current problem where all of them use the same toilets which at the time of visit they had sunk;
- v. Three (3) additional water tanks/installations to sort the problem of water shortage in the institution;
- vi. Additional land for infrastructure and playground;
- vii. Construction of administration block with furniture;
- viii. Additional tools and equipment for all trades;
- ix. Solar installation in the institution; and
- x. Construction of a dining hall.

Committee recommendations.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As explained by the in-charge, the Committee recommends that these requests be fulfilled by the County government but be spread over different financial years.

3.1.8. Ngwaani Vocational Training Centre.

Mr, Speaker Sir,

The centre has one twin workshop that was constructed by the County government of Kitui in 2014 and 2018 through the CLIDP. The centre sits on one and a half acres of land donated by the community. It was opened in 2019 and since then the centre has never been fenced. This allows livestock and people to walk freely in the vocational centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

There is a 10,000-litre tank for rain water harvesting which is used by the trainees. The centre is not connected with electricity which forces the metal processing trainees to seek help from the nearby shopping centre to do their practices. This calls for extra payment to cater for this assistance.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

At the time of the visit, the centre had sixteen (16) trainees (which was a drop from 45 trainees in the past years), one county instructor (the manager) and four other instructors employed by the Board of Management (paid by the parents).

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The manager informed the Committee of the challenges that the centre was facing and the Committee make recommendations against each challenge as follows: -

1. The institution is not fenced; The Committee recommends fencing and installation of a gate in the institution by the County government to enhance security in the facility.
2. Shortage of water; The Committee recommends the supply of two ten-litre water tanks for water harvesting to solve the challenge of water.

3. Shortage of teaching-learning materials; For example, at the time of the visit, despite the facility offering a dressmaking course, there were no sewing machines for the learners to do their practicals. Therefore, the Committee recommends provision of these materials to enable trainees to acquire the required skills practically.
4. Shortage of trainees; The Committee observed that the number of learners had gone down due to several reasons and therefore recommends face-lifting of the institution which will attract trainees to join the facility.
5. Electricity connection; As discussed here, the Committee was informed that trainees who do metal processing seek assistance from the nearby market centre to do their practicals. Therefore, the Committee recommends immediate electricity connection to the facility. This will not only solve the problem of metal processing but also it will help the facility to start other related courses that need electricity for their smooth learning.

The centre offers four courses namely; metal processing, hairdressing and beauty, masonry and dressmaking.

3.1.9. Mui Vocational Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Mui Vocational Training Centre is a public institution under the County Government of Kitui, located in Ngiluni Village, Mui ward, Mwingi Central Sub-County, Kitui County, in Kathonzweni shopping centre, opposite Mui Chief's office.

The Committee was informed that the centre was started in 1976 as Mui Village Polytechnic under the Ministry of Social Services. Later in 2007, it was rebranded

Mui Youth Polytechnic under the then Ministry of Youth Affairs and now Mui Vocational Training Centre, renamed as per the requirements of the TVET Act, 2013.

Mr, Speaker Sir,

The manager informed the Committee that the institution offers the following courses (Grade 3, Grade 2, and Grade 1, examined by NITA);

- a. Fashion Design and Garment Making (FD/GM)
- b. Hair Dressing and Beauty Therapy (HD/BT)
- c. Building and Construction Technology (BCT)
- d. Metal Processing Technology (MPT)
- e. Electrical and Electronics Technology (EET)
- f. Motor Vehicle Technology (MVT)
- g. Appropriate Carpentry and Joinery (ACJ)
- h. Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee established that the available structures in the institution, which sit on approximately nine (9) acres of land owned by the centre include: -

- a. Six workshops, a computer lab and one classroom.
- b. One office, and a small staffroom.
- c. One store (previously a staff house)
- d. one Boys' dormitory, one Girls' dormitory and one latrine block for Girls.
- e. A kitchen.
- f. Three staff houses and two latrines for staff.
- g. A steel gate with concrete side walls.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee was informed that the current enrolment stands at 89 male trainees and 61 female trainees, totalling to 150 trainees. The breakdown for various courses is shown in the table below.

