



18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM)

BRIEFING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND THE PRESS

Date: Friday 9th December 2022

Time: 10:00 -12:00 CAT

**Venue: Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education innovation Science and Technology Development
Head Quarters, Harare, Zimbabwe**

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to debrief the Ministers and other policy makers in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development & Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development and the general public in Zimbabwe on the general arrangements and the programme of the 18th Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be Held at Harare International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe from 12th to 16th December 2022.

Arrangement and programme for the AGM

The 18th RUFORUM AGM will be held under the theme ***“Strengthening Africa’s Agri-food Systems in the Post COVID-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges”***.

As a tradition, RUFORUM co-organizes this kind of convening with Member States and its Network Universities in a rotational manner across different countries in Africa. This year, the Government of Zimbabwe and RUFORUM member Universities in Zimbabwe namely; University of Zimbabwe, Africa University, Bindura University of Science Education, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Great Zimbabwe University, Lupane State University, Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and Midlands State University are hosting the AGM. The AGM will bring together higher education and agriculture leaders, researchers, policy makers, development partners, private sector actors, students, farmers, among others.

As part of the AGM, a number of events have already been held from the month of August and these will culminate into events to be held in the week of 12-16 December 2022, where Government and universities in Zimbabwe will play leading role. Notably, the following will form part of that climax:

1. Holding of the scientific conference 12th-13th December 2022
2. Holding of the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa 12th -13th December 2022
3. Profiling of research and development activities by researchers and development practitioners from 12th to 16th December 2022

CO-ORGANISERS:



4. Two Ministerial Round Tables, one on 13th and the Second on 14th December 2022 to dialogue and map out collaborative actions to build Africa's Human resource and science capacity to spur economic development in Africa including strengthening Agri-food systems in Africa
5. African Vice Chancellors' Forum on creating convergence of investment in Higher Education in Africa for greater impact
6. Official opening of the Conference by a Senior Zimbabwean Government official
7. RUFORUM Annual Business Meeting to map out future direction for African universities
8. Awards to outstanding farmers and young scientists from Zimbabwe, outstanding young African Innovators and Entrepreneurs, and outstanding contributors to Africa's development

Anticipated outputs of the AGM

This year's AGM is expected to, among others, deliver the following:

- 1- An Action Plan for strengthening human resource and science capacity for the continent
- 2- A recommitment for collaborative undertakings by African Governments, Development Partners and Universities for enhancing Africa's Agri-food systems and strengthening responsiveness to emerging environmental challenges
- 3- RUFORUM Action Plan for the financial year 2022 /2023 and key elements for developing RUFORUM second Operational Plan (2023-2027) for the RUFORUM Vision 2030
- 4- Admission of new member universities into the RUFORUM Network

Participants:

- 1- Minister of Higher and Tertiary education innovation Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
- 2- Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development, Zimbabwe
- 3- Technical Experts from the above two ministries and others from the Government of Zimbabwe
- 4- Vice Chancellors from Universities in Zimbabwe
- 5- Representative(s) of the 2022 AGM Local Organising Committee
- 6- Representatives from the RUFORUM Secretariat
- 7- During the Press briefing, members of the press

Venue:

The session will be held at the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education innovation Science and Technology Development Head Quarters in the Government Composite Building, Block F and Block G, Cnr Samora Machel Avenue/Simon Muzenda Street, Harare, Zimbabwe.

CO-ORGANISERS:

