
Propela Graduation
Class of 2024

WELCOME TO THE PROPELA INAUGURAL GRADUATION AND WORKSHOP OPENING CEREMONY



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A word from Hilti Foundation

Mr. Werner Wallner
Managing Director

When we started the PropelA program, our goal was clear: to create opportunities for young Kenyans to build better lives. Yet, the challenge was immense. Every year, one million young people enter the job market, and two-thirds of them fail to find sustainable employment. At the same time, industries such as construction face a critical skills gap. It became clear that systemic change was essential – a new approach to preparing youth for meaningful careers while meeting the needs of the private sector.

Together with our partners at Swisscontact, Kenyan and Swiss experts, the Kenyan government, and leading companies, we launched PropelA in 2022. Inspired by Switzerland's dual apprenticeship model, the program combines on-the-job training with classroom education. It's a concept that's proven to work, but seeing it come to life in Kenya has been deeply rewarding.

Let me share a story that has stayed with me. In early 2023, I traveled to Kenya to visit the program. I met a young man, Andy Ouma, one of the apprentices in the second PropelA cohort. At the time, he was a shy but kind and personable young man who had just started a dual apprenticeship with Allied Plumbers Ltd, one of our program's key partners. Andy was eager to learn but still finding his feet in a new environment.

A few months later, in May, I had the opportunity to see Andy again. This time he was on site at a government affordable housing project in Nairobi's Kibera slum. What struck me immediately was how much he had developed in such a short time. While I was talking to him, his mentor Jared Sila joined us. When I asked a question, Andy politely but confidently said, "Please let me answer that." In that moment, I saw the transformation we had hoped for. Andy had gained not only technical skills, but the confidence and self-awareness to step forward and take charge of his future.

For me, this story is not just a moment of pride, it's a blueprint for what this program can do on a larger scale. PropelA is designed to be more than a training initiative; it's a catalyst for systemic change. By aligning training with the needs of the private sector and creating a model that can be scaled and replicated, we are laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and inclusive future for Kenya. The success of PropelA depends on collaboration. It has been made possible through the commitment of Kenyan experts and companies, the support of the government, and the expertise of our Swiss partners. Together, we are not only addressing immediate challenges; we are creating a system that empowers young people to thrive and industries to grow.

Congratulations to the first cohort of PropelA apprentices on their graduation! This is the beginning of a movement to transform vocational education, create opportunities, and inspire change. Together, we are building a better future.



A word from Geberit International AG

Remo Hirschi
Head of Developing Markets

In 2024, Geberit expanded its previous support for the PropelA vocational training programme for sanitary professionals in Kenya. In a partnership with the Hilti Foundation and Swisscontact, the company is helping to ensure that young Kenyans receive high-quality vocational training.

Give a starving person a fish and he or she will eat once. Teach the person to fish and he or she will never go hungry again". Geberit's social commitment is based on this approach. It is about helping people to help themselves and creating prospects and livelihoods through training and the transfer of expertise. The PropelA vocational training programme in Kenya in partnership with the Hilti Foundation and Swisscontact makes this approach very real. This is why it is Geberit's focus in the area of social commitment.

Young population, high unemployment

The choice of location for our social commitment is no coincidence: the average age in the East African country is just under 20. At the same time, Kenya is struggling with high youth unemployment. In addition, the population in Kenya is growing rapidly. This means that more and more young people are entering the labour market. They need training - and career prospects.

Following the Swiss model

This is where the PropelA vocational training programme comes in: based on the Swiss model of dual vocational training, apprentices spend two years learning the trades of plumbing and electrical specialists, partly at school and partly in the company. The concept impressed Geberit right from the start. As early as 2021, when the Hilti Foundation launched the pilot project to establish the vocational training programme in Kenya, Geberit supported the project with training materials and equipment for the sanitary training workshop.

Long tradition of vocational training

With good reason, as Remo Hirschi, Head of Developing Markets at Geberit, confirms: 'We know only too well that dual vocational training is a success factor.' Geberit has a long tradition of vocational training and has been practising it since the company was founded around 150 years ago. The company is currently training around 300 apprentices in eleven professions in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The concept of dual vocational training is not only an opportunity for young people, who receive valuable training and practical experience in this way. Geberit also benefits: The apprentices perform valuable work and contribute new perspectives.

Passing on experience

Geberit wants to pass on this experience - and convince both the young people and the companies involved of the high value of dual vocational training. At the beginning of 2024, the company expanded its initial support for the vocational training programme into a partnership with the Hilti Foundation and Swisscontact, making it the focus of the Group's social commitment. The newly built training centre for plumbers at Don Bosco Boys Town in Karen has already been financed. In addition, the apprentices receive a scholarship on completion of their training. Geberit also supports coaching for local vocational trainers in the sanitary facilities and is committed to the continuous development of the school programme and teaching materials. Because we are convinced, says Remo Hirschi. 'Vocational training is the key to development.'



