

Electrical Engineering predominant skill in Energy sector, a study findings shows

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A survey on Skills Needs Assessment in the energy sector in Kenya by the government has established that, Electrical Engineering Technology and Business and Administration skills are the most predominant in the Energy sector.

The Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Mr Simon Chelugui, said, the report released last month showed that a majority of established labour market players preferred future workers with Diploma and Artisan Skill Level training over employees with degree level training.

Speaking in his NSSF boardroom on Wednesday, 14th October 2020, during the East Africa Virtual Conference on Occupational Health and Policy, Mr Chelugui said the survey, that covered exploration, extraction, refinery, storage, and transmission of oil, gas, and coal, sought to establish employment dynamics and skills demanded in the sector with the objective of identifying skills gaps, skills mismatch and gender parity

“Unfortunately, it was found that overall, male employees constituted 75 percent of all employees”, noted Mr Chelugui.

To resolve the emerging issues on the skills gaps, Mr Chelugui said, the report recommends the strengthening of linkages between industry and training institutions to facilitate curriculum review to accommodate emerging occupations and skills.

The Cabinet Secretary added that the report also recommended solid affirmative action that will encourage female students to venture into technical related trainings through scholarships to reduce gender disparity in the Energy Sector.

Mr Chelugui commended technical officers working in the geothermal industry for their commitment and sacrifice to work under risky conditions. He observed that workers in the sector serve in high risk activities, such as drilling underground tunnels,

working in high heights and insecurity prone areas in remote locations, extreme weather conditions among others to ensure they develop the country's energy capacity.

In view of the hazards, Mr Chelugui, urged employers to invest in occupational safety and health to not only minimise risks and losses through control measures, but also as an economic, legal and moral responsibility.

He explained that with the number of workers projected to grow in the sector, effective and efficient mitigation and risk management is critical to long-term sustainable development of the geothermal energy sub sector.