



September 2026

UF News

Hazina Trade Centre, 5th Floor
Monrovia Street, Nairobi

info@universitiesfund.go.ke



+254 746 737 935

Milestone for Universities Fund as Acting CEO Joins Continental Body

Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi has been nominated to serve on the Association of African Higher Education Financing Agencies (AAHEFA) General Council.

The AAHEFA President, Dr John Machayi, announced the nomination, saying the agency recognised Dr Wanyonyi's extensive experience and contributions to the higher education

financing sector, particularly in strategic leadership, policy development, institutional planning and stakeholder engagement.

The AAHEFA unites national student loan boards across Africa to make education accessible for every deserving student.

Story on Page 2

We are confident that your experience, professional expertise and institutional perspective will make a valuable contribution to the work of the General Council and to the achievement of AAHEFA's strategic objectives.

Dr John Machayi
AAHEFA President

Parliament Concludes Public Participation on Key Education Reform Bills

The National Assembly has concluded nationwide public participation forums on crucial education bills that target institutional change across the tertiary and basic education sectors in the country.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education, led by Tinderet MP Julius Melly, conducted stakeholder engagement forums across the 47 regional governments, collecting views on six reform bills – key among them the Tertiary Education, Placement and Funding (TEPF) Bill, 2026 – after Parliament extended the deadline to 2nd October 2026.

The public participation exercise was initially scheduled to run from 14-25 September 2026 across 31 counties, but the Committee added 16 counties to the programme.



Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology



Location

Konza Technopolis,
Machakos County



Focus

Advanced science,
engineering and technology.



Award

Independent University Charter.



The CUE describes accreditation in Kenya as confirmation, through a charter, that a university meets the required standards of academic excellence. As a postgraduate research institution, Kenya-AIST focuses on developing highly skilled researchers, innovators and engineers.

Story on Page 4

NEWS FOCUS

Universities Fund Marks Milestone as Acting CEO Joins Continental Council



Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi (centre) is congratulated by Grants Management Deputy Director Dr Richard Ngali (left) and Elizabeth Nzioki, Personal Assistant to the CEO, after his appointment to AAHEFA General Council on 23 September 2026.

Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi has been nominated to serve on the Association of African Higher Education Financing Agencies (AAHEFA) General Council.

The AAHEFA President, Dr John Machayi, announced the nomination, saying it recognised Dr Wanyonyi's extensive experience and contributions to the higher education financing sector, particularly in strategic leadership, policy development, institutional planning, resource mobilisation and stakeholder engagement.

"In your current capacity as the Chief Executive Officer/Director General of the Universities Fund, you provide strategic leadership to an institution with a central role in supporting access to and financing of higher education in Kenya," Dr Machayi said in the nomination letter dated 23 September 2026.

He added: "Your professional experience and understanding of higher education financing systems will provide valuable insight to the General Council as the Association strengthens cooperation among higher education financing agencies across Africa."

Dr Wanyonyi's participation is expected to contribute to discussions on sustainable financing mechanisms, institutional strengthening, policy development, knowledge exchange and innovative approaches to higher education financing.

By building sustainable financing models that turn ambition into achievement, the continental agency unites national student loan boards across the continent to make higher education accessible for every deserving student.

The AAHEFA General Council provides strategic direction and guidance to the Association, fostering collaboration among member institutions and facilitating the exchange of experiences and good practices among higher education financing agencies across the continent.

More importantly, the Association has welcomed Universities Fund as a member in recognition of its extensive experience and contributions to the higher education financing sector.

The milestone highlights the Fund's leadership in strategic direction, policy development, resource mobilisation and stakeholder engagement.

"We are confident that your experience, professional expertise and institutional perspective will make a valuable contribution to the work of the General Council and to the achievement of AAHEFA's strategic objectives," Dr Machayi added.

The nomination strengthens Universities Fund's participation in continental conversations on higher education financing and provides an avenue for sharing Kenya's experiences while learning from financing agencies across Africa.

The association builds sustainable financing models that turn ambition into achievement. It was formed to share information and experiences on common matters and to increase students' access to higher education within and outside Africa.

The Association establishes a platform for capacity building for its members, solicits funds for common development projects and facilitates the exchange of skills, information and expertise between members and other organisations related to higher education.



PICTURE SPEAK



Universities Fund Board of Trustees, led by Chairman Prof Karuti Nanyingi (backrow, second-right), conclude the Customer Service Week on a sweet note on 10 October 2026 under the theme was ‘Extra Mile: Transforming Public Service through Customer Service Excellence’.



Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi congratulates students during the Alupe University Matriculation Ceremony on 5 September 2026.



Secondary school students seek information on scholarships at the Universities Fund exhibition stand during the Nairobi International Trade Fair at Jamhuri Park, Nairobi, on 30 September 2026.



Universities Fund wraps up the Customer Service Week on 5 October 2026 led by Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi. The theme was ‘Extra Mile: Transforming Public Service through Customer Service Excellence’.

NEWS FOCUS

Stakeholders Enter Crucial Phase as MPs Wrap Up Public Hearings on Education Reform Bills



Members of Parliament deliberate during a previous sitting.

Continued from page 1

The other bills under consideration are the Basic Education Bill, 2026; Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026; Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, 2026; Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Stakeholders – who included parents, teachers, education officials, and trade union representatives – scrutinised the bills that seek to reshape both tertiary and basic education systems.

The proposals intend to remodel tertiary education funding and placement, teacher training, national assessments, qualifications and curriculum development.

The Tertiary Education Placement and Funding (TEPF) Bill proposes the merger of the Universities Fund and the Higher Education Loans Board

(HELB) and the establishment of a Tertiary Education Funding Authority to take over their functions. It also seeks to establish a new framework for financing and placing students in universities and TVET institutions.

Further, the tentative legislation also recommends a shift from the Student-Centred Funding Model, under which public university students receive government scholarships, to an all-loan funding system.

Consequently, students would access loans to finance their education and repay them after completing their studies, easing the direct financial burden on parents. According to the Committee, stakeholders have proposed scrapping interest on student loans, while the Bill proposes an interest rate of four per cent.

Driven by the need to meet prevailing financial and market demands, student evaluations will be governed by a completely refreshed legal structure if the

Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill passes into law.

Concurrently, educator standards are the focus of the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, which seeks to oversee both initial teacher college learning and continuous on-the-job training.

Public participation is a constitutional requirement in Kenya's law-making process. Citizens are entitled to have a say before Parliament passes legislation that affects them.

Over roughly three weeks, the Committee travelled across the counties to receive oral presentations and written memoranda. By visiting all 47 counties, the Committee has met the expectation that views are gathered from across the country, not only from Nairobi.

The Committee will retreat to consider every submission received from the 47 counties. The team will thereafter review the proposed bills and identify provisions that need to change in light of what stakeholders said. Where the submissions justify it, the Committee will propose amendments before the bills advance.

The Committee will prepare a report with its findings and recommendations for the National Assembly. Parliament will then proceed with the remaining legislative stages, including debate and voting. Only after these stages can the bills move toward becoming law.



PARTNERSHIPS

Ministry of Education, KCB Bank Partnership to Drive Sustainable Transformation of Universities



Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala (centre-left) alongside KCB Bank Kenya Managing Director Annastacia Kimtai sign a partnership on 3 September 2026 to support higher education institutions to reduce their environmental footprint.

KCB Bank Kenya has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Department for Higher Education and Research to support the development of more sustainable and resilient universities nationwide.

The partnership, effected on 3 September 2026, will help higher education institutions adopt environmentally friendly solutions that reduce operating costs, improve efficiency and

strengthen resilience.

Proposed solutions include solar power, clean cooking technologies, waste management, biogas systems, solar water heating and rainwater harvesting.

Through the collaboration, KCB Bank Kenya aims to help universities reduce their environmental footprint while creating healthier, more sustainable learning environments for students, staff and surrounding communities.

KCB Bank Kenya Managing Director Annastacia Kimtai said the collaboration demonstrates the role sustainable finance can play in driving broader social and economic transformation.

Ms Kimtai said the collaboration would support practical interventions that enable institutions to lower operational expenses, reduce environmental



The collaboration would support practical interventions that enable institutions to lower operational expenses, reduce environmental impact and build learning facilities that can serve future generations.



Annastacia Kimtai
Managing Director, KCB
Bank Kenya

impact and build learning facilities that can serve future generations. “Access to appropriate financing remains one of the barriers to the clean-energy transition for learning institutions, and KCB is prepared to use its financial expertise and partnerships to help address that gap,” Ms Kimtai said.

The initiative forms part of growing efforts to integrate sustainability into Kenya’s higher education sector, with universities increasingly seeking solutions that can improve resource efficiency while supporting long-term environmental and financial resilience.



KCB Bank Kenya aims to help universities reduce their environmental footprint while creating healthier, more sustainable learning environments for students, staff and surrounding communities.



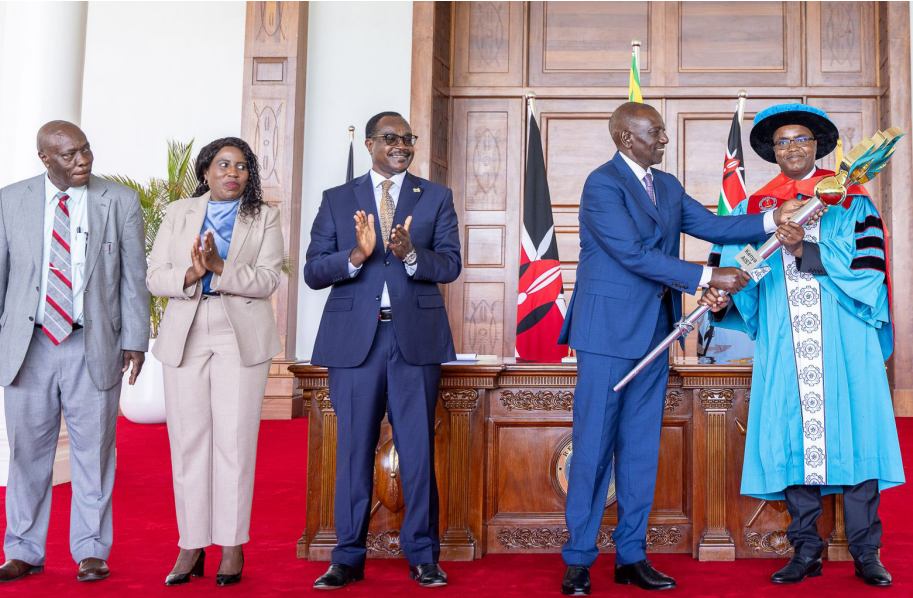
The partnership demonstrates the role sustainable finance can play in driving broader social and economic transformation.



UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

UF News

Inside Kenya's Newly Chartered Advanced Science Institute



AT A GLANCE



Established

2022



Location

Konza Technopolis,
Machakos County



Focus

Advanced science,
engineering and
technology.



Award

Independent
University Charter.

President William Ruto hands over the instruments of power to Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST) Council Chairman Prof Emmanuel Mutisya during the institution's charter award ceremony at State House, Nairobi, on 14 May 2026.

The Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST) is a specialised public postgraduate institution located at Konza Technopolis in Machakos County.

The institution was established as a legal entity in 2022, exclusively dedicated to postgraduate education and research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It initially operated as a constituent college of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.



Building Kenya's capacity for scientific and technological innovation

Kenya-AIST is modelled on the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), with support through a partnership between the governments of Kenya and South Korea.

Established as an institution of strategic national importance, Kenya-AIST was awarded its independent University Charter by President William Ruto on 14th May 2026. This marked its transition from its initial establishment as a constituent college.

Specialised Postgraduate Training

Unlike a conventional university offering a broad range of undergraduate courses, Kenya-AIST serves as an academic anchor for Kenya's "Silicon Savannah", connecting advanced education and research with



Positioned at the heart of Kenya's Silicon Savannah, Kenya-AIST is helping shape the future of science, technology and innovation."

the country's ambitions for technological innovation.

The institute's postgraduate programmes are structured at master's and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) levels.

The seven major areas are: Civil and Environmental Engineering; Electrical and Electronic Engineering; ICT Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Nuclear Engineering; Chemical Engineering; and Agricultural Biotechnology.

