



# CS Machogu Revitalises Discussion on Commercialising Research, Innovation



*A delegate shares his comments on issues facing tertiary education in the country during the workshop for Vice-Chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges at Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa County, on February 15, 2024*

**Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu encouraged public universities to commercialise research and innovations in a bid to diversify revenue streams and ease cash-flow woes.**

Mr Machogu underscored that the core function of universities is to develop innovations that when commercialised can generate

financial returns.

“This necessitates robust investments in strengthening our research infrastructure, incentivising faculty engagement, and fostering fruitful collaboration with international partners,” Mr Machogu said.

He spoke during a workshop for Vice Chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa on February 12.

The trend over the past five years shows there has been an increase in publications, patents, and innovations. However, the country

still falls short of realising the annual growth rate of 25percent.

The heads of institutions resolved to identify the areas that give them competitive advantage to inform setting up of centres of excellence.

Public universities are grappling with a mismatch of programmes and job market requirements as well as strategically positioning and branding in the international market.

Mr Machogu challenged the managers to devise new strategies in order to surmount the challenges and capitalise on opportunities.

“By prioritising research excellence, we can generate cutting-edge knowledge that addresses both local and global challenges, ultimately propelling Kenya towards its rightful place as a knowledge-based society,” he said.

The UF organised the five-day forum to highlight and recognise the steps made by the institution heads in finding strategic solutions to challenges impeding the realisation of the national government’s development agenda.

The event was themed ‘Developing Strategic, Focused, and Result-oriented University Leaders’.

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## Training Workshop for Vice-Chancellors

Vice-chancellors of public universities and principals of constituent colleges held a weeklong workshop at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa County from February 12 to 16. Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, who underscored the urgent need to tackle the major challenges afflicting higher education sector in the country, officially opened the event. The training workshop also drew CEOs of Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAS) of the Ministry of Education's State Department for Higher Education and Research and Ministry of Education officials.

The workshop created an opportunity for the participants to deliberate on strategies for enhancing leadership, governance, resource mobilisation, and digital transformation of our universities.

Below are the highlights in pictures:



*Stakeholders in the tertiary education sector convene for a training workshop at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa County on February 13, 2024*



*KUCPCS Chief Executive Officer Mercy Wahome shares her views during the Training Workshop for Vice-Chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges on February 13, 2024 at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa*



*Participants hold discussions during the seminar at Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa County, on February 13, 2024*



*State Department for Higher Education and Research Principal Secretary Dr. Beatrice Inyangala (second right) participates in the workshop for Vice-chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges at Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa, on Thursday, 15th February 2024*



# Universities Fund to Spearhead Establishment of Robust Data Infrastructure to Boost Enrolment

**The Universities Fund (UF) is in the process of setting up a data management system to provide a reliable data repository for the higher education sector.**

The system will collate data for all the government-funded programmes in Kenya and host the bio-data required to compute funding for government-sponsored students.

Speaking during a forum for Vice Chancellors and Principals of Constituent Colleges in Mombasa on February 12, Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu hinted at expanding the varsities data management system to manage data at the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) level.

Mr Machogu stated that the system will verify students' and institutions data through a secure online portal that will promote integrity of data.

The system will further be reinforced by a second layer of safety that will entail crosschecking with data from the



***Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari leads a discourse on resource mobilisation during the workshop for Vice-chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges Workshop at Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa, on February 15, 2024***

National Education Management Information System (NEMIS), Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) and the Commission for University Education (CUE).

The step comes at a time when the government expressed concern that a few students report to their designated institutions.

Mr Machogu called upon universities to collaborate with community leaders in mobilising secondary school graduates to enrol for tertiary education.

While efforts have been made to increase access to higher education, the actual enrolment rates fall short of expectations, posing a challenge to the country's educational goals.

## Agency Awarded ISO 9001:2015 Certification

**The University Fund (UF) was awarded the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 certification by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), underscoring its commitment to maintain quality management systems in its operations.**

The attainment of ISO 9001:2015 certification reaffirms its pledge to uphold the highest levels of quality and efficiency in the delivery of its mandate.

"This is to certify that the Quality Management System (QMS) implemented by the Universities Fund has been audited and found to comply with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System," read the certificate.

The certification, which is valid up to August 2026, calls for enhanced customer satisfaction, continual improvement and adherence to quality standards.

With the accolade, the agency will drive up transparency and accountability in service delivery, while promoting organisational efficiency, effectiveness and stakeholder satisfaction.

# Align Your Curriculum in Readiness for CBC Cohort, Machogu Tells Public University Vice Chancellors

## Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu urged heads of universities and colleges to revise their curriculum to align with the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC).

This call comes as the first cohort of CBC students is set to transition to universities in 2027 with the Cabinet Secretary emphasising the importance of timely realignment of higher education curriculums.

"Your universities should now start repositioning themselves for the arrival of CBC graduates from senior school in a few years," he told vice chancellors of public universities and principals of constituent colleges at a workshop in Mombasa.

The five-day training workshop for Vice Chancellors from the 42 Public Universities was themed "Developing Strategic, Focused, and Result-oriented University Leaders" and aligns with the country's national education development goals.

Mr. Machogu emphasised the need for university administrators to address challenges facing institutions and seek strategic solutions that are in tandem with national development goals.

Good leadership, he said, fosters spirited drive towards the provision of quality and relevant education for all Kenyans.

"Such leaders can foster a culture of excellence, innovation, and competitiveness in our higher education institutions," he said.

At the same time, Mr. Machogu defended the new funding model for higher education, saying it seeks to address the financing challenges experienced by universities.

"You may recall that one of the most disturbing issues that I was confronted with upon being appointed to office was the spiraling pending bills for universities, which stood at Ksh 60.1 billion," stated the CS who was flanked by said Mr Machogu, who was joined by State Department for Higher Education



**Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu speaks during the training workshop for Vice-chancellors of Public Universities and Principals of Constituent Colleges on February 12, 2024 at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa County**

and Research Principal Secretary Beatrice Inyangala among other senior education officials.

As a result, he noted the government had taken deliberate and robust steps to resuscitate institutions of higher learning from the financial and administrative turmoil they had sunk into.

"It is, therefore, encouraging to note that President William Ruto moved fast to launch the Higher Education Funding Model on May 31, 2023, which was implemented in September last year to all first year students with the aim correcting the financial health of universities," he noted.

The Student-Centred Funding Model ensures equity where beneficiaries are awarded loans, scholarships or both based on their categorisation in five bands depending on their level of need and affirmative action (people with disability, orphans, and those from marginalised areas).

So far, the government has disbursed Ksh. 23.6 billion for loans and scholarships to first year students.

Implementation of the new funding framework kicked off at the start of

this financial year where financing shifted from block funding for the institutions to apportioning to individual students according to their levels of need.

The new model has applied to the students who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in 2022, with the second benefitting cohort being that of 2023.

Under the model, the Universities Fund disburses funds directly to individual universities for the successful candidates to cover their tuition fees.

The Ministry has disbursed Ksh. 17.05 billion for capitation to universities for the second, third and fourth year students under the Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) for 356,103 continuing students.

Mr Machogu urged the universities to utilise resources prudently by ensuring that all institutional functions run efficiently.

Machogu also told universities to ensure that the fees charged for various programmes remains as declared in their respective memorandum of understanding with the Government.