

Assessment at Vocational Training School (VTS), Matara

12.01.2016 by Per Nordmark, guiding and information by Drichi and Emmanuel



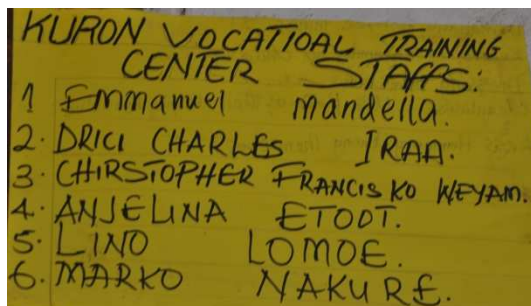
The students and staff

For 2015 VTS had 24 students, 8 girls – out of these girls 2 were collected by their husbands and did not complete - 6 completed.

The girls did not get their training at the Youth Centre, but at Youth Centre to keep them away from the boys.

Most of the students are illiterate, and also lack knowledge on very basic subjects. They get some training in literacy by a women teacher: Anjelina Etodt

The staff of VTS 2015:



Emmanuel:	Leader, training in welding
Drichi:	Training wood work
Christopher:	Construction
Anjelina:	Literacy training
Lino:	Watchman
Marko:	Cook

Main training subjects

The training is divided into four main subjects: Wood Works, Welding, and Construction (building) and Tailoring. In addition some literacy training is done. Some of the student cannot write a single letter, or even a single figure when they come. They are given some basic knowledge on this, and also explained names and meaning on the most essential things.

There might be a challenge to motivate the students. 3 students are considered too young, and/or too weak. These are 15, 12 and 9 years old. There is a wish to transfer these three to St Thomas Primary school. The reason is also a matter of personal security. The main problem for such a transfer is the school fees at St Thomas, now raised to 600 SSP for a year. There is a need for someone to pay these fees.

Commissioner of Boma wants to send a number of new students to VTS, Matara. The school does not feel well prepared to receive these students at present. Until the situation at the VTS this should not be done!

Accommodation and feeding

The students live at the school compound which is fenced. At present there are no dormitories and the students sleep on mattresses on the floor in one of the two classrooms. There are mosquito nets to be mounted over the mattresses.

At present there is no accommodation for girls at VTS.

In the compound there are two double pits and two double bathrooms.

There is a water tap connected to the water tank at the Clinic, where water is pumped by solar. This pump has problems, and has stopped several times. It is informed to me that the pump itself has got stuck. The pump has then been taken up, and greased. However during these operations the waterproof protection of the cables has been cut open, and one of the cables also got cut off. This cut is approximately 30 cm above the pump.

The water pump is lifted out of the borehole

It has been made several attempts to connect the cut cable, and to seal the openings to prevent water to enter. However it seems this is not good enough.

The pump will be taken out again, and this time the cables will be cut at the point of the damage, and then the cables, and the protecting hose will be fixed inside the pump itself. If this does not work, the pump has to be sent for service to the supplier – in Kampala, Uganda. (Per's opinion).



Cooking for the students was done in the open. Now a simple shed of mud-blocks is made. There is a need for a more proper kitchen in a permanent building.



The kitchen at VTS

There are some challenges in providing food for the students. The budget for this is said not to be sufficient, and the small income made by sale of products can not cover this.

The staff is accommodated in “Sisters House”. This is unpleasant and unsafe due to lack of fencing around the compound. Strangers come up to the house at night, and have even broken into the house. There is a strong wish that the house will be fenced!



Pit-latrines and bathrooms (above).

Hut for the watchman under construction at the VTS gate.

Machinery and equipment

The VTS is fairly well equipped with machinery and tools. However at present there are one great challenge as the main generator, which produce 3-fase electricity, failed on 15th December, when welding was done by Drici. At present the generator produces just enough electricity for a light bulb!



The generator at VTS, producing 400V for 3-fase.



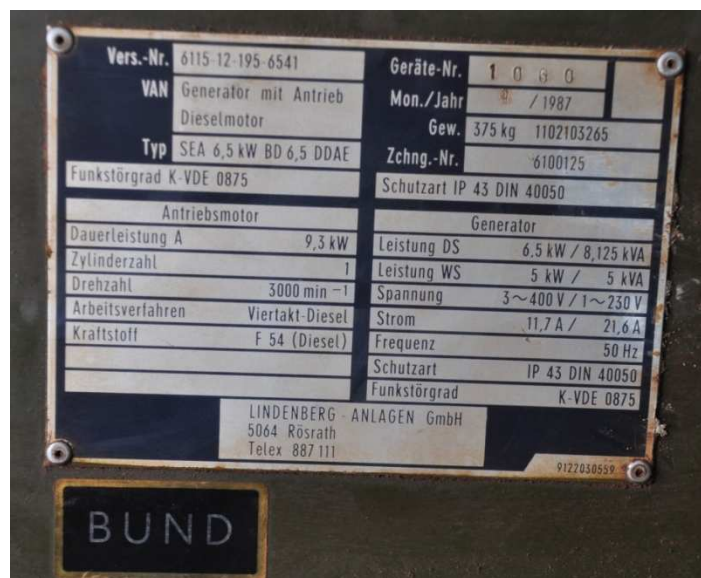
The 12 "Capasters" (?-I am not familiar with the term)

Drici expects the capasters to be the problem. He explains that these are old, worn out and need replacement. On the label the generator is made 1987.

Others have other ideas on what is the problem, and I understand that an electrician will be brought in from Juba to look at the generator.

With this generator out of function none of the main machines can be operate, both for wood-work and for welding.

The label on the generator





The planer



The splitter and the cutter (circular saw)



*Drilling machine
(left)*

Band-saw (right)

The drilling machine 3-fase (above) has a burnt motor and is out of use.

The band-saw (right) fell down under transport to Kuron and was damaged. It cannot be operated, and has never been in use.



Practical training and students products

Brick-laying



Cooking stoves



Chairs and tables made by the students. Popular both among HTPVK staff and also local people. Small table sold for 80 SSP, bigger table for 120 SSP (shown in picture)



Requests and plans

There is an urgent request/wish that improvements are made to the VTS construction, to prevent/reduce the intruding of rain water.

The staff has a strong wish and a request for construction of dormitories, both for boys and Girls at VTS compound. These should be located inside the fenced area, and the girl's dormitory should have a separate fence around it, separating it from the boys.

To prevent intruders there is a need of sealing the fence to the ground by concrete. It is estimated a need for 30 bags of cement. The rest will be done by the students and staff without additional costs.

VTS staff is demanding for a fence around "Sisters House". The cost is estimated to 4000 USD.

To create some income to cover students costs, like feeding, and to gain practical experience it is suggested that one of the guesthouses at Youth Center, which is to be transformed into a permanent building, is given as a contract to VTS.

There is a wish/request for a lathe – a machine for "carving wood".

There is a wish/request for more hand tools for wood works (chisels, different sizes)



There is a wish/request for another/more welding machines (at present only one person can weld at a time).

Drichi is explaining how water is blowing in when it rains.

Because the iron sheets of the roof does not reach far out from the walls. Water is also blown into the classrooms, where it will stay on the floors.



Vehicles which are not in usable conditions are kept in the VTS compound, awaiting spare parts and repairs