A word from Swisscontact

Ms. Lillian Muvai Ndegwa
Country Director

Today, we gather to celebrate an extraordinary achievement — the graduation of PropelA's inaugural cohort. To our graduating apprentices, congratulations! Your dedication, resilience, and relentless hard work have brought you to this pivotal milestone. You are not only skilled professionals but pioneers of a transformative program, designed to cultivate industry leaders who will shape the future of Kenya's workforce.

Launching the PropelA project in November 2022 marked the beginning of a journey characterized by evolution and agility. The success of this project relied heavily on a strong, dynamic, and resilient team, along with visionary partners from the private sector and crucial collaborations with government bodies like NITA. These partnerships ensured that our program remained adaptable to the ever-changing industry landscape. I am truly humbled to have led this project, which was made possible by the dedication and resilience of the project team: Melisa Keya, Augustine Amolo, Lillian Maina, Cynthia Wakio, Frank Momanyi, Wanja Kariuki, Olivia Obiero, and Jimmy Delyon, alongside the wider Swisscontact Team.

Our partners, including NITA, Don Bosco Boys Training Institute, the Hilti Foundation, and Geberit AG, have played a pivotal role in our achievements. Their commitment to technical excellence have propelled the program forward with substantial support. Together, we have crafted a transformative program that seamlessly integrates education and industry. This initiative not only equips apprentices with high-demand skills but also provides the private sector with job-ready talent, exemplifying the power of collaboration and a shared vision.

A special acknowledgment goes to the Hilti Foundation, under the leadership of Mr. Wallner Werner, whose passionate support has been crucial. Such partnerships are vital in the ever-changing and unpredictable landscape of developing nations like Kenya.

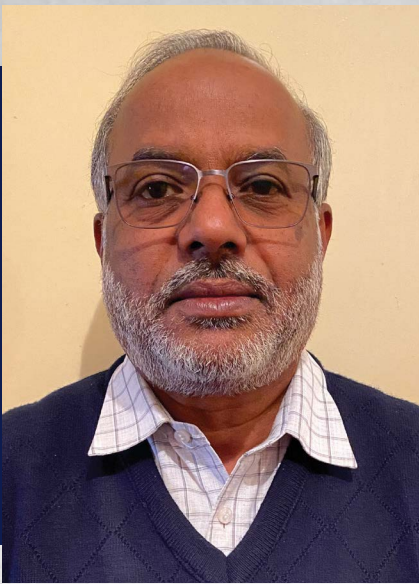
I would also like to acknowledge the support of private sector companies, including the project steering committee members:

- Mr. Bobby Jandu (Allied Plumbers)
- Lucy Muchemi (Mavens Plumbers)
- Harish Patel (Patronics Ltd.)
- Dr. Harish Banderi (Atlas Plumbers)
- Meshack Kariuki (Ultra Power Systems)
- Bro. Francis Mulu (DBBT)
- Fr. Padinjareparampil Jose (DBBT)
- Madam Jane Kamau (NITA)

As the famous adage goes, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to go far, walk with others." This has truly been embodied through this steering committee.

To the PropelA graduating Cohort 1 apprentices, this is your moment! Stand proud of your accomplishments and embrace the limitless possibilities that await you. The skills you've gained mark the start of a meaningful and prosperous career path. Seize the opportunities that lie ahead!

Congratulations to the PropelA Cohort One Apprentices!



A word from Don Bosco Boys Technical Institute

Fr. Padinjareparampil Jose
Director

A Word from the Director, Don Bosco Boys Technical Institute - Fr. Padinjareparampil Jose

It is with immense joy and pride that I write these few lines on the occasion of the official inauguration of the PropelA program and the graduation of the first cohort of trainees. Don Bosco Tech Kenya – Karen Campus through Don Bosco Boys’ Town Technical Institute has been privileged to be chosen to host the training program. This dual apprenticeship model of training spearheaded by the Hilti Foundation, Swisscontact, National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and Don Bosco, following the training model of Switzerland, has gifted the young people of Kenya with yet another opportunity for an excellent training method with a 75%-25% industry-school engagement respectively.

Don Bosco is particularly grateful to Hilti Foundation which through their partner in Kenya – Swisscontact, provided the necessary facilities, equipment, and materials for the training. NITA accompanied the whole process and provided the much-needed leadership in terms of making sure that the training and certification met the required quality. The instructors were upskilled and accompanied by TOTs. The learners were mentored in their practical training settings in the industry. The principal and the instructors at the Institute adhered to the set standards for training and we have the first batch of trainees graduating today.

Congratulations to the graduands and everyone involved in this process. Don Bosco Tech. Kenya at its Karen campus – Don Bosco Boys Town Technical Institute – run by the Salesians of Don Bosco Kenya has been in existence for the past 40 years and has contributed greatly to the training of young people for the job market in the industry. With MOUs in place with many industry players, Don Bosco holds a great reputation for quality training and formation, which makes our graduates suitable for the industry and in demand after their graduation. The PropelA program is contributing greatly to the excellence of this institution among the training institutions in the country. Of late, our graduates have also found job opportunities even outside the country.

As the institution moves ahead with its expansion and upgrading programs, we find the PropelA program very timely and suitable. On behalf of our trainees, instructors, partner companies, the Institute, and Don Bosco Tech Kenya – Karen, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Hilti Foundation, Swisscontact, Geberit and NITA for their invaluable contribution in empowering our institution, students, and the industry through the PropelA dual apprenticeship training model. Your support has introduced a transformative approach to skills development and employment readiness. May this noble initiative continue to inspire and propel countless young people towards excellence in life, equipping them with the tools to build a brighter future for themselves and their community



A word from National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)

Ms. Theresa Wasike
A.G Director

Congratulations!!

The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) celebrates the outstanding achievements of the cohort one graduates of the Swisscontact PropelA Dual Apprenticeship Training Program. Your hard work and unwavering commitment, coupled with the fruitful collaboration between NITA, Swisscontact, and industry stakeholders, have culminated in this significant milestone.

This program has equipped you with critical, market-driven skills that address the evolving needs of various industries and align with Kenya's overarching development goals. As you transition into your professional careers, your expertise and dedication will play a pivotal role in driving success, fostering innovation, and advancing Kenya's workforce. May your journey ahead be marked by achievements that reflect the same passion and diligence demonstrated during your training.

At NITA, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering individuals and industries by fostering a skilled and productive workforce that elevates standards, supports national growth and builds resilient professionals who lead change and innovation.

Congratulations once again and best wishes for your future endeavors!

PropelA Dual Apprenticeship Programme Overview

The construction sector in Kenya is one of the fastest-growing industries, offering immense potential for economic growth. However, this growth is constrained by a critical shortage of skilled labor, particularly in trades such as electrical and plumbing. Each year, approximately one million young people enter the labor market, yet 40 percent remain unemployed due to limited opportunities. Although the private sector generates 90 percent of new jobs, it requires a highly skilled workforce, which the current vocational education and training system fails to provide.

Kenya's existing VET programs operate independently of industry needs, with minimal private sector involvement in the design and delivery of training. This disconnect results in limited access to quality vocational training for youth, irrelevance of training content to industry demands, and a largely low-skilled workforce. The impact is seen in widespread inefficiencies, including material wastage, low productivity, and missed opportunities for businesses to expand.

Recognizing these challenges, the Hilti Foundation and Swisscontact initiated PropelA—a dual apprenticeship program designed to bridge the gap between education and industry. Inspired by the Swiss dual VET model but adapted to the Kenyan context, PropelA emphasizes company-led training, combining practical, on-the-job learning with classroom and workshop instruction to equip apprentices with the skills needed to meet industry standards. This initiative is supported by international partners like Hilti Foundation & Geberit International AG and aims to develop a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs, with a particular focus on plumbing and electrical trades.

The program is implemented in partnership with Don Bosco Boys' Town, which provides classroom and workshop training, and the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), which certifies the program. It is further supported by leading private sector companies, which play a crucial role in providing on-the-job training for apprentices. Apprentices spend one week each month at the Don Bosco Boys Town (DBBT) training institute and three weeks gaining practical experience with these companies. Building on industry evidence and private sector insights, the PropelA project has successfully piloted a dual VET model, enabling apprentices in electrical and plumbing trades to acquire industry-standard skills through a blend of practical, on-the-job training, and classroom instruction.

Kenyan Dual Apprenticeship

Prototype

Targeted Levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrical & Plumbing - KNQA Level 5 (NSC IV/MCP III)	Assessment and Certification of the Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of Kenya through National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)	Duration of Apprenticeship: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 years
Entry Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age: 18-24 years of age• Target: Secondary school graduates• Minimum Grade: D+• Female applicants highly encouraged to apply	Curriculum <p>The curriculum to be used is a high-quality Swiss Curricula adapted to the Kenyan context fulfilling the requirement of the Kenyan employers.</p>	

Key Achievements of the PropelA Dual Apprenticeship Programme (2022–2025)

Milestones at a Glance



Empowering Youth in Kenya

300+ young people engaged in the program, 76 apprentices from the pioneer cohort to complete and graduate on January 25, 2025.



Celebrating Excellence

2 World Skills Kenya Competition winners in electrical and plumbing trades to represent Kenya at the international stage in March 2025.



Breaking Gender Barriers

A notable increase in female enrolments:

- 25% in 2022 in the plumbing trade only
- 13% in 2023 in the plumbing and electrical trades
- 22% in 2024 in plumbing and electrical trades



Strengthening Industry Partnerships

Partnered with over 40 leading private companies since 2022 to provide hands-on, practical training, reinforcing the connection between education and practical industry skills.



Investing in Quality Education

- With support from the Hilti Foundation and Geberit AG, established two state-of-the-art workshops for plumbing and electrical trades, furnished with industry-standard tools and materials to enhance learning experiences.



Adopted the Curriculum Training Plan to Fit Industry Needs:

- Implemented a private sector-driven curriculum training plan developed to ensure alignment with real-world industry demands, enhancing the relevance and impact of training.



Program Scale-up and Expansion Beyond Borders

- Launched a Private Sector-Led Dual Apprenticeship model, creating a base model for replication across East Africa and beyond, paving the way for sustainable growth and impact.



Excellence in Learning: 99% of the Cohort 1 apprentices have passed the NITA Assessments

PropelA Programme Partners

PropelA is a private sector-led initiative (refer to page 12 for the full list)

Funded by:
Hilti Foundation and
Geberit International
AG

Implemented by:
Swisscontact

Certified By:
National Industrial
Training Authority
(NITA)

Vocational School Partner:
Don Bosco Boys Town,
Karen



PropelA Graduation

Class of 2024

Private Sector Partners



A word from Ultra Power Systems Ltd

Mr. Meshack Kariuki
Managing Director

How quickly time flies!

Three years ago, we embarked on a transformative journey to improve the quality of trainees produced by learning institutions. Partnering with Swisscontact and other forward-thinking private sector allies, we conducted a comprehensive study comparing the quality of local training programs with the demands of the local job market. This critical evaluation led us to an exposure visit to Switzerland, where we benchmarked the implementation of a unique dual apprenticeship model—an approach that has brought us to this remarkable moment today.

At the start of this program, we were navigating uncharted waters. We couldn't fully envision how its implementation would unfold. However, with the invaluable guidance of the Swisscontact team and insights gained during our visits to Switzerland—where this model has been successfully scaled—we and other private sector partners meticulously reviewed the local curriculum. Together, we crafted course content tailored to the specific requirements of Kenya's job market.

Our apprentices entered the program with no prior training or experience. In collaboration with Don Bosco Boys Town, we facilitated two years of intensive, practical training aligned with the demands of the building and construction industry. The results have been astounding. Within just six months of industry exposure, apprentices demonstrated basic productivity. By the end of the first year, they achieved a level of competence that delivered significant cost savings on labor while empowering us to serve the community by providing opportunities to passionate, yet underprivileged, students interested in electrical installations.

Today marks a historic milestone for Kenya's education system—the graduation of our first cohort from an apprenticeship-driven learning experience designed to meet industry needs. These graduates are not only equipped with technical expertise but also possess strong interpersonal skills and substantial industry experience, enabling them to execute projects in their trades with confidence. Six of these graduates hail from Ultra Power Systems. Congratulations to you all!

Among the graduating apprentices is Emmanuel Mbaire, a shining star from our company, who earned the gold medal at the World Skills Kenya National Competition. This March, he will represent Kenya at the continental competition in Zambia. His achievement is a testament to the effectiveness of this training concept—a true game-changer for industry-centered education.

This milestone would not have been possible without the support of Swisscontact, the Hilti Foundation, Don Bosco Training School, and NITA. Together, we have accomplished what once seemed unimaginable.

Looking ahead, we are filled with hope and determination. We have already enrolled more apprentices from all the existing cohorts and envision this program to become the gold standard for industrial training across various trades. We urge more companies to join this transformative initiative and become part of Kenya's journey towards industrial excellence—one apprentice at a time!



A word from Central Plumbing International Limited

Mr. Jaswinder Singh Ghataurhae
Director

At Central Plumbing International Limited, our journey with the PropelA Dual Apprenticeship Program has been nothing short of transformative. From the very beginning, we saw the immense potential of this initiative to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills, addressing the critical shortage of skilled workers in the construction industry. What motivated us to join was not just the promise of developing talent but the opportunity to be part of a larger movement that prioritizes sustainable and impactful training for the next generation of skilled professionals.

Three cohorts later, our commitment to this initiative remains unwavering. We have witnessed the immense impact the program has had on both our company and the apprentices themselves. Central Plumbing has consistently supported the program, not only by onboarding apprentices but by contributing to their continuous development and growth. Beyond this, we proudly participated in upgrading the curriculum to Level 6 qualifications, ensuring the program remains relevant, rigorous, and aligned with industry needs.

The growth of the apprentices from their first day to now, as they graduate, has been remarkable. These young professionals started with limited experience but a willingness to learn, and they have grown into skilled, confident individuals ready to take on greater responsibilities. Seeing their development firsthand has been incredibly fulfilling. We are so confident in their abilities that we are retaining five out of the six apprentices from this cohort, which is a testament to their dedication and the quality of training they have received.

Looking ahead, I firmly believe in the long-term success of the dual apprenticeship model. It is a solution tailored to the specific needs of our industry, tackling the skills shortage head-on by equipping young people with the tools they need to excel. I am hopeful that this model will continue to gain momentum, inspiring more companies to invest in apprenticeship training and transforming how we develop talent across Kenya.

To the graduating cohort, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. You have worked tirelessly to reach this significant milestone, and it is well deserved. As you step into the workforce, remember that you carry with you the hopes and expectations of an industry that desperately needs your skills and innovation. We welcome you with open arms and look forward to seeing the positive change you will bring to the field.

Once again, congratulations to the graduates and a big thank you to all the stakeholders who have made this program a success. Together, we are building not just careers but a better future for our industry and our country.



A word from Sawarn Singh & Sons Limited

Mr. Amarjit Singh Panesar
Director

Over the last three years, we have seen firsthand how this program equips apprentices with the technical skills and practical experience necessary to thrive in real-world environments. The combination of structured learning at Don Bosco and on-site application has not only honed their abilities but also instilled a strong work ethic and adaptability. It has been a privilege to see these apprentices grow into confident and capable professionals who can tackle complex challenges with competence.

The apprentices have made meaningful contributions to our projects, demonstrating a remarkable level of commitment and enthusiasm. Their fresh perspectives and eagerness to learn have reinvigorated our team and reinforced the value of investing in emerging talent. This is why we are proud to offer some of these graduands full-time opportunities within our company. Their journey from apprentices to trusted team members exemplifies the impact of this program and validates the promise it holds for building a robust talent pipeline.

Onto the next phase, we remain deeply committed to the PropelA Dual Apprenticeship Program. It is a model that aligns perfectly with our vision of fostering a skilled workforce from within, ensuring both the sustainability and competitiveness of our industry. By nurturing talent through such programs, we are not only addressing current skills shortages but also creating a foundation for long-term success. To the graduands, I want to say this: You are proof that dedication and hard work yield remarkable results. Your achievements are a testament to your resilience and willingness to seize opportunities for growth. As you step into the next phase of your careers, be proud of what you have accomplished and carry that confidence forward. We are excited to see the positive changes you will bring to the industry.

On behalf of Sawarn Singh & Sons Limited, I would also like to extend my gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly to make this program a success—from the trainers and mentors to the project organizers and industry partners. Together, we are building a brighter future for our sector and beyond.

As you graduate today, may this milestone be the first of many in your journey of professional success and fulfillment.

PropelA is a Private Sector Led Initiative.

We have engaged over 40 private sector partners. So far, they include:





A photo of PropelA Cohort 1 Plumbing Apprentices Denis Chesum, Lucy Kibuchi, Purity Maina and Bonface Maina at Plumbing Systems Ltd.



*A photo of the ladies from PropelA's Cohort 1 Plumbing Apprentices'



PropelA Graduation

Class of 2024

Plumbing Apprentices

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Class of 2024
Plumbing Apprentices



Dianah Wahuini Muturi
First Class



Daniel Maina
First Class



Sahib Singh Ghataurhae
First Class



Elizabeth Bosibori
First Class



Purity Jane
Ordinary Pass



Derrick Mike Odoyo
Ordinary Pass



Benta Akinyi Odango
Ordinary Pass



Caren Wendy Dola
Ordinary Pass



Anthony Orina
Ordinary Pass



Bonface Maina
Ordinary Pass



Denis Chesum Kiplagat
Ordinary Pass



Dorothy Wando
Ordinary Pass

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Class of 2024
Plumbing Apprentices



Brandon Odhiambo
Ordinary Pass



Denis Okende
Ordinary Pass



Edel Wacuka
Ordinary Pass



Belinda Simani
Ordinary Pass



Titus Kariuki
Ordinary Pass



Janiffer Gathoni
Ordinary Pass



Emmaculate Atieno
Ordinary Pass



Frankline Odhiambo
Ordinary Pass



Jeremiah Mwangi
Ordinary Pass



Faith Njiru
Ordinary Pass



Gideon Njoroge
Ordinary Pass



Justine Obwoge
Ordinary Pass

PropelA Graduation
Class of 2024
Plumbing Apprentices



Kennedy Muendo
Ordinary Pass



Kenneth Kipsang Korir
Ordinary Pass



Laban Kiprobo
Ordinary Pass



Lucy Wangui Kibuchi
Ordinary Pass



Purity Maina
Ordinary Pass



Dennis Wambugu
Ordinary Pass



Miriam Khaindi
Ordinary Pass



Rachel Ndung'u
Ordinary Pass



Samuel Mutie
Ordinary Pass



Nicholas Mutugi
Ordinary Pass



Ruth Njeri
Ordinary Pass



Samwel Gicheru
Ordinary Pass



PropelA Graduation

Class of 2024

Plumbing Apprentices



Ruth Wairimu
Ordinary Pass



Stanley Kimani
Ordinary Pass



Tiberius Ariba
Ordinary Pass



Collins Kiplagat
Ordinary Pass



Francisca Wayua
Ordinary Pass



Velma Ondeche
Ordinary Pass



Wilfred Gichia
Ordinary Pass



A photo of Aston Mwendwa, a Propela Cohort 1 Electrical Apprentice attached at Mehta Electricals Ltd



Propela Graduation

Class of 2024

Electrical Apprentices

PropelA Graduation
Class of 2024
Electrical Apprentices



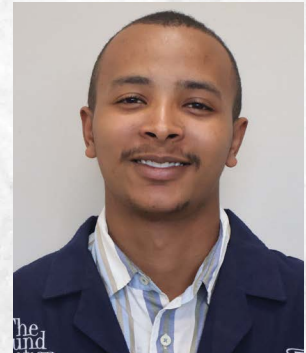
Albanus Wambua
First Class



Emmanuel Mbaire
First Class



Michael Sulwe
First Class



Aston Mwendwa
First Class



Herman Omondi
First Class



Mwangi James Mbugua
First Class



Charles Mathu
First Class



Milton Ngonda
First Class



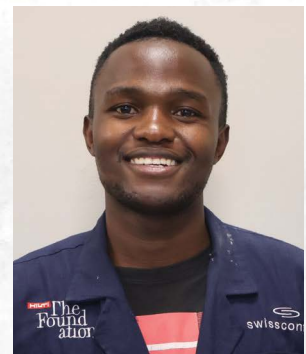
John Mulei
First Class



Michael Olum
First Class



Richard Omondi
First Class



Rafael Were
First Class

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Electrical Apprentices



Joseph Njuguna
First Class



Michael Okoth
First Class



James Wainaina
First Class



Washington Abug
First Class



Daniel Chesoli
Ordinary Pass



Clinton Otieno
Ordinary Pass



Dismas Mweu
Ordinary Pass



Kenneth Odhiambo
Ordinary Pass



Fredrick Abwova
Ordinary Pass



James Kiambu
Ordinary Pass



Emmanuel Makhanu
Ordinary Pass



Patrick Asikoye
Ordinary Pass


PropelA Graduation
Class of 2024
Electrical Apprentices



Chester Mallock
Ordinary Pass



Hardy Kubai
Ordinary Pass



John Mathara
Ordinary Pass



Christopher Okoko
Ordinary Pass



Dennis Kanyo
Ordinary Pass



Ryan Mwangi
Ordinary Pass



Fred Ratemo



Kelvin Mwinzi Mbuli
Ordinary Pass



Stephen Waititu
Ordinary Pass



PropelA Graduation

Class of 2024

Apprentice Impact Stories



A word from the Winner of the Plumbing Trade –
WorldSkills Kenya 2024 Competition

Titus Njoroge

Meet Titus Njoroge, the 2024 national champion in the plumbing trade at the World Skills Kenya National Competition. This event brought together the best talent from TVET institutions nationwide. Over five challenging days, participants showcased their expertise by tackling intricate tasks—where Titus demonstrated exceptional skill and emerged as the top performer.

"I was confident I would emerge on top," said 24-year-old Titus Njoroge, a PropelA plumbing apprentice and the 2024 WorldSkills Kenya National Competition winner in Plumbing. Before the winners were announced, he recalls how confident he was: "I was already working with modern fittings and equipment on-site during my on-job training at Allied Plumbers Ltd and in our workshops at Don Bosco. In fact, I was the one showing some competitors how to use certain tools. This competition felt like a way to perfect my skills and measure myself nationally. It was also a reaffirmation of the quality training I received from the PropelA program.

Winning the competition was more than a medal for Titus—it was the culmination of resilience, sacrifice, and relentless pursuit of a dream. The victory validated his journey of self-reliance and hard work.

Titus's path wasn't straightforward. After dropping out of university to support his four siblings' education, he took a job at his uncle's hardware store to make ends meet. "I had to fend for myself, but even in tough times, opportunities came my way," Titus reflects. It was at that store, interacting with visiting plumbers and handling plumbing tools, that he discovered a passion for trade.

Determined to follow his newfound interest, Titus sponsored by his uncle joined Don Bosco Boys' Training Institute to study plumbing. That's where he first encountered PropelA. "I think I was among the first to learn about the program," he recalls. "I was impressed by how it used modern equipment and kept up with industry trends."

Today, Titus is not just a skilled apprentice, he's a trusted expert. Former colleagues who are done with their training and full-time plumbers often seek his advice on complex projects. "And yet, I'm still in school!" he exclaims with pride.

Beyond technical expertise, Titus attributed his success to the soft skills he gained through PropelA. "PropelA equips you with more than just technical skills, it provides critical soft skills as well. Beyond the confidence that helped me win, I've learned how to price my work effectively, a challenge many in the industry face," he explains.

Looking ahead, Titus's ambitions reach far beyond his current success. He's already set his sights on winning the continental competition in Zambia in March 2025 "I know I've put in the work," he says confidently.

With the skills and experience he's gained, Titus dreams of continuing his work with Allied Plumbers Ltd. "I'm thrilled to be retained by my company, Allied Plumbers Ltd, to continue working with them" His ultimate goal? To empower underprivileged youth with the opportunities that changed his life. "I want to give others the same chance I was given," Titus says, his eyes bright with determination.

Congratulations to Titus and we wish him the best as he prepares to represent Kenya in Zambia in March 2025!



Titus Njoroge works along his mentor, Jared Sila of Allied Plumbers Ltd



A word from PropelA's First-Class Honor Achiever in the Plumbing Trade

Dianah Wahuini Muturi

Dianah Muturi, a 25-year-old from Githunguri, always dreamed of a brighter future, but it wasn't always an easy road. Born into a family of four, her early years were filled with financial struggles, though her parents, who later became teachers, did everything they could to support her education. After high school, Dianah pursued a diploma in water engineering. However, she quickly realized the course was mostly theoretical and lacked the hands-on experience she was yearning for. This left her feeling unfulfilled and uncertain about her career path.

One day, while scrolling through her phone, a message in a WhatsApp group caught her attention. It was about an opportunity with PropelA, a program offering apprenticeships in plumbing and electrical trades. What intrigued her most was the promise of practical work experience alongside academic learning. Without hesitation, she signed up for the plumbing course, knowing it was the right fit for her. "I love plumbing, and I knew it was the right fit for me. I felt at home pursuing it because now I would get the actual experience required in the industry," Dianah recalls.

As Dianah began her apprenticeship with PropelA at Central Plumbing Limited, she had some reservations. "At first, I didn't expect much from PropelA. I thought the company attachments might be a hoax. In Kenya, the norm is typically a three-month attachment after graduation, so the idea of two years of training within companies while still in school seemed too good to be true. I also doubted whether the mentors would actually be willing to teach me on-site," she admits.

But her experience was nothing short of transformative. PropelA exceeded her expectations, and she quickly began to grow both technically and practically. "I'm no longer fidgety, and I can now handle any plumbing work with confidence," she shares proudly.

Dianah's hard work and dedication came to fruition when she sat her final NITA exams. Despite feeling anxious before the exams, she put in the effort, revising past papers shared by her trainers and engaging in group discussions with her classmates. "I wasn't only supported at school, but also at the company," she says. "My supervisor allowed me to ask our welder questions about sheet metal, a topic I wasn't strong in, and gave me two weeks off to revise."

Her efforts paid off, and Dianah emerged as one of the top scorers in the final NITA Assessment, achieving First Class Honors. Reflecting on her success, she says, "I was prepared for the exams, but after the papers, I kept asking myself how I would perform." She never expected to do so well, but her resilience and commitment to learning shone through.

As she reflects on her journey, Dianah shares that she is excited about graduating. "It marks the end of a journey and the beginning of a life with more skills that can help shape my future."

Today, Dianah has been retained by Central Plumbing Limited as an employee, and her future is filled with promises. "The future is bright," she adds, and we have no doubt she will make it a reality.

Congratulations, Dianah!



A word from PropelA's First-Class Honor Achiever in the Electrical Trade

Milton Ngonda

Milton Ngoda, an electrical technician, reflects on his transformative journey with PropelA. Initially, he had limited practical experience in the electrical field, despite completing a year of theoretical training. Milton realized he needed more than classroom knowledge to succeed in the industry.

