



# UF NEWS

A Newsletter of The Universities Fund

## Universities Fund Participates in Standard Chartered Marathon to Boost Tree-planting Drive

**The Universities Fund (UF) participated in the 20th edition of the Standard Chartered Nairobi Marathon, highlighting the**

**agency's commitment to strengthen social cohesion.**

The event, which took place on October 29, 2023, enabled the agency to interact with the community as part of its corporate

social responsibility.

The marathon attracted 22,000 participants in the five categories – wheelchair, 42km marathon, 21km half marathon, 10 km and 5km.

The UF and other organisers rallied participants behind the campaign to plant two million trees in the next five years to safeguard the environment and combat climate change.

The annual fete is hinged on the pillars of 'entrepreneurship, employability and education', providing budding athletes with opportunities to display their talents and boost domestic tourism.

Standard Chartered Bank Chief Operating Officer and chairman of the event's Organising Committee Peter Gitau said the event lived up to global standards.

The competition started at 5.45am along the Southern Bypass and terminated at Uhuru Gardens.



*Universities Fund team during the Standard Chartered Marathon in Nairobi on October 29, 2023*

## Government Allocates Sh51 billion to Finance University, College Students

**The government has set aside Sh51 billion to facilitate learning of university and college students amid increase in the number of loans and scholarship applications.**

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said the number of students seeking financial assistance from the government has increased following the extension of application deadline from September 7 to October 7.

During a media brief at Jogoo

House in Nairobi on October 5, 2023, Hon Machogu revealed that as at October 4 238,714 students out of the 269,112 students placed to universities and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions by

Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) had submitted applications.

This means that only 30,398 students – 3,608 in universities and 26,790 in TVETS – admitted in the 2023/2024 academic year were yet to apply.

“The government wishes to assure students, parents, guardians and the higher education institutions that all efforts are being made to ensure that the loans and scholarships are released to applicants on time to facilitate their learning activities,” he said.

Hon Machogu said that 121,367 of the 140,147 students admitted to universities have commenced learning, underscoring that the institutions have been instructed not to send away students who do not have school fees.

He called on Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) to speed up processing of scholarships and bursaries to avoid disrupting learning.

Mr Machogu added that a further Sh10.5 billion has been released for tuition and upkeep loans to 278,669 continuing students – 206,123 in universities and 72,546 in colleges – under the old funding model.

Mr Machogu highlighted that in September this year Sh8.4 billion was disbursed as capitation to public university students, Sh441 million to those in private universities and Sh1.3 billion to TVET trainees.

“Each of the benefitting



**Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu addresses a past event at the Kenya School of Government in Nairobi**

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student in university receives a minimum loan of Sh37,000 and a maximum of Sh60,000. On the other hand, each successful TVET trainee is awarded an average of Sh40,000 per annum,” he said.

Mr Machogu appealed to eligible students to apply for financial assistance.

Under the new funding model, students placed to public universities and colleges by KUCCPS are eligible for loans and scholarships while those in private institutions only qualify for HELB loans.

Scholarships and loans are apportioned to students based on four categories of need determined by a means-testing formula: extremely vulnerable, vulnerable, needy and less needy.

# UF Celebrates Customer Service Week amid Calls for Excellence

**The Universities Fund (UF) has expressed its commitment to enhance excellence and boost customer experience as it marked the annual Customer Service Week.**

Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari urged staff to embrace a proactive mindset and be prepared to

tackle emerging challenges in the higher education sector.

“Anticipate new challenges as we strive to excel, becoming a premier institution in both the public and private sectors,” he said during the kick-off meeting at UF offices in Nairobi on October 2, 2023.

During the week-long event held from October 2-6, 2023, the funding agency gifted clients who actively engaged with it on social media. The

theme was ‘Team Service’.

Mr Monari said that an online survey conducted on customers from June 26-31, 2023 revealed that the organisation’s customer satisfaction rate stands at 78.5 percent.

He underscored that the organisation will strive to enhance customer experience while fostering a culture of proactivity.



*UF Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari gifts a client during the Customer Service Week at their Nairobi office on October 6, 2023*





***Universities Fund staff wrap up Customer Service Week at their Hazina Trade Centre office in Nairobi on October 6, 2023.***



***UF Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari (left) celebrates with awardees (centre) at the end of the Customer Service Week at their office in Nairobi, on October 6, 2023.***