



Press Release

KPC's Morendat Institute of Oil and Gas Produces the first Cohort of Internationally Certified Pipeline Welders.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 Kenya Pipeline Company's Morendat Institute of Oil and Gas (MIOG) is today proud to unveil 10 new internationally certified pipeline welders in a graduation ceremony held at the corporation's headquarters at Kenpipe Plaza, Industrial Area, Nairobi. The ceremony was graced by the Principal Secretary from the State Department of Petroleum Mr. Andrew Kamau among other senior government officials, technocrats from oil and gas and TVET sectors.

MIOG prides itself as the first and the only institute in the region to take the lead in filling the skill gap after producing the first batch of internationally certified pipeline welders in the region. The CS Petroleum and Mining Hon John Munyes said in speech read on his behalf by Mr. Andrew Kamau.

Hon John Munyes said that, "I am happy to report that the Institute has delivered on its mandate by focusing on improved quality, growth, diversification, modernization and internationalization of skills training to become a genuine demand-driven oil and gas Centre of Excellence in East Africa and beyond".

The welders were sponsored by the Kenya Petroleum Training Assistance Program (KEPTAP) through the World Bank grant to the Ministry of Petroleum & Mining and the training conducted by trainers from Australia Energy and Mineral Institute Ltd (AAEMI).

KPC Board Chair Mr. John Ngumi was more unequivocal saying KPC Board believes that having world class professionals in specialized areas such as pipeline welding is very important to KPC and the country as this will help manage the acute shortage and do away with foreign welders who are expensive to maintain for the Company and country at large.

Among the certified welders is the first and only female pipeline welder in the region. Ms. Chepkoech Chumo, a former volleyball player with the KPC ladies' volleyball team.

KPC Ag. MD Mr. Hudson Andambi on his part said, "of the initial twelve trainees, ten qualified for an international assessment in Spain by Soluciones Industriales Soldadura (2008, S.L.U) accredited by American Welding Society (AWS). The results of

assessment saw one trainee attain the highest qualification of 6G, two attained 4G, six attained 3G and one attained 2G.”

Pipeline welding has been identified by experts as an area with an acute shortage of welders. Unlike conventional welding which is widely practiced, this is a highly specialized form of welding that is carried out on petroleum pipelines. For a long time, Kenya has only had three qualified pipeline welders; all employees of KPC.

In an endeavor to bridge the skill gap in the oil & gas sector, MIOG established a modern well-equipped school of welding located next to KPC Headquarters in Nairobi's Industrial Area. The only school of its kind in the region, it boasts of 15 booths capable of carrying out arch-welding, metal inert gas (MIG) and tungsten inert gas (TIG) welding and has components for destructive and non-destructive testing. In addition, the welding equipment are containerized, mobile and can be transported to train welders in any part of the region.

As Morendat Institute of Oil and Gas (MIOG) celebrates this milestone moment, it is worth saying that the overwhelming desire for pipeline welding training has been hampered by lack of locally qualified trainers and assessment institutions. This has made pipeline welding training extremely expensive and unaffordable to Kenyans. It is therefore MIOG's dream come true to successfully train welding inspectors who will serve both as trainers and assessors in Kenya and the region to ease this burden.



HUDSON K. ANDAMBI, OGW

AG. MANAGING DIRECTOR