UNIVERSITIES ACADEMIC STAFF UNION (UASU)

NAIROBI, Thursday, 24 September 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LECTURERS ISSUE SEVEN-DAY STRIKE NOTICE

Members of the media, Good morning:

The Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU) hereby issues a seven-day notice of nationwide strike.

The strike shall commence at midnight next Friday 2nd October 2026.

This painful decision follows the persistent failure by the councils of universities, the Ministry of Education, and the National Treasury to honour the Return-to-Work Formula signed on 5th November 2025.

The Government has failed to provide a financial counter-proposal for the 2025–2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

While other employees in the public education sector concluded their 2025–2029 CBAs last year, lecturers in public universities have been abandoned.

On Monday, 21st September 2026, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) disclosed to the Unions in the university sector that neither the Ministry of Education nor the National Treasury had given a written commitment that funding for public universities CBAs will be provided through the National Exchequer.

SRC said that it could not therefore issue the constitutional advice required to facilitate financial counter-proposals to the Unions.

This disclosure by SRC confirms that the negotiations held at Machakos University since last year have been an exercise in futility. The Government knew, all along, that the National Treasury had not issued the conventional funding commitment under the hand of the Principal Secretary, National Treasury.

Even more disturbing is SRC's disclosure that the Government's position appears to be that funding for public university lecturers may be drawn from student fees and market based funding. This is an attempt to redesignate academic staff as employees outside the category of public officers.

UASU rejects this position firmly.

Academic staff in public universities are public officers. We resist any attempt to strip lecturers of their pubic officer status through back-door mechanisms.

The Constitution defines a public office as one whose remuneration and benefits are payable directly from the Consolidated Fund or from money provided by Parliament.

The remuneration of public university academic staff must therefore be secured from the National Exchequer, as required by the Constitution.

It is unacceptable that senior Government officers are making far-reaching pronouncements on the funding of university education and the remuneration of lecturers without a published public policy document as is required by the law.

Some Government officers directed Unions to review twitter declarations by Dr. David Ndii to the effect that the funding of public university students will be market based in a new university funding model.

Unions cannot be directed to rely on social media declarations or to interpret the implied meanings in the proposed *Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill, 2026*, which Parliament has not enacted.

Do we still have public universities or have they changed to market based universities? If so, when and how did they change to market based universities? Has university policy been changed through tweets? What happens if the markets find no return in investments in public university education? What happens if students do not pay university fees? Remember the Government recently instructed public universities not to collect fees from first year students.

Accordingly, UASU demands that:

1. The 2025-2029 CBA be negotiated, signed, registered and implemented.
2. The Ministry of Education and the National Treasury immediately provide the requisite commitment that the 2025–2029 CBA for public university academic staff will be funded through the National Exchequer.
3. The Government cease all attempts, to remove the public officer status of public university lecturers.
4. The *Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill, 2026*, currently before Parliament, include an explicit provision safeguarding the remuneration of academic staff from the Exchequer, in conformity with the Constitution.
5. UASU be allowed to participate meaningfully in the development of the human resource instruments for public universities currently under development by the Public Service Commission provide, so that the rights of academic staff are protected.

The Government should not abandon the public university lecturers.

A dignified, fairly remunerated academic staff is critical for the quality of public university education, the safe guarding the future of students, and the socioeconomic development of Kenya.

Thank you.

Solidarity for ever.
-ENDS-

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