

Redeemed public property spurs lives of Kampala city youth

KCCA connects hundreds of youth to employment

Plot 1 Ssezibwa Road in the heart of Kampala City is a routinely busy place swarmed with hundreds of youth who come to the venue not for a social engagement like soccer or parties but for sharpening their employability skills. This is the home of Kampala Capital City Authority's Employment Services Bureau. This facility which is among the public properties redeemed by KCCA from illegally changing hands earlier has been and continues to deliver opportunities and hope to many young graduates through provision of connectivity to employment and sharpening their ability to work practically in the real world after school.

Cognizant of the high turnover from the universities/ tertiary institutions and a high unemployment rate for youth at 4.2% (national) and 15% (for Kampala alone) according to UBOS, KCCA was driven to establish the Bureau to skill and connect the youth to employers.

Three years down the down road since the establishment of the Bureau, thousands of youth have been trained and hundreds connected to jobs in both public and private companies here as well as the region.

Available Statistics indicate that since 17th April 2014, the number of youth trained stands at 2,773 with the highest being registered this year while 551 youths have successfully been placed in different jobs.

Kampala, having the highest unemployment rate, the Bureau is steadily providing services in Job Counseling/Career Guidance, Placement of Jobseekers in gainful employment through entrepreneurship development, Skills training, access to volunteer programs and Internships, linking and networking Job seekers to potential employers and working through partnerships and collaborations.

Under Counseling and Placement of Job Seekers, KCCA has ensured that all jobseekers get counseling and career guidance in order to establish their employment needs, training gaps and career aspirations.

Through the ICT Training, Mentorship & Life skills Development, the youth (18 – 35 years) are equipped with practical skills and experience so that they are more employable and competitive in the labour market.

Given the changing global trends, the training program is designed as an enabler in the workplace giving the trainees an edge over others in the digital space to acquire gainful employment or practical skills to start up their own businesses.

The Bureau as well runs the **i-Serve Youth Volunteer Program**, an initiative of Kampala Capital City Authority in partnership with Parliamentary Youth Forum and the National Youth Council. It is designed and intended to provide young people with structured work-like placements in host Organizations/Institutions for a period of 6 months to enable them get experience and other skills that make them more employable.

Linking Jobseekers to Potential Employers is another critical aspect of the services offered at the Bureau.

The ESB hosts a job matching database whose objective is to match available vacancies with suitable candidates.

This tool allows Employment Officers to register job seekers, companies and job vacancies. The system automatically filters through the qualifications of the job seeker and the criteria of the vacancy. It then provides a list of candidates that match the demands of the company.

Networking Partnerships and Collaborations

We have continuous engagement with development agencies and other partners to support activities which are focused on skilling and placement of jobseekers in gainful employment.

KCCA is currently working with a number of Agencies including GIZ, German Cooperation and YouMatch, MASHAV and Israel Development Cooperation, National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Standard Chartered Bank, Barclays Bank, Brighter Monday and the Directorate of Industrial Training, to scale up our programs and activities directed towards empowering the youth.

Also on the list of our partners providing employment opportunities is Serena Hotel, Sheraton Kampala Hotel, Rainbow International School, PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Challenges Worldwide UK, Haris International, Crest Foam Industries, Tata Uganda, GT Bank, Finance Trust Bank, Deloitte, Sokoni Africa Ltd, KPMG and opportunity Bank among others.

Visit us for a conversation at the Bureau and it may be the beginning of your journey to a new destination!

Peter Kauju

Head Public & Corporate Affairs

KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY