



UF Emerges Second Place at Auditors' Gala



UF acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi (third from left) celebrates the feting of the Fund during the 2025 Internal Audit and Risk Award in Nairobi on April 11, 2025.

The Universities Fund was feted for exemplary performance in internal audit, governance, risk management and controls.

The Fund was ranked the first runner-up in the Overall Risk Function of the Year category, highlighting the Fund's commitment to excellence in enterprise risk management and internal controls.

The Second Internal Audit and Risk Awards Gala was hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors Kenya in collaboration with Public Sector Accounting Standards Board in Nairobi.

The awards also recognise innovations in the adoption of Global Internal Audit Standards as stipulated in the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF).

The overall categories are Internal Audit

Function, Risk Management Function and Board Audit Committee of the Year. The event targets both government agencies and private sector.

The commendation came about through efforts of the Internal Audit Department, which submitted the Fund's documentation for evaluation.

Working collaboratively with the Risk Champions Committee, the department showcased the Fund's strategic approach to risk identification, mitigation and management.

The recognition affirmed the Fund's strong focus on transparency, accountability, and sound governance principles.

The award also places Universities Fund among the top-performing agencies in risk management, inspiring renewed commitment to sustaining higher standards in institutional performance.



Universities Fund staff members display their trophy during the 2025 Internal Audit and Risk Award in Nairobi on April 11, 2025.

Universities Fund Staff Undergo Training on PPP



Employees of Universities Fund and The National Treasury's Public-Private Partnerships Directorate during a capacity building session in Naivasha on March 20, 2025.

Universities Fund staff successfully underwent training on public-private partnerships (PPPs) that will support identification, structuring and implementation of projects.

The National Treasury's Public-Private Partnerships Directorate trained UF on the legal, financial, and operational frameworks governing PPPs and how to leverage high-impact projects to address infrastructure and service delivery gaps in the sector.

The workshop, which took place from March 17-21 in Naivasha, covered aspects such as legal frameworks, project identification, feasibility studies, contract negotiations, and risk allocation.

The sessions provided theoretical knowledge and practical insights into PPP implementation.

“Public-private partnerships have increasingly become a preferred model for delivering public infrastructure and services, especially in environments with constrained government resources,” a report on the training indicated.

During the capacity building exercise, the staff were taken through the application of Build-Operate-Transfer, Build-Own-Operate, and Concessions models.

They further explored diverse financing

models including project finance, blended financing, and donor-supported PPPs.

The training comes at a critical time when universities are encouraged to explore alternative income generating streams to tackle the ballooning debt that has now surpassed Sh70 billion.

During the Second Biennial Universities Funding Conference in February this year, experts urged vice-chancellors to leverage PPPs for cost-sharing and boosting infrastructure.

Through partnerships, vice-chancellors heard, universities will have more resources for improving teaching quality, research and innovation.

After the training, key recommendations were made, among them strengthening of internal expertise in PPP project structuring and financing modelling.

“By embracing PPPs, UF has the opportunity to enhance higher education infrastructure and service delivery,” the document added.

The UF team, which was led by acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi, was advised to improve stakeholder engagement through continuous interaction with State agencies, private sector, and financial institutions.

Team-Building: Fostering a Sense of Community

It is only through fostering a sense of community within and outside the workplace that we can thrive and give our best.

Our recent team-building exercise - April 25 and 26 - offered a perfect reminder of this, as we embarked on an exhilarating adventure to Mt Longonot and Hell's Gate National Park.

The day began with a challenging hike up Mt Longonot, a test of both physical endurance and team spirit.

Although the climb was tough, every step was filled with encouragement, laughter, and determination.

Together, we pushed through the steep trails and rocky terrain, ultimately reaching the peak - Kilele Ngamia.



Staff trek Mt Longonot on April 25 2025.

It was a powerful moment of achievement that reminded us all that with resilience, determination, and support from one another, no summit is too high.

Our journey continued at Hell's Gate National Park, where we explored the breathtaking landscapes and bonded even further.

Throughout the day, we participated in team-building sessions led by professional coaches who emphasised key lessons: without



UF staff at Oloonongot Crater Point, Mt Longonot, during a team-building activity on April 25, 2025.

teamwork, progress is impossible, and a team is only as strong as its weakest link.

These insights resonated deeply as we reflected on our climb and the way we had rallied together to overcome obstacles.

Beyond the physical challenges, the experience was a wonderful opportunity to unwind, recharge, and connect with colleagues.

It was a reminder that investing time in strengthening our bonds not only enhances our work environment but also prepares us to tackle future challenges with renewed vigour.



UF CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi participates in a team-building exercise at Mt Longonot.

Students File Appeals over Funding Allocation

Students filed appeals against scholarship and loan allocations as the government moves to streamline funding of university education.

University students had 21 days from April 1 to submit their appeals through the newly established Scholarship and Loans Appeal Mechanism portal.

The system was established by Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board for aggrieved students to appeal their financial aid awarded under the Variable Scholarship Loan Funding Model.

“HELB and Trustees of the Universities Fund hereby notify students, the public, and all stakeholders that abbreviated public participation was carried out within the stipulated 14 days on the appeals mechanism,” the joint statement read.

The move followed a directive by the Court of Appeal on March 26 that the implementation of the Variable Scholarship Loan Funding Model would only continue on condition that the agencies set up, publicise and implement an appeals mechanism within two weeks.

Consequently, the two agencies set up the system and rolled out stakeholder engagement meetings to collect comments on



Students engage in a public discussion on the new funding model in Embu on April 5, 2025.

implementation of the funding model.

The exercise was conducted from April 1 - 4 across various institutions in 12 regions.

Students, university administrators and members of the public submitted their feedback through mail, SMS, physical regional meetings, drop-offs, and via the Higher Education Financing Portal at www.hef.co.ke.

“After conducting successful public participation and reviewing stakeholder feedback, the corporations have enhanced the Scholarship and Loans Appeal Mechanism,” the statement added.

The development was also orchestrated by the Court of Appeal’s decision to suspend the High Court ruling that declared the model unconstitutional.

The model was established by President William Ruto in May 2023 to boost access to equitable and affordable higher education by all students.

Under the model, students placed to public universities by KUCCPS were eligible for government scholarships and HELB loans, with the awarding being pegged on a student’s financial need.

The need was determined by a means-testing tool that stakeholders deemed ineffective, calling for its scrapping.

The system relied on factors such as academic background, family income, and affirmative action.



Stakeholders discuss the Variable Scholarship Loan Funding Model on April 5, 2025.