	COURSE	FIRST-YEAR			SECOND YEAR			THIRD YEAR			TOTAL
				SUBTOTAL			SUBTOTAL			SUBTOTAL	
1.	FD&GM	0	8	8	0	24	24	0	1	1	33
2.	BCT	19	0	19	18	0	18	1	0	1	39
3.	EET	6	0	6	5	0	5	1	0	1	12
4.	MPT	5	0	5	8	0	8	0	0	0	13
5.	MVT	16	0	16	10	0	10	0	0	0	26
6.	ACJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	HD&BT	0	14	13	0	0	14	0	0	0	28
8.	ICT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		68			79			2	0	3	150

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The enrolment includes 101 boarding trainees (46 female and 55 male trainees) and 49 day-scholars; a total of 150 trainees.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

At the time of the visit, the institution had two(2) instructors employed by the County Government and 6 instructors employed by the Board of Management. In addition, the Bom has employed two(3) support staff; Watchman, Cook and Matron.

Challenges (Institution Needs)

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Mui VTC is encountering the following challenges which require action to be taken

	CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION
1.	Inadequate government Trainers — only 2 out of 8 trainers are government-employed.	Deployment of more Government Instructors
2.	Shortage of water where trainees travel about 3 kilometres to get water from a private borehole.	Drilling of a borehole or provision of tap water in the institution.
3.	Lack of a permanent fence has led to an invasion by passing livestock and in addition, it has led to very high insecurity in the centre.	Construction of a chain-link perimeter fence
4.	Inadequate workshops. Welding/ carpentry and motor vehicle/electrical share workshops. In all departments, 1 st years and 2 nd years are mixed in one workshop even when having theory classes.	Construction of more workshops to separate 1 st and 2 nd year trainees for maximum content delivery.
5.	Lack of administration block — the manager's office and staffroom are	The Committee recommends the

	located between/adjacent to workshops hence no privacy and confidentiality.	Construction of an administration block to address the said challenge.
6.	Inadequate boarding facilities — available dormitories are small and the girls' one is in a bad state.	Construction of a new Girls' dormitory and the addition of a boys' dormitory
7.	Need for a new boys' latrine block — the existing one had collapsed.	Construction of a new toilet block with urinal, for Boys
8.	Old roofs of 2 workshops, one dormitory, staff houses, kitchen, and need for a general facelift of the structures.	Re-roofing of all old rusted roofs
9.	Lack of a dining hall	Construction of a dining hall
10.	Lack of a training car with a leaf spring suspension system.	Provide a training car with a leaf spring suspension system

4.0 GENERAL CHALLENGES FACED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

it is important to note that after the Committee deliberated on the inspected VTCs, there were general challenges that were cutting across all the institutions as discussed below: -

1. **Poor quality of content delivery by instructors.** The Committee observed that this was occasioned by the absence of training materials and the poor ratio of tutors to learners.
2. **High cost of running the VTCs programmes;** this has been brought about by the increased number of BOM-employed instructors, and withdrawal of capitation by the County Government.
3. **Poor attitude by the public on VTCs qualifications;** the Committee learnt that the public has been looking down on the candidates who should join VTCs regarding the qualifications. The public perceives those who join the facilities to have failed academically thus joining VTCs was their last option. This has led to low enrollment in most of the facilities in the County.
4. **Lack of Emphasis on Innovation;** The VTCs curriculum did not encourage students to think creatively and solve problems in new ways. This limits their ability to adapt to changing job markets and develop entrepreneurial mindsets.
5. **Limited Practical Learning Opportunities;** The VTCs did not provide enough hands-on training through practical experiments or workshops. The challenge was partly caused by the unavailability of teaching-learning materials, lack of access to modern tools and

machinery and limited resources for experimentation due to budget constraints. This leaves graduates unprepared for the realities of working in their chosen fields.

6. **Underdeveloped ICT Skills Integration;** The VTCs had not fully integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into its programs. Additionally, most of the VTCs lacked a Wi-Fi connection. This could leave graduates lacking the digital skills increasingly necessary in today's workforce and entrepreneurial ventures.
7. **Poor state of buildings in the centres;** in most of them, buildings had worn-out roofs, cracked walls, and collapsed toilets. This image could scare many from joining the facilities for training.
8. Most of the institutions had not been fenced. This compromised the security of the institutions and further exposed them to human and animal trespass.

5.0. COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Speaker Sir,

In respect to the findings, challenges and observations made, the Committee on Basic Education Training and Skills Development makes the following general recommendations: -

1. **Face-lifting of Vocational Training centres;** This should be given priority to make them attractive and habitable. The exercise should include;
 - i. Renovation and painting of dilapidated buildings in all the centres.
 - ii. Construction of workshops and classrooms.
 - iii. Fencing and gates of Vocational Training Centres that do not have the same.

This action will make the work of the County government leaders of advertising and marketing the institutions easy and thus attract more trainees.

