

## THE 18<sup>TH</sup> RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 14 December 2022

**Time:** 14:30-18:30 CAT

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3uAz2nG>

**Venue:** Harare International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe

#### Concept Note

**Contact:** Professor Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary  
[e.adipala@ruforum.org](mailto:e.adipala@ruforum.org)

#### Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 150 universities in 38 African countries will hold its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe from 12 to 16 December 2022. This is the sixth time the AGM is being held in Southern Africa and offers renewed commitment to strengthening higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation in Africa. The overall theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM AGM is to deliberate on “*Strengthening Africa’s Agri-food Systems in the Post COVID-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges*”. This year’s AGM is special in two ways: First, it is the sixth time since RUFORUM’s creation to be hosted in Southern Africa, and thus presents an opportunity for the RUFORUM network to show case its benefit to the higher education landscape in Southern Africa and consolidate and bring on board key strategic partners in Southern Africa. Secondly, the AGM coincides with the commencement of implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM Operational Plan (2023-2027) for the RUFORUM Vision 2030 which consolidates and builds upon the achievements of the first Operational Plan (2018-2022). The 2018-2022 Operational Plan sought to attract and nurture (through the transformative process of learning and knowledge accumulation) superior postgraduate talent into agriculture in Africa to achieve significant economies of scope and scale in rigorous and relevant training. During the AGM, RUFORUM will use the opportunity to reflect on its Journey since its founding in 2004 and progress and lessons learnt from implementing the past five years of its Vision 2030.

The meeting will bring together over 1,000 delegates from across Africa and beyond including Ministers, Development Partners, University leaders and students, private sector leaders; farmers and farmer representatives; emerging and early career researchers and young entrepreneurs from Southern Africa; and, other key stakeholders.

#### CO-ORGANISERS:



Several key sessions will be held pre-and during this year's AGM. However, the official opening ceremony is slated for afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Specifically, the objectives of the opening ceremony are to:

1. Advocate for policy engagement to strengthen higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation in Africa.
2. Galvanise the higher education sector engagement in supporting strengthening Africa's Agri-food Systems productivity and resilience and contribution to Africa Union Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want'

### Meeting Approach

In this meeting, key higher education leaders, Ministers and other policy officials will give keynote addresses highlighting needed actions to strengthen Africa's Agri-food systems and the need for policy-academia-private sector partnership for enhancing delivery and impact of interventions. This will be followed by the launch of the RUFORUM Journey book. His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe is expected to grace the official opening of the AGM. The Draft programme for the official opening ceremony of the 2022 AGM is as shown below.

#### CO-ORGANISERS:



## Programme

<b>Official Opening Ceremony for 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b>	
Session Chair: Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon	
Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Munyaradzi Madambi, Registrar University of Zimbabwe	
Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Okalany Emmanuel, Mr. Yamungu Alongo and Mr. Waswa Moses	
1430-1530	Arrival of Guests /Refreshments
<b>Conference Welcome Remarks</b>	
1530-1540	Zimbabwe National Anthem, SADC Anthem & AU Anthem
1540-1550	Prof. Paul Mapfumo, Vice Chancellor, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
1550-1600	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
<b>Conference Address</b>	
1600-1610	Remarks by Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
1610-1620	Remarks by Hon. Monica Musenero Masanza, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda
1620-1630	Remarks by representative of Visiting Ministers: Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Namibia
1630-1650	Keynote Address by H.E. Prof Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa
1650-1700	<b>RUFORUM Documentary</b>
<b>Book Launch</b>	
1700-1710	Prelude to the Launch of the RUFORUM Journey Book: Megan Lindow, Writer
<b>Official Opening of AGM Address</b>	
1710-1740	Official AGM Opening Address & Launch of RUFORUM Journey Book: H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe
1740-1800	Vote of Thanks by His Excellency The Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care, General (Rtd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga
1800-1830	Health Break
1900-2130	<b>EVENING FUNCTION Ministers &amp; Invited Guests Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe</b>

### CO-ORGANISERS:

