

Press Release

Attention: News Editors

For Immediate Release

SAFARICOM FOUNDATION LAUNCHES REFURBISHED TVET CENTRE IN WAITHAKA

First batch of students under the TVET programme also officially commissioned

Nairobi, 27th January, 2020... Safaricom Foundation has today officially opened a new and improved ICT enabled skills center at the Waithaka Vocational Training Centre in Nairobi.

The institution was refurbished at a cost of KES 28 million including equipping the computer lab with modern ICT equipment as well as placing modern tools in the Plumbing, Welding, Electrical Engineering and the Food and Beverage departments

The launch of the refurbished institution is part of the foundation's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme focusing on Plumbing, Welding, Food and Beverage and Electrical Engineering. The other component of the programme includes providing scholarships to over 700 students across various TVET institutions in the country.

"It is not enough to just tell young people to enroll in TVET courses or showing them that such qualifications lead to good career paths; we must also put in the work to ensure that they are getting the best out of it by investing in quality TVET centres. At Safaricom, we are leading the way and calling on all other stakeholders to join us in this endeavor", said Steve Chege, Trustee, Safaricom Foundation.

The centre in Waithaka will see 200 students supported over the next two years with the remaining 500 spread across 11 other institutions.

The first batch comprising of 350 students were also officially commissioned with Waithaka Training Centre admitting its initial 100 scholars. The students will not only



receive fully paid scholarships, but the Foundation will also work with other partners to place them in jobs after their training.

An analysis by Higher Education Loans Board shows that employability is at 96 % for people with Technical and Vocational Education and Training compared to 40 percent among those with a university degree. However, TVET participation remains low with enrolment standing at only 60 %.

-Ends-

About Safaricom Foundation:

Building Communities, Transforming Lives.

Safaricom Foundation partners with Kenyan communities, organizations and institutions to improve and transform lives.

With a footprint in all of Kenya's 47 counties, and a strong history of partnerships dating back to our inception in 2003, the Safaricom Foundation has worked with Speed, Simplicity and Trust to implement over 1,000 community projects, impacting over 3 million people, through our thematic areas of Health, Education, Environmental Conservation, Economic Empowerment, Water, Disaster Relief, and Arts & Culture.

Our current strategy builds on our strong history of results and partnerships, and will contribute towards Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We will leverage the power of innovation and technology to drive our projects forward; and will also offer a blend of grants, equity and ultra-low cost loans to our partners.

The participation of Safaricom staff in our projects will extend our personalized approach towards partnerships; and our project monitoring and our dissemination forms will provide platforms for technical assistance, learning and capacity building.