



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF  
NYANDARUA  
OFFICE OF H.E THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNOR'S PRESS SERVICE**



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**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR FRANCIS KIMEMIA,  
E.G.H., C.B.S., DURING THE BALL GAMES COMPETITION FOR  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES AT OL'KALOU VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING CENTER, OL'KALOU, ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**The County Executive Committee Members present;**

**Members of the County Assembly present;**

**Facility Managers, Boards of Management present;**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is a great day to be here celebrating the sportsmanship of our youth today, and in the home of great men and women who have conquered the sporting arena, not just locally but globally.

Sports, besides being important for our health, is today one of the most lucrative global employers for our youth. It is an industry where lives of our

young men and women have been transformed; where supporting industries – in merchandize and training facilities, in products and health support, and in enabling services – have flourished.

Today, I want us – as policy formulators, students and training institutions – to see the interconnectedness of what we do in this field with what we learn in our classrooms and workshops.

Our Vocational Training Centers offer a rich menu of courses. From fashion design to hair and beauty therapy, to craft courses in plumbing, masonry, welding and in building construction, and many others, each one of these courses has a direct link to a thriving sporting culture.

Therefore, as we train in our respective courses, we must think liberally and look at the wide horizon of opportunities available in the economy, including in the sporting industry; there is more than being a participant in a particular discipline, you can play a role in the many sectors of the industry – be innovative and anchor your skills and expertise, talent and passion where you fit most, and your input is rewarding.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Upon devolution, Vocational Training Centers fell under the County Governments.

Our County boasts of 15 operational VTCs which are registered with the Technical Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA). These centers are currently training 1918 students – 1225 boys and 693 girls. I am glad to note that the centers have adopted the new curriculum – the National Vocational Certificate of Education and Training (NVCET) examined by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC). A national examination creates national and global competitiveness, accountability and integrity of the certificates awarded. This curriculum, when well implemented, provides a clear path to higher technical levels up to the university. I urge you to take advantage of this established academic path to reach the highest levels of academic and professional excellence.

As part of actualizing these dreams of our young people, we have implemented policy interventions which not only retain our students in vocational centers, but ensure there are appropriate tools and equipment, qualified trainers and our infrastructure is conducive for learning.

In the last financial year, we have equipped several of our training facilities with modern (appropriate) twin workshops. Here in Ol'Kalou Vocational Training Center, we have completed a modern workshop which will help our young men acquire critical and relevant skills; and together with the National Government, the Kangui workshop has been completed and is ready for use. The County Government, on its own and with support of external stakeholders, will continue to equip our facilities with critical tools and equipment to make students' study worthwhile and meaningful.

Further, across our centers, we are undertaking massive infrastructure development for both learning, accommodation and sanitation. Again, here in this center, we have completed the construction of a modern ablution block, and the same has been done at Shamata, and Leshau Vocational Training Centers.

My Government has also invested in construction of students' hostels, whose construction is at various stages of completion, in Mirangine, Miharati and Nandarasi, Kinangop. These hostels will enable intake of students from areas far from the immediate catchment area hence making them competitive and national in both outlook and culture.

This infrastructure support has also extended to construction of administration blocks in Rurii, Kangui and Ngorika. All these interventions are aimed at ensuring that our facilities are fully functional and meet the desired objectives of the economy.

And its not just in mortar and block or machinery/ equipment interventions that we have put our resources in; we have invested to attract and retain our students in school through the SYPT funding at Ksh. 25.3 million and our County Bursary kitty. Every year we will continue to inject even more funds to support our deserving students remain in school.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The future of this country lies in innovation and skilled labor. Today, in the state of worrying joblessness, our hope lies in the Vocational Training

Centers: the demand for skilled labor in our thriving construction industry is unmet; demand for skilled personnel in the services industry – mostly graduates of VTCs, is again rising by the day; but importantly, almost every skill imparted in a VTC creates self-employment and sustainability. This, undoubtedly, is the panacea to the ballooning employment figures among our youth.

However, even with this glaring opportunity to succeed, either in employment or personal enterprise, our VTCs struggle to attract students. Our society has stigmatized the centers and labelled them as institutions of those who fail academically; far from it, these are the current, and sure, drivers of our national growth. The Big Four Agenda, our collective national development path, and the Vision 2030, have the skills development and industry as their cornerstones. Nothing dovetails into this skills gap than the training offered in the VTCs, and our Nyandarua centers are at the forefront in realizing these national and county development goals.

I therefore urge you to be great and honest ambassadors of the VTCs, as students and as future employees and employers; help the society see the potential value in what you do, the resources we employ and ultimately de-stigmatize these focal institutions of our development.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In conclusion, I once again remind you of the great potential sports offers in your career development. Explore your talents and follow them to their fullest.

I also wish you success and congratulate every team that has participated in these games today. I wish you the very best as you compete in the forthcoming Regional and National competitions. Again, be the good ambassadors of our County and show the great potential in you.

Thank you and God Bless you. God Bless Nyandarua.