

Courses application, revision set to end in June, CS Ezekiel Machogu announces

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu launched the KUCCPS placement portal to allow 2022 KCSE candidates to select their courses of choice and institutions they wish to join.

Speaking during the opening of the portal for the 2022/2023 placement cycle at the University of Nairobi on May 17, Hon. Machogu said the 869,782 candidates will be admitted to universities and colleges based on merit and choice. He directed the Placement agency to publish information on the cost of programmes offered in the higher learning institutions to enable students to make informed decisions.



Students also have a chance to revise their courses based on their performance ahead of the placement,

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu officiates the opening of the KUCCPS student portal for selection of courses at the University of Nairobi on May 17, 2023.

ahead of their admissions in September.

"I have made this directive after getting satisfied that the Placement Service has met the conditions of the new model, having verified and published all the fees details of all programmes in their website," he said.

The CS announced that 173,127 candidates who attained the minimum university entry grade of C+ will be admitted to degree programmes while the rest will join TVET institutions.

To ensure 100 percent enrolment, the CS directed the agency to mount robust awareness campaigns and partner with Huduma Centres across the country to assist students to revise their choices. He announced 280 higher learning institutions submitted details of various programmes ranging from degree, diploma, craft certificate to artisan courses. They include 39 public universities, 33 private universities, three secondary teachers training colleges and 205 public TVET colleges.

The CS disclosed that all learning institutions had vacancies to accommodate all the applicants. Hon. Machogu said students admitted to public institutions will be eligible to receive both scholarships and loans while those in private entities will only qualify for Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) loans.

The Government will henceforth fund individual students directly unlike the current situation where funding was channelled through universities, he said. "After the placement, students will be expected to contact their respective institutions for joining instructions and guidance on how to apply for the Government scholarships and loans, which will be issued in accordance with the (new) funding model," the CS advised.

869,782
candidates
Universities &
Colleges

173,127
Candidates
Degree programmes

696,655
Candidates
TVET institutions

280
higher learning
institutions

Degree, Diploma, Craft
certificate to Artisan courses

39
Public universities

33
Private universities

3
Secondary teachers
training colleges

205
Public TVET colleges

Under the new funding model, the Government has delinked student placement from funding. He underscored that the government plans to catalyse its transformative agenda by setting up of the Open University of Kenya to improve access to higher education and relevant skills for youth.

PICTORIAL

Following the opening of the Placement Portal, KUCCPS mounted several activities to sensitise students, and parents alike about career selection and process of application for placement to colleges and universities. Below are some of the key highlights, captured through the camera lens.



KUCCPS CEO Dr Mercy Wahome welcomes Education Cabinet Secretary, Ezekiel Machogu to the opening of Placement Portal at the University of Nairobi.



KUCCPS CEO Dr Mercy Wahome presents a trophy to a teacher during the Kirinyaga University Career Day and Mathematics Contest that was held to sensitise students and parents on career selection and courses application process.



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu joins Santa Maria Girls Secondary School students in celebration during the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival at Shimo La Tewa Secondary School in Shanzu, Mombasa County.



From left: Ministry of Education Director General Elyas Abdi, Coast Regional Director of Education Mr Chebet Luka and Coast Regional Education Quality Assurance and Standards Officer enjoy proceedings of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival at Shimo La Tewa Secondary School in Shanzu, Mombasa County.



KUCCPS officers following the proceedings of the 61st Edition of Kenya National Drama and Film Festival held at Shimo La Tewa Secondary School in Shanzu, Mombasa County.

KUCCPS, funding agencies demystify new financing model

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) hosted 30 journalists for a sensitisation workshop on the new universities funding model.

The event was also attended by senior officials of the Higher Education Loans Board and Universities Fund, including chief executive officer Geoffrey Monari.

KUCCPS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mercy Wahome argued that the model would help the government to account for all students and ensure candidates transition from secondary to tertiary education.

Dr Wahome said KUCCPS was keen to provide journalists with a better understanding of the scheme, which has delinked students' funding from placement.

The 30 reporters and editors were drawn from Nakuru, Nairobi, Nyeri, Kakamega and Kisumu counties covering education matters across print, TV and radio platforms. Dr Wahome noted the agency plans to collaborate with the media to capture students' feedback through diverse ways such as testimonials and feature stories. She called for the need for partnerships, recognising the media's role in enhancing public awareness about the agency's mandate.

