

Mutobo Technical Secondary School: Empowering Through Skills

Nestled in the scenic hills of Gataraga Sector in Musanze District, Mutobo Technical Secondary School is not just an institution—it's a beacon of hope for many. Established in 2019, the school came to life through a collaboration between the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) and Rwanda Polytechnic, now the Rwanda Technical and Vocational Education and Training Board (RTB). Its mission? To equip both young people and ex-combatants with practical skills, offering them a chance to create a better future for themselves and their communities.

A School with a Purpose

The driving force behind Mutobo's creation was a recognition of the gaps that exist in reintegrating ex-combatants into society. The knowledge and basic skills many of them acquired through RDRC programs were simply not enough to secure sustainable employment or create opportunities. Thus, Mutobo was born—to provide meaningful vocational training that turns learners into job creators.

As of the 2024/2025 academic year, the school is home to 306 students. This diverse student body includes both beneficiaries of the RDRC and young people from nearby communities such as Gataraga and Busogo sectors in Musanze District. The school is open to anyone eager to learn a trade, regardless of background.

Programs That Shape Futures

Mutobo offers a wide array of vocational training programs designed to meet the needs of the job market. Students can choose from trades at different levels of expertise:

- **Level 3-5:**

- Agriculture
- Building Construction
- Fashion Design

Photo Suggestion: Students working in the agriculture fields, harvesting produce.

- **Level 1: Short Courses:**

- Electricity
- Masonry
- Welding
- Tailoring
- Hairdressing
- Plumbing
- Automobile Repair and Maintenance

Photo Suggestion: Welding students working on a practical assignment.

Leadership and Vision

The school's success is driven by a dedicated staff of 26 employees, 22 of whom are teachers, led by Principal TEGEREZA Justin. Together, they work towards a common goal – making Mutobo Technical Secondary School a center of excellence in vocational training, not just in Rwanda, but across the Great Lakes region and Africa.

Turning Vision into Achievements

Since its inception, Mutobo TSS has achieved notable success. In 2024, the school expanded its programs by adding new Level 3 trades in agriculture, building construction, and fashion design. These additions reflect the institution's commitment to staying relevant and providing opportunities in high-demand sectors.

One of the most exciting outcomes for the school is the success of its graduates. Students who complete short courses find themselves quickly absorbed into the workforce, securing jobs at reputable companies like REG Musanze, AQUA Virunga, and GASABO 3D.



Photo: Students on a field visit to Gasabo 3D's Mpazi rehousing project in Kigali.

The school's infrastructure has also grown. In 2024, RDRC beneficiaries built a school kitchen as part of their internship training. This hands-on experience is vital for the students, allowing them to practice their skills while contributing to the school's needs.



Photo Suggestion: students working on the kitchen construction project.

Sustaining Growth Through Agriculture

Mutobo is not just about technical trades; agriculture plays a big part too. In recent years, the school has invested in projects like greenhouse farming, producing red and

yellow peppers, and generating 350,000 RWF in just one season.



Photo : A vibrant greenhouse filled with red and yellow peppers.

Pig farming is another success story. With an initial investment in 10 pigs, the school earned 2.5 million RWF from sales in the 2023/2024 financial year. Currently, there are 11 pigs, expected to generate approximately 3 million RWF in the next year.



Photo: the pigs at the school farm.

Even rabbit farming has thrived. Starting with only nine rabbits, the project now boasts 93. The manure and sales have added both cash and value to the school's agricultural program.

Looking Ahead: Ambitious Goals for 2024/2025

Mutobo Technical Secondary School is on an ambitious path. In 2024/2025, the school aims to establish itself firmly as a center of excellence in vocational education. Part of this vision includes improving teaching quality through enhanced staff motivation and regular inspections. Mutobo also plans to expand its agricultural production by better utilizing its 3 hectares of land, with the goal of producing 18-25 tons of potatoes on one hectare alone.

Challenges on the Road to Success

Despite its accomplishments, Mutobo TSS faces significant challenges. The demand for vocational education is high, but the school struggles with limited classroom space and inadequate dormitory facilities. Additionally, the agricultural projects, while promising, have yet to reach the yield levels recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture. But Mutobo's leadership is determined to overcome these obstacles, working with partners such as Musanze District, RDRC, and RTB to secure the resources needed to improve the school's infrastructure.

The Way Forward: Partnerships and Resilience

Collaboration is key to Mutobo's continued growth. The school is working closely with partners like the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) to boost its agricultural output and enhance its vocational training programs. By leveraging every resource available, the school is committed to creating solutions that will empower its students to thrive in the competitive job market.

Mutobo Technical Secondary School stands as a testament to the power of education and training in transforming lives. From empowering former combatants to providing young people with valuable skills, the school is laying the foundation for a brighter future – one student at a time.



Photo: students engaged in hands-on training, symbolizing the school's vision of empowerment.

