



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

MEASURES TO ENSURE 100% STUDENT APPLICATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS FOR THE 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Ministry of Education launched the exercise of student application for scholarships and loans to universities and TVET institutions on July 31st, 2023.

The Ministry is impressed at the rising number of students applying for loans and scholarships under the new funding model for students expected to join higher learning institutions in the 2023/2024 academic year.

As of 5th September 2023, a total of 156,532 students had applied for both Universities Fund scholarships and Higher Education Loans Board loans. This translates to 60% of the students placed by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) based on the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination.

This means that 40% of the potential total applicants of 265,000 students have yet to apply for the scholarships and loans. To ensure all eligible students have adequate time to apply, and to guarantee that none of them is left behind, I wish to direct as follows:

1. The application period for loans and scholarships that was initially scheduled to lapse on September 7, 2023 has now been extended to October 7, 2023.
2. As per the Cabinet directive on 29th August 2023, the Ministry of Education has waived the requirement of a National Identity Card for the students who have not attained the age of 18 years to allow them to apply for Loans. The Ministry has accordingly directed the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) to review its portal to ensure all the 2,000 students yet to attain the age of 18 to apply for HELB loans .
3. The Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board have been directed to put in place measures to commence immediate and speedy processing of scholarships and bursaries for all students who have already applied. Thereafter, the agencies will ensure the processing and disbursement exercise of scholarships and loans is conducted on a continuing basis.
4. Universities have been directed to provide enough lead time for first year students to report to their institutions to ensure none is locked out of joining campus. Where universities have already commenced admission of First Years, measures must be in place to ensure students are not turned away for failure to pay school fees as the Government processes their funds applications.
5. The Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board must station their staff at all Huduma Centres countrywide to assist students in need of assistance regarding the application process for scholarships and loans.

In the meantime, I wish to assure the country that no student will miss to join university because of failure to pay fees. Out of the 2022 KCSE graduates placed by KUCCPS, students categorised as vulnerable and extremely needy will get full Government funding through Scholarships and Loans.

The categorisation will be realised through a reliable scientific method (Means Testing Instrument - MTI), used to determine the student's level of financial need, to ensure each of them is supported adequately.

I urge all the eligible students to make formal applications for scholarships and loans through Higher Education Financing portal (www.hef.co.ke).

Most importantly, I urge students to ensure they stick to the set timelines to allow for speedy processing of scholarships and bursaries since most universities are preparing to admit First Year students in September.



**HON. EZEKIEL MACHOGU, CBS
CABINET SECRETARY,
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