



## **KARIOBANGI MSE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Kariobangi Centre was started in 1996 by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as a Centre of Excellence for metal subsector when the Ministry in charge then undertook to establish two centers namely.

1. Kariobangi for metal subsector.
2. Ziwani for automotive.

The Centre was the only one of its kind in Kenya and by then it was called National Jua-Kali Demonstration and Training Centre-Kariobangi. After some years of operations, the Centre's name was changed to Kariobangi MSE Centre of Excellence located along Outer Ring Road approximately 8km from town and opposite Pioneer estate.

The purpose of creating the Kariobangi MSE Centre of Excellence is to provide a modern Centre for manufacturing, technical capacity building and up-scaling riding on common user production concept to boost standard and quantity of production.

The Centre currently has become a business development Centre for empowering Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE's). under the management of Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA) which is a State Agency under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development

The Centre empowers Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE's) through incubation of businesses, provision of access to common User Facility Machines, provision of decent space to operate, machineries / equipment and Capacity building based on the needs of the MSE's.

It's also home to Biashara Centre which is a one stop shop model for MSME's to access entrepreneurial business services offered by different Government Agencies relevant to the business ecosystem under one roof.

The Centre's clientele are the Micro and Small Entrepreneurs/enterprises (MSE's) who are very lucrative in-:

- Job creation
- Income generation
- Wealth creation

This has led to economic growth and poverty reduction in-line with the SDG's and the BETA economic model

### **Machines and equipment's**

Currently the machines within the centre for common use are for metal works and metal fabrications which includes:

- Lathe machines
- Milling machines
- Shear machine
- Bending Machine
- Surface grinder

### **Services offered to the MSEs at the Centre.**

#### 1. Provision of an equipped Common User Facility

The Centre has a wide range of machinery/equipment/tools which MSEs used to make their own products for the markets at subsidized costs

#### 2. Organizing and conducting Entrepreneurial, Technical skills upgrading and on Job Training of MSE's. The Centre conducts various trainings based on the needs of the MSEs.

#### 3. Providing a platform for Technology acquisition & transfer

The Centre identifies and acquires Special Purpose Machinery for use by the MSEs based on their needs and technology advancement e.g Lathe machines, woodwork, and welding machines,

#### 4. Offering incubation services to MSE's for business development and market linkage

The Centre offers workspace whereby MSEs involved in value addition and innovations are incubated.

#### 5. Offering Business Development Services (BDS)

The Centre provides BDS to all MSEs at the Centre such as information on markets, business registration, product development through support on attainment of quality & Standards, available technology, credit facilities etc. through the Biashara Centre

#### **SOME OF THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED AND WORKS DONE AT THE CENTRE**



*Figure 1: Pure leather & handmade sporting balls*



**Figure 2: Pure leather & Handmade sporting balls by an incubate.**



**Figure 3: seat fabrication and cushion fitting**



**Figure 4: Wrought iron furniture making**



**Figure 5: Edible oils (sunflower) processing.**



***Figure 6: Body building for motor vehicles.***



**Figure 7: Fabrication of steel structures**



**Figure 8: body building of motor vehicles.**



*Figure 9: motor vehicle graffiti*



*Figure 10: Technical skills training and on the job training*



Figure 11: Hyacinth charcoal briquette by an incubatee.



Figure 4 jiko lighter by an incubatee.

## **KARIOBANGI COE BIASHARA CENTRE**

This is a One Stop Shop where MSMEs access Government services from different Agencies in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Biashara Centre is domiciled in Kariobangi MSE Centre. It was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 by then Principal Secretary State Department of Industry Dr. Francis O. Owino to serve Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's)

It was started as a pilot project to address the challenges and constraints that MSMEs face while trying to obtain services offered by various Key Ministries, Departments and Agencies such as market information, taxation, technology, and financial support. The Biashara Center at Kariobangi hosts ten (10) agencies, each playing a crucial role of offering Government services that support MSME's through a multi-agency approach.

