



# UF NEWS

A Newsletter of The Universities Fund

## UF Strategic Plan Review Vital in Enhancing Achievement of Bottom-up Agenda

**The Universities Fund (UF) embarked on a review of its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan to align it with the national government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.**

This move aims to position UF as a key player in advancing national development goals while catering to the evolving higher education landscape.

Recognising the importance of

inclusive decision-making, UF undertook an unprecedented move of involving the entire staff in the process. Hence, the employees were able to voice their perspectives about the future.

The new 2023-2026 strategic plan will incorporate the spirit of the New Higher Education Funding Model rolled out in May this year by President William Ruto.

The model, which places emphasis on individual funding of students as opposed to block funding of universities, will enhance access to quality education for all students.

UF Chief Executive Officer

Geoffrey Monari in the recent past challenged universities to diversify their revenue sources by tapping into ventures such as consultancies and partnerships with industries.

Mr Monari underscored that such partnerships will ensure the institutions provide programmes that are responsive to market demands, thereby increasing job opportunities for students.

The model further seeks to strengthen the autonomy of public and private universities to enable them promote research and innovations amid a collective debt of Sh61 billion.

## Monari Highlights Milestones, Pledges to Improve Staff Productivity at End-of-Year Celebration

**The Universities Fund (UF) staff came together on November 24, 2023 for their highly anticipated end of the year toast.**

In a dazzling display of comradeship, employees convened at a Nairobi hotel to reflect on the milestones, challenges and lessons learnt.

The event helped the organisation to recognise the collective efforts that defined UF's journey throughout the year.



**Universities Fund Board and secretariat members during the end of the year celebration at a Nairobi hotel in November 2023**

Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari applauded the employees' commitment and hard work that shaped the organisation's success.

Mr Monari underscored the agency's achievements among them rollout of the New Higher Education Funding Model, organising the first biennial conference, and operationalising the Fund.

In addition to improving performance-contracting rating from 2.937 to 2.6554 against a target of 2.7537, Mr Monari said they reviewed the organisation structure and human resource instruments and established a staff provident scheme.

Other achievements include ISO certification, acquisition of an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and office relocation to Nairobi Central Business District to improve accessibility for

customers.

He challenged staff to improve resource mobilisation and innovation efforts to support the quality of higher education.

Next year, Mr Monari disclosed that the agency will introduce a car loan and mortgage scheme, recruit more staff and set up an award system to boost employee morale and productivity.



**UF CEO Geoffrey Monari awards members of the Planning Team for improving the organisation's performance contract rating**

## Eswatini Delegation Benchmarks on Innovative Financing of Higher Education

A delegation from Eswatini toured the Universities Fund (UF) to learn about best practices and innovative ways of financing higher education institutions.

During the meeting at UF's offices in Nairobi on November 23, 2023, UF Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari enlightened the Pre-Service Tertiary Education and Training Loans Board team about the challenges affecting universities in Kenya.

Mr Monari informed the delegation on why the government moved from the differentiated unit cost (DUC) model to the Higher Education Funding Model, which was unveiled early this year.



**Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari (left) with the Board Chair of Eswatini's Pre-Service Tertiary Education and Training Loans Board**

Under the new model, students will be funded based on their levels of need, with those enrolled in public universities being eligible for government scholarships and loans while those in private

institutions only qualifying for loans.

Further, universities will no longer receive block funding, a move that will ultimately enable them manage the institutions better.

# Universities Fund Joins National Efforts to Promote Environmental Conservation

**Staff of the Universities Fund (UF) planted 200 tree seedlings at Muumandu Forest in Machakos County as part of national measures of promoting reforestation and mitigating effects of climate change.**

The UF alongside other organisations and local community members took part in the National Tree Planting Day on November 13, 2023.

President William Ruto launched the event to emphasise the government's commitment to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 to increase the country's forest cover and restore degraded landscapes.

President Ruto highlighted the effects wrought by climate change, which have adversely affected key sectors such as health and infrastructure and disrupted local and international supply chains.

The initiative seeks to address issues of unpredictable rainfall patterns, floods and drought, as well as disease outbreaks.



***Universities Fund and Kenya Forest Service in a joint tree planting exercise in Machakos during the National Tree Planting Day on November 13, 2023***



***Universities Fund holds a tree planting exercise in Machakos County on November 13, 2023***



***Employees plant a tree seedling during a conservation drive in Machakos County on November 13, 2023***



***Staff cover a tree seedling with soil during the National Tree Planting Day in Machakos on November 13, 2023***



***Universities Fund employees participate in a tree planting exercise in Machakos County on November 13, 2023. At least 200 tree seedlings were planted.***