Dr Wahome said the three agencies contributed



KUCCPS CEO Dr Mercy Wahome addresses students at Turkana University on career selection and process of application for placement to colleges and universities.



KUCCPS Director of Placement, Dr John Oluoch at a media workshop organised to sensitise journalists about the new higher education funding model.



Journalists at a past KUCCPS media sensitisation workshop on May 19, 2023 in Naivasha.



KUCCPS CEO Mercy Wahome engages journalists at a media workshop at Lake Naivasha Resort, Nakuru County, on May 19, 2023.

immensely in the design of the formula that will help ease universities' debt burden and scale up the quality of education.

She disclosed that the principles of equity, fairness and consistency will guide the three agencies, ensuring students' interests were safeguarded.

Cont. page 4

Cont. from page 3

Mr Monari said the government funding based on the now defunct differential unit cost (DUC) model had contributed to the financial crisis at universities. He said the new model would protect the quality of education and ensure universities were able to pay staff. "Students will apply for financial assistance, including government scholarships, loans and bursaries," he said.

He said Kenya was recording low university enrolment, at 19.9 percent.

In the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education cohort, only 173,127 candidates out of the total 869,782 attained a minimum university entry requirement of C+. President William Ruto announced the new universities funding model on May 3, 2023.

The President said the new model will ensure the neediest students were given funding priority. It will also avail additional funds to address the Sh60 billion debt facing the universities, he said. President Ruto said the model would equally assuage the rising cost of running the institutions and ultimately improve the quality of education.

The scheme – which comes into effect in the

2023/2024 placement cycle – places students under four distinct categories of vulnerable, extremely vulnerable, needy and less needy. Students placed to public universities will receive scholarships and loans while those in private will only get loans from HELB. HELB's Head of Lending Ndegwa King'ori said 1.23 million students have benefitted from funding since the board was established. Of this Sh26 billion has been repaid.

Mr Ndegwa said funding gaps have adverse impacts on education, leading to increased student dropout, crime and reputational risks. He said the organisation utilises reliable criteria to determine the student's need level, including affirmative action, household composition and size and a family's socio-economic background.

"HELB has partnered with 28 Huduma Centres and cyber cafes to help students apply for loans. We have increased the list of requirements during registration to ensure no student is left out," he said. To boost credibility and verification of applications, Mr King'ori said HELB will seek data from government ministries implementing social protection programmes for vulnerable populations.

The revision of courses will run until August 2023 ahead of admission of students in September 2023. The candidates will be placed at craft artisan, certificate, and diploma and degree levels.

Students placed to public universities will receive scholarships and loans while those in private will only get loans from HELB.

Public, private institutions disclose cost of academic programmes ahead of admissions

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) published costs of programmes in universities and colleges to facilitate student course choices.

The details contain fees that will apply in the 2023/2024 academic year based on the new universities funding model. In a letter to the institutions dated May 5, CEO Mercy Wahome said the information will be published on the agency's website to enable students make informed decisions on their preferred courses and institutions.

Dr Wahome said placement of students to higher learning institutions will no longer be associated with funding.

"Kindly note that even though KUCCPS will publish all programmes, the Government will only provide scholarships to students who select degree programs in public universities," she said. This follows a directive made by President William Ruto at State House on May 3, 2023.

According to the model, President Ruto said students will be funded based on four categories of need – extremely vulnerable, vulnerable, most needy and needy – which will ensure priority is given to the most deserving learners.

Open University to increase access to higher education, employment opportunities

The Placement agency has supported Government's plans to establish an Open University this year.

Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) Chief Executive Office Mercy Wahome said the Open University will increase access to quality education and create more job opportunities for graduates.

Dr. Wahome said the open university would increase student enrolment because it will provide flexibility for students to study. Each student will study at their pace and comfort, she said. Addressing a media workshop at Lake Naivasha Resort in Nakuru County on May 19, 2023, Dr. Wahome said the government was determined to revolutionise the higher education sector to make local graduates more marketable globally. "We see a transformation at our universities based on what is happening under the Competency Based Curriculum. Universities will not just be theory-based," she said.



Dr Mercy Wahome, KUCCPS CEO, explains the significance of the new funding model during a media workshop at Lake Naivasha Resort, Nakuru County, on May 19, 2023.

She added: "We want to put emphasis on research that will make a difference in the socio-economic status of our country; we want research that can be commercialised. "The workshop was hosted by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). Officials from the Universities Fund (UF) and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) also attended the workshop to sensitise journalists on the new higher education funding model. Thirty journalists and editors across print, online and electronic platforms had the opportunity to broaden their understanding about the value of the new scheme.

Dr. Wahome said the course applications at the school

AS PER THE NEW SCHEME

Students will have access to:

80% Scholarships 20% Loans

"The burden of management and stability moves from students to universities. **Universities will plan their cash flow and create autonomy,**"

level will henceforth be scrapped as focus shifts to choices after KCSE results are released. Selection will now rely on cost of programmes, which would only be available from different institutions after the release of the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations results.

To guarantee 100 percent transition to higher education, Dr Wahome said there will be three revision cycles to ensure no student misses enrolment. Dr Wahome announced that a database will be developed to monitor the progress of students in their studies.

"We are designing a system to capture student data using a biometric system. We will be able to track students across programmes," she said. Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari projected that there will be increased quality of education and stability in the sector over the next five years. The new scheme, Mr Monari said, would help create a sustainable revolving fund that will take care of the growing number of students. As per the new scheme, students will have access to 80 percent scholarships and 20 percent loans.

"The burden of management and stability moves from students to universities. Universities will plan their cash flow and create autonomy," he said. Mr Monari argued that aligning of courses to key government projects will help students pursue programmes that are demand drive and increase their absorption in the job market.

Mobilise students to apply for courses, teachers urged

Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) Chief Executive Officer Mercy Wahome has appealed to teachers to mobilise Form Four qualifiers to apply for placement to universities and colleges.

Dr Wahome said all the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education candidates are eligible to join institutions of higher learning to pursue artisan, certificate, diploma and degree courses.

Speaking during an open day at Turkana University College on May 29, 2023, Dr Wahome said the organisation had deployed staff to all parts of the country to assist learners in selecting their preferred courses.

“By reaching out to their former students, teachers can provide the necessary guidance and support,” she said. Dr Wahome said the Turkana region was registering low rates of student applications. Turkana University College Principal George Chemining’wa said the institution has adequate facilities and security for students and staff.

Prof Chemining’wa said the university boasts employment opportunities for graduates owing to its close relations with NGOs and CSOs operating in the area.

“Our graduates are given priority during recruitment,” he disclosed. He added: “Even those pursuing education are immediately absorbed by the Teachers Service Commission. This is because few people are willing to work in this region due to the extreme weather conditions.”

The open day is one of the elaborate techniques KUCCPS is utilizing to increase awareness about placement process and assist student to make their applications. More importantly, officers offer advice on careers to enable students make proper choices. The initiative is being carried out in learning institutions and Huduma centres across the country.

KUCCPS attains ISO certification

Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) is making strides in improving service delivery through implementation of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.

Quality Assurance and Compliance Director Christopher Yegon said adoption of the international best practice demonstrates the organisation’s commitment to provide quality services and products that meet customer demands.

Speaking during an award ceremony at Kenya Bureau of Standards on February 23, 2023, Dr Yegon said the agency is passionate about bolstering stakeholder relations and customer satisfaction.

“The certification strengthens our position as a reliable agency, instills confidence in stakeholders and demonstrates our proactive approach to continuous improvement,” he said.

ISO 9001:2015 is a globally recognised standard that provides a framework to organisations seeking to provide services and products that fulfill the requirements of customers.

Dr Yegon added that the recognition enables them to have a clear understanding of who is affected by their work and what expectations they have.

The standard covers various aspects such as leadership, risk management, resource management, product realization, and measurement, analysis, and improvement.

KUCCPS compliance with necessary statutory and regulatory requirements through ISO certification promotes its efficiency. These will enhance resilience and minimize disruptions. The ISO certification is valid until 2025.

ACK Garden House, 1st Ngong Avenue, Nairobi | P.O Box 105166 – 00101, Nairobi

 www.kuccps.ac.ke

 @The.Placement.Service

 @KUCCPS_Official

 info@kuccps.ac.ke

 020 5137400 | +245 723 954 927