



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
State Department For Technical, Vocational
Education and Training

The Weekly TVET Transformation Brief. Issue No. 1

SHIFTING THE TVET NARRATIVE

Across the world, nations that have successfully transformed their economies have done so by investing deliberately in the capabilities of their people. Kenya has increasingly recognized this reality, placing skills development at the centre of its national development agenda. This strategic shift is reflected in the growing focus on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a driver of economic growth, innovation, industrialization, and social transformation.

The choice of Wajir County as the host of the 2026 Madaraka Day celebrations under the theme "*Education, Skills and the Future*" sends a powerful message. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring that no region is left behind in the country's development journey. It also reinforces the understanding that the future of Kenya will be shaped not only in major cities and corporate boardrooms, but also in training institutions, workshops, innovation hubs, farms, and enterprises across every corner of the country.

For many years, TVET was often viewed as an alternative pathway. Today, that narrative is changing. The sector is recognized as a strategic pillar for developing the technical competencies, entrepreneurial mindset, and practical capabilities required in a rapidly changing world. As technology evolves, industries transform, and new economic opportunities emerge, the demand for skilled and adaptable human capital continues to grow.

The events of the past week provide a glimpse into this transformation. The tree-planting exercise at Wajir East Vocational College highlighted the important role TVET institutions can play in advancing environmental stewardship and supporting Kenya's climate ambitions. At the same time, the Green Skills Specialization Programme held at the Kenya School of TVET brought together trainers to strengthen competencies in renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency. These initiatives are NOT isolated activities; they are investments in the workforce that will support Kenya's transition towards a green and sustainable economy.

Importantly, the focus on green skills reflects a growing recognition that sustainability and economic development are not competing priorities. Rather, they are mutually reinforcing. Renewable energy, climate-smart technologies, resource efficiency, and sustainable production systems present new opportunities for employment, enterprise development, and national competitiveness. Preparing young people and trainers to thrive within this emerging landscape is therefore both an economic and environmental imperative.

Under the leadership of Principal Secretary Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, the State Department for TVET continues to champion reforms that position skills development at the heart of national transformation. Through the expansion of Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET), strengthened industry partnerships, investment in trainer development, and the promotion of future-oriented skills, the department is helping build a workforce equipped to respond to the demands of the 21st century.

As we continue to shift the TVET narrative, we must also shift our mindset. Skills development is not merely an education agenda; it is a nation resilience building agenda. The realization of Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals will depend significantly on our ability to equip citizens with relevant knowledge, skills, and competencies.

The future belongs to nations that invest in people. Through TVET, Kenya is investing in its most important resource its people and laying the foundation for a more prosperous, resilient, and sustainable future.

"Education is the greatest equalizer of society, while skills development is the catalyst that transforms potential into productivity, innovation, and national development."

— Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

THIS WEEK IN TVET

TVET Takes Centre Stage During Madaraka Celebrations.

As preparations for Madaraka Day 2026 gathered momentum in Wajir County, the celebration of TVET Day provided a powerful demonstration of the growing role of technical and vocational education in driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and national development.

The exhibition brought together trainees and innovators from TVET institutions across the country, providing a platform to showcase practical solutions developed through competency-based training. The event highlighted how TVET is becoming a hub for problem-solving, enterprise development, and technology-driven innovation.

One of the notable highlights was an innovation from Kasarani Technical and Vocational College in the field of robotics and digital automation. A functional robot developed by trainees attracted significant attention and secured a buyer during the exhibition. The purchase by Mr. Dennis Itumbi, Presidential Special Advisor on Creative Economy and Special Projects, demonstrated the commercial potential of innovations emerging from TVET institutions and reinforced the growing relevance of digital skills in Kenya's development journey.



Similarly, trainees from Samburu TVC showcased an innovative project on the zero-waste utilization of the cactus plant for health and environmental sustainability. The project illustrated how TVET can contribute practical solutions to challenges related to food security, environmental conservation, and value addition through applied science and innovation.

These innovations demonstrate the transformative potential of TVET institutions as centres of creativity, enterprise, and community problem-solving. They also reinforce the importance of creating stronger linkages between training institutions, industry, investors, and markets to accelerate the commercialization of locally developed innovations.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Madaraka Day in Wajir: What Does It Mean for TVET?

The hosting of Madaraka Day 2026 in Wajir County represents more than a national celebration. It is a significant investment in first-mile infrastructure that has the potential to unlock new opportunities for skills development, enterprise creation, and local economic transformation.

The construction of the Wajir Stadium, expansion of water infrastructure, hospitality investments, and associated developments create opportunities for TVET graduates and trainees to participate directly in emerging economic activities.

A trainee pursuing hospitality studies at Wajir East Technical and Vocational College, for example, may find opportunities within the growing hospitality ecosystem created by increased sporting, cultural, and business events hosted at the stadium. Similarly, trainees specializing in plumbing, electrical installation, solar technology, construction, and maintenance can contribute to the operation and expansion of critical infrastructure developed within the county.

Beyond direct employment, these investments create opportunities for entrepreneurship and local enterprise development. Increased water availability can support agribusiness initiatives, while expanded economic activity creates demand for fashion design, food processing, repair services, hospitality, and other income-generating ventures.

This highlights an important lesson for TVET planning. Infrastructure development and skills development must move together. When government invests in roads, water systems, energy, digital connectivity, and public facilities, TVET institutions must be positioned to supply the skills required to sustain and maximize those investments.

The true value of infrastructure is realized when it creates opportunities for local people to acquire skills, secure livelihoods, establish enterprises, and contribute to community development.



Photo Courtesy: Star Newspaper- Wajir Stadium.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Leveraging the Madaraka Momentum for Northern Kenya's Skills Transformation

The momentum generated through the Madaraka Day celebrations presents an opportunity to rethink the role of TVET in accelerating development within Northern Kenya.

A key question is whether TVET institutions across the region can strategically align their programmes with the unique comparative advantages of their local economies. Counties within the northern frontier possess significant potential in livestock value chains, renewable energy, water resource management, construction, logistics, agribusiness, hospitality, and cross-border trade.

This calls for stronger collaboration among TVET institutions, county governments, industry, development partners, and local communities to identify priority skills and emerging opportunities.

One possible next step would be the convening of a Northern Kenya TVET and Skills Development Forum bringing together stakeholders to explore how skills development can support local economic transformation and maximize the benefits arising from recent public investments.

As Kenya continues to invest in first-mile infrastructure, equal attention must be given to developing the human capabilities required to sustain that transformation. The future of the northern frontier will ultimately depend not only on the infrastructure built, but also on the skills, innovation, and enterprise capacity of its people.

The End.