



DATE: 26-February-2024
Institution: Kitwe Vocational Training Centre (KVTC)
Event: Commissioning of Equipment at KVTC

REPORT

THE PROJECT FOR PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATING SKILLS TRAINING



HITACHI

Reliable solutions



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

SAP 200069 project aims to address the skills gap in Zambia's construction and mining industries as outlined in the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP). The project focuses on three main outputs: developing a modern curriculum for construction equipment operator training, establishing a regional centre of excellence for this training, and providing vocational training and career services to unemployed and underemployed youths, with a focus on female and disadvantaged youths. This initiative is expected to bring about systemic change in closing the skills gap in the construction and mining sectors.

The project for promoting youth employment through construction equipment operating skills training specifically aims to provide employment opportunities for Zambian youths by professionally qualifying them as skilled Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO) to meet the industry's human resource demands.

INTRODUCTION

On February 26, 2024, the Minister of Science and Technology, accompanied by esteemed government officials, Kitwe Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) management and teaching staff, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) representatives, and KVTC students, commissioned the heavy equipment designated for the newly introduced Heavy Equipment Operator Course at Kitwe Vocational Training Centre. Among the distinguished government officials present were:

- Honourable Felix Mutati MP, the Minister of Technology and Science
- Mr. Lawrence Mwanza, the Kitwe District Commissioner
- Mr. Alick Banda, the Area Member of Parliament for Chimwemwe Constituency
- Mr. Felix Mwalumuna, the Area Councillor for Twatasha
- Mr. Francis Chileshe, the Area Councillor for Buntungwa
- Mr. Victor Nkole, the Principal of Kitwe Trades School
- Mr. Francis Bwalya, the Principal of ZIBSIP

This significant event marked the official commissioning of procured heavy equipment machinery, by the Government of Zambia under the project for promoting youth employment through construction equipment operating skills training, implemented at KVTC. This symbolized a transformative step forward for KVTC in shaping skilled operators through the new course. The collective presence of government officials, educational leaders, and community representatives underscored the collaborative commitment towards advancing vocational training and technological education in the region.

COMMISSIONING PROCEEDINGS

The event commenced with the Minister's tour of KVTC and inspected the excavator and front-end loader, culminating in the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

During the tour, the Minister interacted with the female trainer, who demonstrated her exceptional skills in front of the assembled crowd. Subsequently, the Minister met with the pilot class students, where he was particularly impressed by a female student's excellent use of the simulator.

Following this, the Minister was escorted to the training site, where the students showcased their proficiency in operating the machinery. The demonstration underscored the practical training and skills development provided by the institution.

REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF MOTS

The Minister expressed appreciation for the significant progress achieved through the partnership with Government of Japan, Hitachi Construction Machinery (HCM), and UNIDO. The Minister commended the dedication and diligence of project stakeholders and KVTC in ensuring the timely delivery of training equipment. Additionally, the minister further thanked the partnership for the equipment acquired thus far, and looks forward to the procurement of a dump truck as per the project's plan.

The Honourable Minister emphasized that vulnerable students with financial constraints should consider to seek sponsorship from the Government of Zambia through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The support will also contribute significantly to the overall development of KVTC.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioning of the HEO training equipment event at KVTC was a significant milestone. It marked the official commissioning of the training equipment designated for the HEO course, and in particular, official launch of the excavator operator training course.

Photo Focus:



Minister of Technology and Science, Honourable Felix Mutati commissioning the acquired Excavator and Wheel Loader by cutting the ribbon



Honourable Felix Mutati addressing the students in the HEO classroom



Honourable Felix Mutati observes as HEO student operates the Excavator Simulator