

## Panic as 30 tourism colleges found unsuitable

By PHILIP MWAKIO

Panic has gripped students and parents after it emerged up to 30 colleges are not authorised to train.

It means certificates the colleges, mainly offering tourism and hospitality courses, are issuing are useless.

Hundreds of unsuspecting students are already enrolled in the estimated 40 colleges spread across Mombasa. Their parents have paid a lot of money in tuition and examination fees for certificates the government does not recognise.

A list the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority published recently shows only 12 colleges have complied with its requirements.

Up to now, most of the colleges are yet to comply despite the warning the authority issued on July 29.

The agency has warned parents with children in unregistered colleges to relocate them.

A letter sent to one of the colleges on September 15 says: "A qualifying certificate issued by a training institution that has no legal mandate to do so can neither be used for employment nor academic progression."

Some of the institutions cleared to continue training include ACK Bishop Hannington Institute of Technology & Development Studies, Bandari College, Coast International College, Holy Ghost Fathers Technical Institute, Kenya School of Revenue Administration and Mombasa Aviation Training Institute.

However, the fate of close to 30 other colleges remain unknown.

Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers (Kahc) Coast branch executive officer Sam Ikwaye described the development as a disaster.

"It is true we have colleges purporting to offer tourism and hospitality courses and have very huge enrollments, yet they lack requisite facilities to offer these kind of technical and specialized training," Ikwaye said.

He noted that the situation is so bad that most of the graduates have to be retrained upon graduation.

"Some hotels have had to set up their own internal training departments where they train their staff," Ikwaye said.



### WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN KENYA DEFENCE FORCES

- KDF is seeking to recruit more than 2,000 general recruits, constabularies and tradesmen in the exercise that ends on October 18
- Those seeking to join as general recruits must have scored a mean grade of D-plain and above, and be aged between 18 and 26 years
- Constabularies must be ex-KDF members with at least nine years' colour service and no criminal record, and be below 55 years
- KDF is also looking for various tradesmen with diplomas in aeronautical engineering, automotive engineering, mass communication, psychology, education, telecommunication engineering, community oral health and marine engineering among other disciplines

Meanwhile, few women turned up for recruitment at Kibos Primary School in Kisumu East. About 300 men showed up and only 30 women by 8am yesterday.

Team Nine's Lt Cannon Wario Roba said the turn out of women was low because by the time they were releasing the potential recruits to run, only four were left.

In every location in Kisumu East, five men were picked for the medical examination while all four women qualified for this stage.

—Report by Cyrus Ombati, Job Weru and Maureen Odiwuor