2. **Employment of more instructors;** Currently, there are 97 instructors employed by the county government against an enrolment of 7,223. According to TVET guidelines, an instructor is supposed to handle a maximum of 30 trainees. This therefore means that there is a shortage of 144 instructors. Moreover, the envisaged Wi-Fi connection to all VTCs will be actualised with the requisite staff.
3. **Capitation;** Assisting trainees in the payment of tuition and operations fees as done in all Technical and Vocational Educational training institutions. It will guarantee quality training through the supply of training tools, equipment and training materials. Each trainee to get Kshs. 15,000.
4. **Payment of trade test fees for eligible trainees for certification;** Trade fees test currently is Kshs. 5,000; 6,000 and 7,000 for grades 3,2 and 1 respectively. This is

beyond what the trainees can afford indeed many are enrolling but leave without certification because of the high trade test fees charged.

5. Revision of time taken to take grade three trade test from two years to one year;

The national VTCs have adopted a program where the trainees take one year before being presented for the grade 3 test. Some county VTCs have also embraced such programs. Such a program relieves the parent off the burden of paying fees for two years. It is also cost-effective for the county government regarding capitation. It will also ensure that trainees do not mark time but are instead released to the labour market.

6. Construction of ICT workshop and equipment of the same; Wi-Fi connection to

all VTCs equipment and workshop is required. Currently, there are 52 operational VTCs and only 25 have ICT workshops. VTCs should improve on its ICT infrastructure since it reduces the cost of operation. The centres ought to collaborate with public-private partnerships to enhance the quality of graduates and also create linkages between training and market needs.

7. Establishment of a Centre of Specialization & Home Craft centre at Manyenyoni and Kanyonyoo (Current KIYODEC and leather industry) in Masonry and Leatherwork;

The equipment and machines at the centres can be utilized to offer training in masonry and leatherwork. Through this, the centre will be sustainable.

Trainees will acquire;

- i. Masonry
- ii. Leatherwork skills
- iii. Soap-making
- iv. Beadwork
- v. Weaving & basketry

- vi. Making of moulds for making of; cabros, road cabs, fencing poles, interlocking bricks etc
- vii. Establishment of a textile and clothing centre at Syongila VTCs .It will provide an excellent opportunity for training in;
 - a. Tailoring
 - b. Dressmaking

The centre will double as both a training and production centre.

8. **Nomination and induction of VTCs Board of Governors;** As of the inspection date, 51 VTCs were operating with the executive Board of Governors because the term of service for BoG expired in March 2020.
9. **Formulation of training and skills development policy;** The policy will guide the operations in providing services to the public and for effective decision-making about staff in the department. It is this policy which will give a general sense of direction in the day-to-day operations of the department. The policy will guide the operationalization and adoption of VTCs currently managed by the community.
10. **Capacity building of County Vocational Training Centre managers;** To sharpen their managerial skills which will eventually lead to an increase in trainee enrolment, managers need to be capacity build. This will also help them in the smooth running of the institutions as well as helping to prepare trainees for competitive job markets. Further, the pieces of training will help the managers to align their strategic plans with those of the County Integrated Development Plans to strengthen the involvement of the County government in the development of Vocational Training Centres.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker Sir,

The inspection exercise was an eye-opener for the members to appreciate their oversight mandate in respect to the social and economic challenges that the VTCs face and the role they play in ensuring that there are graduates who can fit in the labour market.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The objective of providing education in these Vocational Training Centres is primarily to provide trainees with knowledge and skills that sharpen their skills and improve quality, productivity, innovation and efficiency. Therefore, if the challenges discussed in this report are not addressed immediately, the trainees will not be able to actualize the core objective of their learning and this will amount to a waste of resources for both the County government and the parents who pay school fees for the trainees.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is the view of this Committee that due diligence and citizenry involvement is important for project ownership and sustainability. In conclusion, the members must play their oversight role as expected in ensuring that value for money is achieved as the County pursues the full realization of the objects and principles of devolved Government as enshrined in Article 174 of our Constitution.

