

RUFORUM 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 18TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 16th December 2022

Time: 15:00-19:30 CAT

Venue: Harare International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3loalk6>

Concept Note

Contact: Professor Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary
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Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) strives to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers in Africa. This is achieved through Secretariat coordinated programs and guided by virtual and physical networking including convening events such as the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and associated side events. The AGM is preceded by constitutional meetings of all RUFORUM Governance Organs as well as side events designed to inculcate cross-cutting skills unto students; and, share and learn from member universities, policy makers and key stakeholders in higher education and agricultural development. This year's AGM will also serve as a catalyst for leveraging resources and foster mutually beneficial partnerships among universities in and outside the Network as well as with other stakeholders. In addition to its Business Meeting on 16th December 2022, the AGM will reflect on the first Operational Plan (2018-2022). Its Vision 2030 sought to attract and nurture (through the transformative process of learning and knowledge accumulation) a superior new generation of scientists and development practitioners to spur significant economies of scope and scale with a focus on agricultural transformation in Africa with the generation of technologies and innovations for broad development in the continent. The Closing Ceremony will culminate by recognising Outstanding Farmers, Young Scientists, and Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs. The awards reflect RUFORUM's perspective that enhancing the capacity to manage change amidst a myriad of problems requires a new cadre of change agents capable of visioning, strategizing, empathizing, mobilizing, training and empowering people to take charge of their destiny. These are the "proactive graduates" Africa needs to drive the Africa Union Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want). Additionally, this event will appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Outgoing RUFORUM Executive Secretary in "*catalysing development change in Africa and globally by building capacity of African people and its institutions, to positively contribute to change prosperity*", and introduce the New RUFORUM Executive Secretary.

CO-ORGANISERS:



Purpose of the Side Event

This networking event aims at:

1. Taking stock of key issues and messages emerging from the various deliberations during the AGM 2022 Convenings, and agreeing on key actions to move forward Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI)
2. Recognizing and thanking all stakeholders including the Government of Zimbabwe for the contributions towards the RUFORUM 18th RUFORUM Annual General meeting.
3. Recognizing Outstanding Farmers, Upcoming Scientists, Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs from Africa, and Outstanding individuals who have made significant contribution to Africa's development
4. Appreciating the outgoing RUFORUM Executive Secretary and welcoming the incoming RUFORUM Executive Secretary

Approach and Methodology

This event will be the climax of the RUFORUM 2022 AGM and associated side-events. The Guest of Honour will be Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Government of Zimbabwe. Other Dignitaries are expected to grace the occasion. Highlights of the 2022 AGM proceedings and the Communique will be presented. The Draft Programme is presented below

CO-ORGANISERS:



Programme

Official Closing Ceremony for 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting	
Session Chair: Prof Fanuel Tagwira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe	
Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Okalany Emmanuel, Mr. Yamungu Alongo and Mr. Waswa Moses	
1500-1530	Arrival of Guests and networking
Session 1: Opening	
1530-1640	Welcome remarks by Session Chair, Dr John Basero, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development, Zimbabwe
	Remarks by Prof. Victor Ngonidzashe Muzvidziwa-Vice Chancellor of Midlands State University in Zimbabwe
	Salutations by H.E Prof Dr Alice de Fátima Pinto de Ceita e Almeida, Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola
	Keynote Address: Reengineering the Africa Higher Education Agenda to Address Africa's Current and Future Opportunities by Hon. Agnes NyaLonje, Minister of Education, Malawi
	AGM 2022 Highlights and Communique: Prof Eddie Mwenje, Vice Chancellor, Bindura University of Agriculture, Zimbabwe
1640-1800	Session II: Recognition of Outstanding Achievers
	Five Outstanding Farmers from Zimbabwe
	Three Outstanding Upcoming Young Scientists from Zimbabwe
	Twenty African Outstanding Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs
	Eight Outstanding Contributors to Africa's Development
1800-1830	Session III: Change of Leadership at RUFORUM Secretariat
	Final Address by Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Outgoing RUFORUM Executive Secretary
	Introducing the New Executive Secretary: Dr. Mary Shawa, Chair RUFORUM Finance & Administration Committee & Chair, Search Committee for the Executive Secretary
	Remarks by the New RUFORUM Executive Secretary
Session IV: Closing	
1830-1840	Final Remarks and Vote of Thanks by Prof. Theresia Nkwo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
1840-1900	Vote of Thanks by Hon. Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Minister of Defense and War Veterans Affairs, Zimbabwe
1900-1910	Closing Address: Hon. Dr Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development, Zimbabwe
1910-1930	Health Break
1930-2230	Gala Dinner

CO-ORGANISERS:

