



A beneficiary of Base Titanium- Tuk apprentice project. PHOTO: COURTESY

Mining firm boosts education in Kwale county

by Wahinya Henry

@PeopleDailyKe

Hilala Kassim is a resident of Wasini in Kwale county. Although he only attended school for a few years, he had a burning desire to offer the best education to his children.

But the large family size posed a challenge to his dream. “The challenge of raising education fees drove me into despair. Just when I was at the point of despair, help from a mining firm came,” he says.

Now he is a proud father of a Third Year student at Kenyatta University, the beneficiary of an education programme by Base Titanium. “We are grateful to company for the assistance they have given us so far. It would have been hard for us as parents to do this alone but now there is great hope in the future of our children,” he says.

The scholarship programme is part of a negotiated Community Development Management Plan between Base Titanium, the community and Kwale County Government.

Since 2014, the programme has seen over Sh150 million disbursed to beneficiaries, with plans for another Sh75 million investment in 2017-2018. Over 950 students from Kwale County in high schools, colleges and university have benefited from the mining firm’s bursary programme.

Pius Kassim, the Community Affairs Manager at Base Titanium said investing in Kwale youth is one of the key pillars in Base’s community programmes. “We have seen great impact in the three years since we began the programme in 2014,” he says.

The company runs other youth programmes tailor-made for Kwale county that include a three -year apprentice programme run in partnership with the Technical University of Mombasa and a three-month internship programme, both which the youth are embedded at the mining firm.

The Occupational Health and Safety Manager at Base Titanium, Paul Thompson says the apprentice is one of the company’s flagship programmes. “We are empowering communities at the Coast to venture out as a skilled and talented workforce,” he said.