



Affected. Kilak Corner Technical Institute in Pader District which has failed to attract students. PHOTO BY TOBBIAS JOLLY

Shs5b technical institute abandoned two years later

Enrollment. According to Mr Gregory Kasapuli, the principal of the institute, there are only 80 students out of the projected 350.

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PADER. Two years after its commissioning, Kilak Corner Technical Institute in Pader District has failed to attract students to enrol for various courses.

The institute is among nine other technical institutes and 42 secondary schools that were built and renovated by government with support from the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) two years ago.

The government's decision to construct the institute was informed by the big number of uneducated and

unemployed youth affected by the two decades' Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] insurgencies in the region.

The institute was also built to improve on the livelihoods of youth through offering low cost vocational skills training.

Despite the Shs5.7 billion funding, the institute has failed to meet its objectives.

A week ago when *Daily Monitor* visited the facility, thick wild bushes had engulfed most of the buildings, leaving only the administration building visible.

The facility built by Techno Three Uganda Limited, was established to offer certificates in metal fabrication, agricultural mechanics and concrete works.

But two years down the road, several machines meant for practical courses in woodwork and metal works still remain uninstalled by the contractor.

ISSUES

Bushy. A week ago when *Daily Monitor* visited the facility, thick wild bushes had engulfed most of the buildings, leaving only the administration building visible.

Equipment. Mr Kasapuli revealed that the contractor supplied computers and internet cables which were not fixed and that only a few of the installed instruction machines are functional.

According to Mr Gregory Kasapuli, the principal of the institute, there are only 80 students out of the projected 350.

Mr Kasapuli said part of the facility has been swallowed in the wild bushes because government has failed to provide enough manpower and financial support.

"Up to now, some units have no instructors and some equipment have not been installed by the contractor," Mr Kasapuli said.

He explained that the 80 students cannot raise enough money to pay hired instructors through Parents Teachers Association funding.

Mr Kasapuli revealed that the contractor supplied computers and internet cables which were not fixed and that only a few of the installed instruction machines are functional.

He noted that the technical institute suffers logistical issues such as lack of a vehicle and firewood.

Blamed

The Pader District chairperson, Mr Largo Oringa, however blamed the institution's woes on the management and governing body, saying they have failed to mobilise and attract more students.

briefly

Union in Shs200m de

GULU. The West Acholi Cooper Union Limited, for the Financial Year 2017 spent Shs88.9 million on evictions, an audit report has revealed. According to the audit report, money was spent on evicting squatters in Amuru District. The report, Base Associates, a based audit firm noted that the evictions significantly affected the profit. It is also revealed that the farmers' union with a membership of Shs1.6b has a deficit of Shs200m. [James]

11 held o

GULU. Police have held 11 suspects during the assault on the cultural festival at Stadium, Gulu. The suspects are: Mr J, the, are, P.

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Kilak institute fails to attract students

Voices

"Every time the governing body clashes with the lower management everything gets messed up. At a point we had to arrest the principal because he had failed to implement resolutions passed by the district to improve the school,"

LARGO ORINGA,
PADER DISTRICT
CHAIRPERSON

"Up to now, some units have no instructors and some equipment have not been installed by the contractor,"

GREGORY KASAPULI,
PRINCIPAL KILAK
CORNER TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE

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"Every time the governing body clashes with the lower management everything gets messed up. At one point we had to arrest the principal because he had failed to implement resolutions passed by the district to improve the school," Mr Oringa said in an interview with *Daily Monitor* recently.

Mr Oringa said they will write to the ministry of Education to intervene in the matter.

"We shall petition the ministry to do a full change of the institute's management. How can they fail to even clean the compounds?" he wondered.

Shoddy works

Meanwhile, the quality of the construction work done by (Techno Three Uganda Limited) has come under criticism by the district authorities over cracks in the walls of the new buildings.

The walls of the main administrative block, dormitories, the principal's residence and other buildings have cracks.

Last year, the former district chairperson, Mr Alfred Akena, threatened not to receive the institute on behalf of the district over the alleged shoddy work.

In a letter to the Education ministry, Mr Akena decried the quality of work and misuse of government funds.

Last year, the then chairperson of Parliamentary Education committee, Ms Sylvia Ssinabulya Namubidde, declined to release the report of their findings about the institute. This was after the committee visited the facility towards the end of 2015.

Mr Ransit Singh, an employee of Techno Three [U] Ltd, in a telephone interview refuted allegations over poor quality work. "We executed our work in line with our agreement with the ministry of Education and whatever is missing, let the ministry explain," Mr Ransit said.

Also affected

Last year, it was reported that Lyantonde Technical Institute located in Kaliro Sub-county 14 kilometres from Lyantonde Town Council, had only 17 students.