



18TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RUFORUM BUSINESS MEETING

Date: Friday 16th December, 2022

Time: 08:30 – 13:00 CAT

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3uE8rWV>

Venue: Harare International Conference Center

Concept Note

Contact: Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
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Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) established in 2004 by Vice Chancellors of the then ten member Universities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe is a Consortium of 150 African universities in 38 countries spanning the African continent. The Network envisions *'vibrant, transformative universities to catalyse sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa'*. The Network has several unique features for building Africa's innovation capacity and for engaging universities in development process and practice; i) It is owned and managed by Africans; ii) It derives its agenda largely from the continent wide policy frameworks especially of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the New Partnership for African Development's (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024, Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025, the Sub regional Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programmes, National Strategy Papers of the Member States and Governments and constant review of global trends and foresight planning to ensure Africa has the required capacity for global competitiveness; and iii) it allows for joint action by the member universities and stakeholders in higher education and agricultural sectors.

RUFORUM's vibrancy stems from its own character, which a) allows for ownership and direction of network activities by member universities, b) allows for identification of priorities from national level to inform regional thrusts, c) ensures broad consultation and consensus on regional level activities by members, and d) promotes sharing of resources, rather than competition, across the network for capacity building in agriculture and the broader Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) provides a forum for RUFORUM member universities to share and learn from key stakeholders in higher education and agricultural development who are normally invited to attend as observers or partners. The AGM has since served as a

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springboard for leveraging resources and has fostered mutually beneficial partnerships between and among universities in and outside the Network. Although a number of activities are associated with the AGM, the actual AGM is a one-day convening organized as a Business Meeting which this year will be held on 16th December, 2022 at Harare International Conference Center, Zimbabwe.

Purpose and objectives of the RUFORUM Business Meeting

The 18th RUFORUM Business Meeting shall:

- i. Review and approve minutes of the 17th AGM, held 10 December 2021 in Cotonou, Benin
- ii. Receive and approve reports for the activity year July 2021 – June 2022 and work plan and budget proposal for the Activity Year July 2022– June 2023;
- iii. Receive and consider the 2021/2022 External Audit report
- iv. Appoint External Auditor for the 2022/2023 Financial year
- v. Provide updates for the 2023, 2025, 2026 and 2028 AGMs and 2024, 2027 and 2030 Triennial Conferences
- vi. Consider requests for membership from universities that want to join RUFORUM network

Approach and Methodology

The Business Meeting will be held on Friday 16th December, 2022 both physically at Harare International Conference Center, Harare, Zimbabwe and via Zoom Video Conferencing platform through this link (Zoom ID: <https://bit.ly/3uE8rWV>). The meeting will be held under the leadership of the Board Chair, Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon. This business meeting is organized in collaboration with eight Zimbabwean RUFORUM Member Universities and will be opened by the Zimbabwean Minister of Agriculture and is expected to be addressed, by amongst others, HE Muhindo Nzangi Butondo, Minister of Higher Education, DR Congo. The Draft AGM Programme is shown below.

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Programme

Session Chair: Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair	
Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Okalany Emmanuel, Mr. Ekepu David and Mr. Waswa Moses, Mr. Artur Fernando RUFORUM Secretariat	
0840-1000	Part I: Opening session of the RUFORUM 18th Annual General Business Meeting
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Welcome Remarks by Prof. Pardon Kuipa, Vice Chancellor, Lupane State University, Zimbabwe 2) Remarks by Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM 3) Solidarity Statement by Prof. Stephen Onakuse, President of AGRINATURA 4) Solidarity Statement by Dr. Ali Musa Eissa, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) 5) Remarks by H.E. Muhindo Nzangi Butondo, Minister of Higher Education, DR Congo 6) Remarks by Hon. Josephine Joseph Lagu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, South Sudan 7) Official Opening Address by Hon. Dr Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development, Zimbabwe
1000-1030	Health Break
1030-1300	Part II Constitution of RUFORUM Annual General Business Meeting (AGM)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prayers (in Silence) 2) Record of members present and apologies 3) Adoption of the Agenda 4) Communication from the Chair 5) Minutes and Actions from the 17th Annual General Meeting
	PART III: RUFORUM Annual General Business Meeting (AGM)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presentation of Annual Report 2021/2022 by the RUFORUM Secretariat: Dr. Anthony Egeru, Programme Manager-Training and Community Development, RUFORUM Secretariat 2) Presentation of the 2021/2022 Financial Report and 2022/2023 Budget Proposal: Ms. Judith Nakyobe, Finance & Administration Manager, RUFORUM Secretariat 3) Discussion of the Secretariat reports 4) Report by the External Auditor: Ernst & Young Uganda for FY 2021/2022 5) Discussion of External Audit Report 6) Appointment of External Auditor for FY 2022/2023 7) Update on upcoming Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Triennial Conferences 8) Update on the arrangements for the 2023 AGM by the Prof. Florence Uphie Chinje Melo, Vice Chancellor, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon 9) Business from the Board: Formal Admission of New Member Universities 10) Vote of Thanks: Prof. Nancy Chitera, Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences

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	11) Closing Remarks: Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
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