



**AAHEFA**  
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HIGHER  
EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCIES

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**STATUS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING  
AGENCIES IN AFRICA & A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON  
SIMILAR/RELATED AGENCIES**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**03 MAY 2024**

**AAHEFA**

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## **1.0 Background**

AAHEFA is a region apex organization bringing together a total of 13 African higher education Financing Agencies. AAHEFA is an entity that brings together institutions from African Continent, which deals with issuance of loans, bursaries/grants and scholarship to higher education students as well as collecting back the loans issued. This entity was formed in 2008 and formally registered in Tanzania where the headquarters are currently located.

AAHEFA membership span across, East , Southern and West Africa and include the following members; – Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)- Kenya, Higher Education Students Loans Board (HELSB)- Tanzania, Development Bank Of Rwanda (BRD)- Rwanda, Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB)- Uganda, National Manpower Development Secretariat- (NMDS) – Lesotho, National Students Financing Aid Scheme(NSFAS)- South Africa, Namibia Students’ Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF)- Namibia, Students Loan Trust Fund - (SLTF )- Ghana, Human Resource Development Council(HRDC) - (Botswana) and Higher Education Students Loans and Grants Board (HESLGB) – Malawi, Students’ Loan Scheme, SLOAN-S L-Sierra Leone and Scholarship Manager, Pre-Service Tertiary Education and Training (PTET), Eswatini.

The main objectives of AAHEFA is to serve as the apex body and principal forum for sharing information and experiences on issues of higher education financing. AAHEFA is also interested in opportunities to increase students' access to higher education within and outside Africa. Furthermore, AAHEFA promotes sustainable higher education financing models reflective of social economic environment of the respective countries through technical advisory services, research and consultancy and by using international acclaimed experts in the field of higher education financing, higher education management and administration and strategic management.

It also aims at creating a platform for capacity building for its members. The body also seeks to solicit funds for common development projects and facilitating exchange of skills, information, and expertise between members and other organizations related

to higher education. The association seeks to negotiate with donors and other external agencies on matters of common interest. In addition it seeks to harmonize matters relating to higher education financing agencies. One of our competitive strength lies on technical advisory services to member organization and other organization working in the areas of higher education financing. Our technical advisory services emanates from proven experiences and practices from various member organizations ensuring sustainable solutions based on specific need and problem

## **2.0 The Process**

A consultant will be hired to assist AAHEFA to produce a report on the status of Higher Education Financing Agencies in African countries and to conduct a comparative study on similar agencies. AAHEFA secretariat will coordinate the assessment process. The consultant is expected to undertake the assignment through a desk review and consultations with key stakeholders, includes the governments, private sector, international organisation and other professionals.

## **3.0 Roles And Responsibilities**

The consultant is expected to work in collaboration with AAHEFA members which will provide support in stakeholder consultations and dissemination. The consultant will be managed by AAHEFA Secretariat through the Program Coordinator under instructions provided by AAHEFA General Council and Membership Drive and Patnership (MDP) Committee.

## **4.0 Specific Tasks**

The consultant will undertake the following duties:

- (i) Study all relevant documents available in relation the status of Higher Education Financing Agencies in Africa.
- (ii) Conducting comparative study on existence of similar agencies.
- (iii) Determine the challenges facing existing semi-autonomous Higher Education Financing Agencies in Africa.
- (iv) Determine the countries which are on the process of creating Higher Education Financing schemes.

- (v) Identifying the countries, apart from AAHEFA members which have higher education financing schemes in Africa.
- (vi) Determine on the best approach on increasing AAHEFA membership and partners.
- (vii) Design action plan to approach prospectus members, partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- (viii) Facilitates and assists the costing of the action plan.
- (ix) Identify any training or seminar needs required for implementation of the action plan.

### **5.0 Expected Deliverables.**

The following deliverables are expected:

- (i) Status report on higher education financing in africa, report produced two weeks after commencement of work.
- (ii) A comparative report on existing of similar agencies and lesson learnt.
- (iii) A report on challenges faced by semi-autonomous and autonomous Higher Education Financing bodies which are not AAHEFA members.
- (iv) A comparative report on the willingness of the governments forming autonomous Higher Education Financing Agencies in Africa.
- (v) Strategies and implementation plan for assisting semi-autonomous body to form independent bodies
- (vi) Strategies for supporting prospective members to form Higher Education Financing Agencies.
- (vii) Presenting the findings to AAHEFA General Council and MDP Committee.

### **6.0 Qualifications And Experience**

The individual or firm should have a lead consultant with the following credentials:

- A recognised Masters Degree in Statistics, Economics, Demography, Public Policy or any other relevant qualification.
- A PhD in any of the above specialisations will be an added advantage.
- He/she should have conducted a successful similar assignment in the Developing Countries preferably in Africa.

- Minimum 10 years of work experience/consultancy work in Higher Education Financing.

In addition, the consultant should possess the following skills and competencies:

- Excellent writing, listening and communication skills,
- Good interpersonal skills;
- Good research, analytical and report writing skills
- Good facilitation skills;
- Fluent in spoken and written English; and
- High computer literacy.

### **7.0 Supervisory Arrangements And Reporting**

The Consultant will be responsible to AAHEFA General Council, through the Program Coordinator.

### **8.0 Duration**

The assignment is planned to commence in June 2024, to be completed within a period of 30 working days or 1 Month.

### **9.0 Application Procedure**

Qualified candidates should apply with a copy of their resumé through [info.aahefa.org](mailto:info.aahefa.org)

### **10.0 Application Deadline**

The deadline for application submission is **Wednesday 31 July 2024**.