PHOTO GALLERY

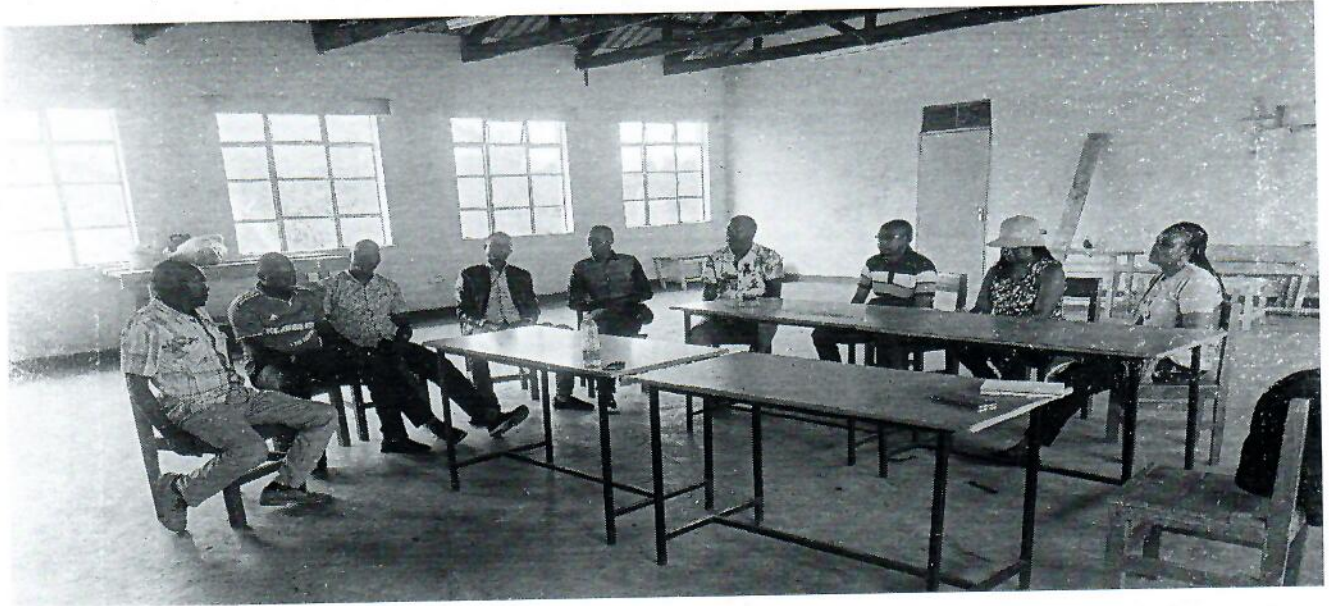


Fig 1: Members of the Committee getting briefs at Nguni VTC

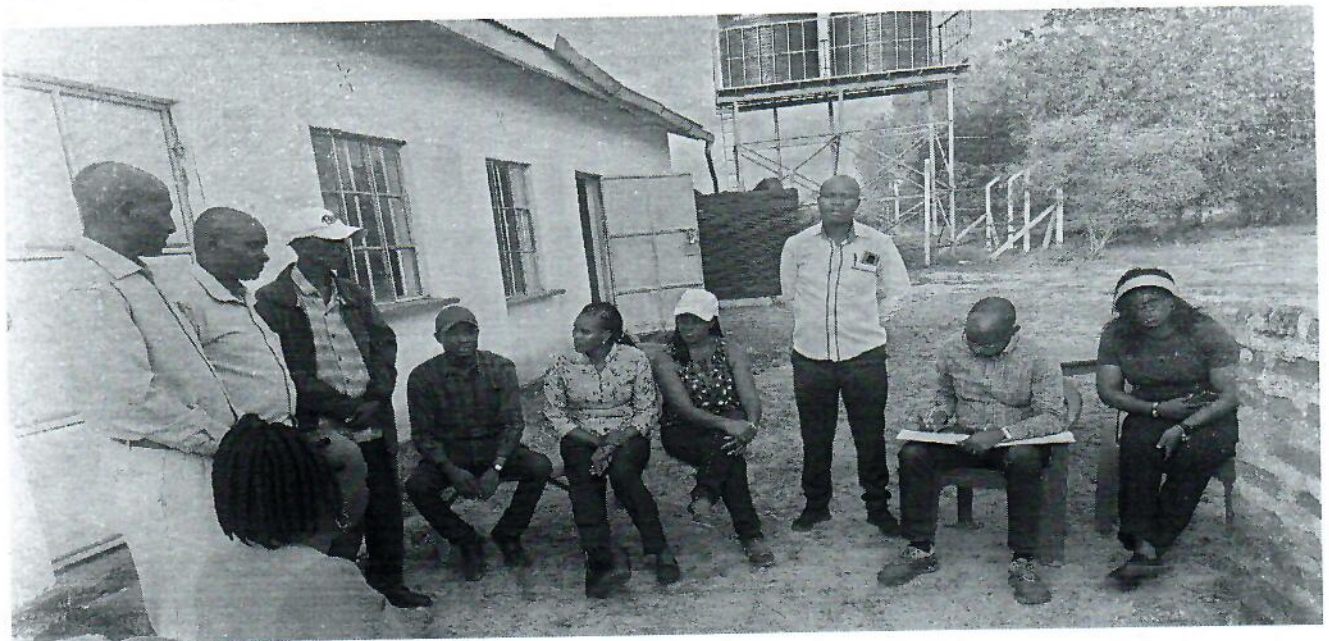


Fig 2 Interactions of members of the Committee with Ngwaani VTC leadership going on.

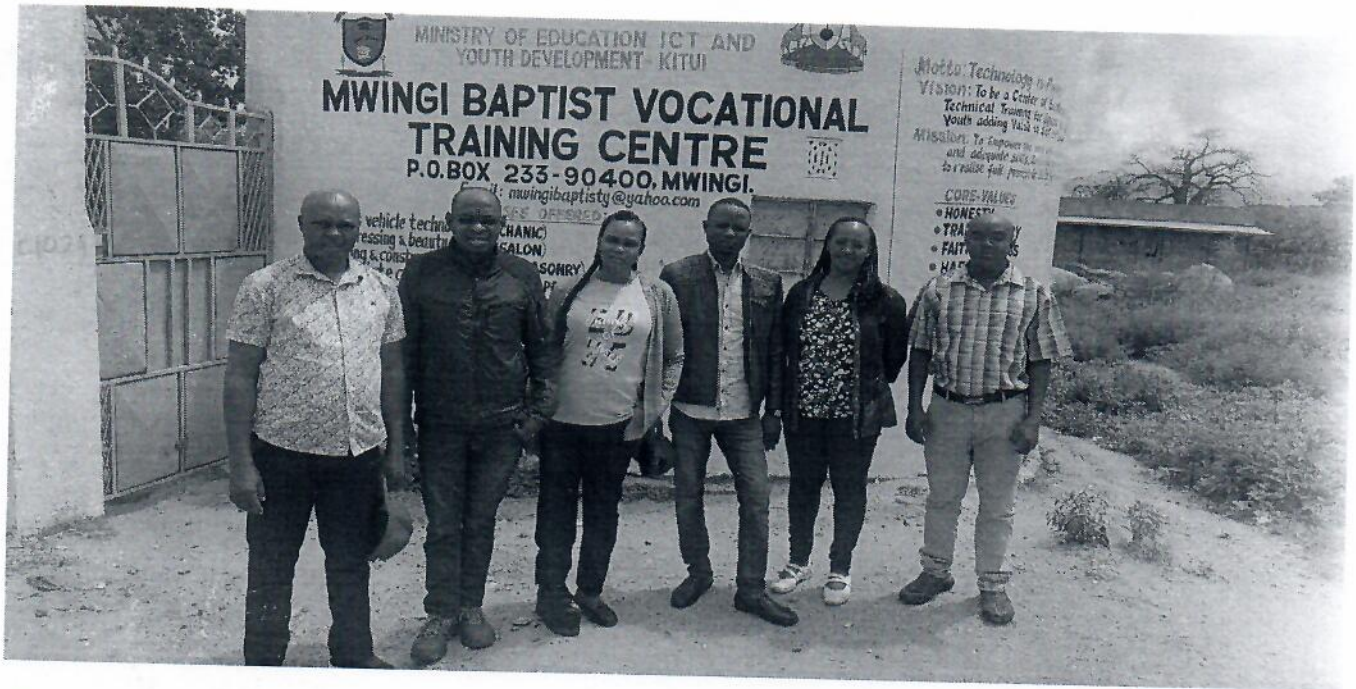


Fig3: Committee members and the manager at Mwingi Baptist VTC.



Fig4: members of the Committee after a successful visit to Kyatune VTC.

10/10/10

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REPORT ADOPTION

We, honourable members of the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development, do hereby affix our signatures to this report to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity: -

<u>Members</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1. Hon. Mark Kitute Nding'o	- Chairperson	
2. Hon. Priscilla Makumi	- V/chairperson	
3. Hon. Immaculate Wanza John	- Member	
4. Hon. Paul Maluki	- Member	
5. Hon. Gabriel Mutunga Munyao	- Member	
6. Hon. Mercy Muema	- Member	
7. Hon. Charity Kathathi Musyoka	- Member	
8. Hon. Alphonse M. Musyimi	- Member	
9. Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi	- Member	
10. Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite	- Member	
11. Hon. Cyrus Kisavi Musyoka	- Member	

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