“Before joining PropelA, I enrolled in a three-year electrical diploma course. However, after two years, I had to drop out due to financial constraints as my parents could no longer afford my school fees,” Milton recalls. Despite this setback, he felt the course was too theory-based and didn’t offer the hands-on experience needed for a successful career. “After the first year, I sought a three-month attachment to gain practical experience, but it was clear that three months experience wasn’t enough for Kenyan employers,” he explains.

When the opportunity with PropelA arose, Milton was determined not to miss it. The program promised him real-world experience with a company. “PropelA matched me with Sawarn Singh & Sons Ltd, where I worked three weeks each month and spent less time in the classroom,” he says. “However, reaching that point required resilience and the ability to put my best foot forward.”

After two years of balancing work, school, and life’s challenges, Milton’s dedication paid off. He excelled in his NITA exams, earning First Class Honors and securing a place among the top 15 electrical apprentices to achieve this distinction. The road wasn’t easy—long, exhausting days on-site were followed by late-night study sessions.

“It wasn’t easy at first, but it became more manageable when the company gave me time off to study for my exams,” Milton recalls. His trainers were instrumental in guiding his exam preparation, ensuring the hands-on work he did on-site aligned with what was tested.

Milton’s journey began in the informal settlement of Lunga Lunga in Viwandani, Nairobi, where he faced numerous challenges. “I grew up as a typical slum boy,” he says. Despite these obstacles, Milton was determined to change his circumstances. “I’m excited to have come this far. Succeeding in a slum environment is not an easy feat, and my dream of changing my life is becoming a reality,” he shares. “I now have the skills and certification to work anywhere, and PropelA has equipped me to support myself and my family.”

In addition to his technical training, Milton benefited from PropelA’s emphasis on soft skills and mental wellness, which helped him navigate the pressures of his demanding journey. Milton has since been retained by Sawarn Singh & Sons Ltd as an employee, and his story is a powerful reminder of how hands-on, industry-aligned education can transform lives.

Congratulations, Milton, on your remarkable achievement! Your story is an inspiring testament to how resilience, dedication, and the right opportunities can lead to success.

Apprentices Testimonials



Joining the PropelA Dual Apprenticeship program was a lifechanging journey that empowered me as a woman in a male-dominated field. Initially, I was uncertain about my abilities in a technical field, but the program equipped me with technical and soft skills, boosting my confidence to work independently. Working in the school workshops and in the company has introduced me to skills I never imagined, like welding and sheet metal work, making me well-rounded in the plumbing industry. The life skills sessions and mental health support were invaluable in preparing me for real-world challenges. I hope to continue working in my company, Trident Plumbers Ltd while breaking barriers and inspiring others. - **Belinda Simani, Plumbing Apprentice, Trident Plumbers Ltd.**



"After high school, I couldn't afford to continue my education, but the PropelA dual apprenticeship program gave me the perfect opportunity to pursue my passion for plumbing. While I was initially nervous, the trainers were welcoming and helped me settle in quickly. More importantly, the mental health and life skills sessions prepared me to navigate the male-dominated plumbing industry with confidence especially in the construction sites where I interact with a lot of male colleagues. Thanks to PropelA, I am now a certified plumber, ready to take on real-world challenges. My advice to anyone considering PropelA: go for it and stay focused on your goals. In 10 years, I see myself as one of the top contractors in the plumbing industry, and PropelA has set me on the path to achieve that dream." - **Faith Njiru, Plumbing Apprentice, Atlas Plumbers & Builders Ltd.**



PropelA came at a time when I had just dropped out of university due to financial challenges. For me, it was the best opportunity I could ever come across due to the opportunity to go to school and work at the same time. It provided me with a platform to study at Don Bosco Boys under skilled trainers, while also allowing me to work at Patronics Services Ltd, where every supervisor on site I was assigned to was eager to answer my questions and teach me areas where I lacked expertise. Our mentor, Mr. Peter Karanja, went above and beyond and supported us by sending theoretical notes to broaden our knowledge. PropelA has effectively bridged the educational gap, and as a result, I am now a qualified technician capable of handling various electrical tasks. I am excited to continue working for my company and become a trusted expert in this field ' - **James Mbugua, Electrical Apprentice, Patronics Services Limited**

Glossary List:

DBBT - Don Bosco Boys Town

KNQA - Kenya National Qualifications Board

MCP - Master Craftsman (MCP) program

MOUs - Memorandum of Understanding

NITA - National Industrial Training Authority

NSC - National Skills Certificate

TOTS - Training of Trainers.

TVET - Technical and Vocational Education and Training

VET - Vocational Education and Training

LTD - Limited



PropelA Graduation

Class of 2024



PropelA Graduation
Class of 2024