The main objective of the Centre is to create a multi-agency approach towards enhancing provision of business development services to MSMEs.

### **Some of the Agencies at the Biashara Centre and their role to MSE's**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Role at Biashara Centre</b>
KIRDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Carry out research on technology and transfer it to MSEs.</li><li>➤ Offer incubation facilities to MSEs in product development.</li><li>➤ Sensitize MSEs on services offered by KIRDI</li></ul>
ICDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sensitize MSEs on access to loans and equity facilities.</li><li>➤ Offer advisory services to MSEs.</li></ul>
NMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sensitize MSEs on cost effective ways of product development.</li><li>➤ Produce and offer affordable mechanical equipment.</li><li>➤ Provision of common user facilities for MSEs</li></ul>
KIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Incubation and support services to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Kenya</li></ul>
KEBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Promoting quality and affordable products from MSEs.</li><li>➤ Creating awareness on product safety through implementation of standard policies and procedures.</li><li>➤ Ensure MSEs attain required certification.</li></ul>

	➤ Offer training on safety and standards.
KIPI	➤ Assist MSEs in protecting their innovations and creative ideas through patents and trademarks
KRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure tax-based expansion through recruitment of new taxpayers.</li> <li>➤ Encourage existing taxpayers to be compliant.</li> <li>➤ Create public awareness on services offered by KRA and the role of the taxpayers.</li> <li>➤ Provide revenue related services to the general service e.g., Registration on new taxpayers, filing of returns etc.</li> </ul>
KENAS	➤ Offer accreditation services.

**KARIOBANGI DIGITAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS PROGRAM**

The digital literacy program is a MSE skilling initiative conducted at Kariobangi MSE Centre of Excellence in partnership with African Centre for Women in ICT (ACWICT), Stanbic Bank and Microsoft.

It was launched in June 2021 with the main objective being to provide young men and women with demand driven life and entrepreneurship skills to increase their business and employment prospects by the end of 2021. Since the launch, the Centre has trained 198 clients with a big percentage being youth in businesses.

This basic level course provides for an introduction to the fundamentals of computing, introduction to the practical application of computer programs including word, excel and PowerPoint and how to use the internet as a marketing platform for their products.

This will be followed by an intermediary and advanced level training on digital (online) marketing and online works for MSME’s which should kick off in due course.

## Role of partners in the program

Partner	Role	Remarks
Stanbic	Donation of computer	10 computers donated
Microsoft	Provide computer soft wares and Training of Trainers	Done
ACWICT	Training of trainers	Done
MSEA	Recruitment and training of MSE's Training of MSEs	continuous

## THE IMPACT OF THE MSE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE TO THE MSE SECTOR

### 1. Ease of doing business.

Operationalization of the Biashara Centre has enabled MSEs both at the Centre and its environs do business with much ease.

### 2. Training.

So far, more than 1200 MSEs have been trained and nearly all of them have considerably improved their manufacturing techniques and that in consequence, the quality of their product has equally improved.

After the training, trainees have been able to:

- a. Produce better products.
- b. Select efficient production processes.
- c. Select the correct tools for the job.
- d. Introduce uniformity of products and quality control.
- e. Improve operational efficiency.
- f. Increase income potential.
- g. Participate in marketing of their products.
- h. Bargain better prices for their products.
- i. Build customer confidence.
- j. Utilize resources properly.
- k. On the job training.
- l. Up-grade their skills needed for their business activities

- m. Select items for the market and produce the same to satisfy the market demand.
- 3. Employment.  
The Centre creates direct jobs of between 100-150 annually, depending on the economic situation.
- 4. Access to common user machines.  
The Centre gets about over20 MSEs using our machinery, equipment, and tools on a monthly basis
- 5. Market access for products made at the Centre through exposure of the MSEs to exhibitions, shows and trade fairs both locally and internationally.
- 6. Collaboration with other stakeholders in the MSE space to promote the sector