



HELBnews

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Board Secretary's Newsletter

30th April 2009

Welcome to our maiden edition of the *HELBnews*. This is the Board Secretary's monthly Newsletter that is meant to bring you the Board's events as they take place in our various departments. We invite your contributions on topics and subjects that you believe will benefit other readers by the 20th of every month through newsletter@helb.co.ke. Keep informed!

SONU launches Bursary Kitty

At least four hundred students can now walk home smiling after the Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) set aside two million Kenya shillings to finance them in pursuing their education.

The bursary funds of Kshs 5000 will be credited directly in the students' accounts.

Addressing the meeting during the launch of the SONU bursary on 24th April 2009, Taifa Hall, Mr. Benjamin Cheboi said, "For SONU to have organized bursaries for its members is a truly unique initiative that would go a long way in ensuring that other students would supplement their finances to achieve their dreams in life." He encouraged other universities students' bodies to emulate what SONU had done as away of being one another's keeper.

He said SONU was in the right track in contributing towards changing lives in the society quoting great achievers who started small that include; Bill Gates, Florence Nightingale among others.

Speaking in the same function the DVC academic affairs Professor Kaimenyi said that the initiative by SONU leadership was in line with the core values of the institution. He said, "UON will live to remember this innovative."

Other dignitaries present at the function were Professor Geoffrey Muriuki, principals from the different colleges of the UON and HELB staff.

HELB Speeds up Recovery of Loans

HELB on 6th and 8th April 2009 respectively engaged the services of Credit Reference Bureau Africa and Metropol East Africa Limited to speed up recovery of outstanding loans which currently stands at more than **Kshs 4 billion**.

The partnership will see loan defaulters listed in a national defaulter's register that will be made available to other creditors. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Benjamin Cheboi, Chief Executive Officer HELB said, "If you cannot pay your students loans other credit providers will not be so keen to loan you money." However, the loanees who have a genuine reason for not paying up their loans will be spared the list. Hence, the Board will ensure that such people's names would not be published in the list.

On a positive note Mr. Cheboi said the Board gave out loans worth Kshs 2.2 billion this figure is expected to rise by the end of this financial year (2008/2009) to Kshs 2.7 billion.

Secondary Schools Conference

Secondary school students country wide met at the Bomas of Kenya from 7th to 10th April 2009. The one week long leadership conference organized by the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association, was sponsored by various stakeholders in the education sector including the Higher Education Loans Board. The conference saw teachers and students from different regions express their views on issues affecting the secondary education in Kenya.

It aimed at giving students a forum to give their opinion on solving issues affecting them as well as unearthing the root causes of the problems.

HELB A Role Model

The Higher Education Loans Board is the oldest organization of its kind in East and Central Africa since its inception in 1995 through an act of parliament (Cap 213A of the Laws of Kenya).

As a result, Helb has been a role model to other African countries. In particular, Helb has worked closely with the Tanzanian Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) since its foundation and has seen visitation of the Board staff to Tanzania to advice on technicalities and mainly share their experiences.

Further, Rwanda's Students Financing Agency has also received immense support from Helb staff. They have been sharing their experiences with to help in the consolidation of their system and in maintaining a workable structure of lending and recovery of loans. This is based on the successful lending and recovery programs of loans by HELB.

HELB to Host SLFT

A team from Ghana will be visiting the HELB offices as from 4th to 8th May 2009.

The team is expected to visit various departments with the organization. Among other places they are scheduled to visit the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology.

Briefly, Students Loans Trust Fund (SLTF) is a Ghanaian equivalent to HELB. Its' objective is to provide financial resource for the sound management of the Trust for the benefit of student as well as promoting and facilitating the national ideals enshrined in Article 28 and 38 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. For the purpose of achieving the objective of the Trust Fund, moneys from the Trust Fund shall be applied to the relevant activities that the Trustees may determine including, in particular;

- The provision of facilities to enhance tertiary education to support students, and
- The provision of moneys to support any other activities and programmes.

New Staff on Board:

The following staff have joined the Board:

- Mr. Ruffas N Njogu
- Mr. Victor K Tanui
- Ms Olive C Metet

We welcome and wish them well in their new assignments as we work together to finance higher education now and in the future.

Ties that bind

- Ms Colleta Sigilai and Mr. John Chirchir got married on Saturday 18th April 2009 at the AIC Kabarak. Ms Sigilai is HELBs' Legal assistant. A team from HELB attended the wedding. We all wish her God's blessing in her marriage!



Quote of the month: A good deed is never lost: he who sows courtesy reaps friendship; and he who plants kindness gathers love.

Basil