



18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting

Young Innovators Training and Award Ceremony

Concept Note

Date: 12-16 December 2022

Venue: Lecturer Room F2, University of Zimbabwe

Contact: Yamungu Alongo Boniface Byamalong, b.yamungu@ruforum.org

Background

There are over 200 million Africans aged between 15 and 24 years making Africa the youngest continent on the globe and by 2040, Africa's young workforce will be the largest in the world, surpassing that of both China and India. The youth in Africa are ambitious; most becoming economically active and entrepreneurial out of necessity, and they are demonstrating a wealth of resourcefulness and inventiveness providing a range of enterprises and services. An African youth is at least doing something be it in the garden, or at least in a corner of an urban centre. Despite this ingenuity, these young entrepreneurs have limited right opportunities and access to skills development, mentors, social networks, and finances that could escalate their businesses. Several have learned the power of telecommunication technology and social media and are growing their businesses on this front, many are still struggling but have a high potential given increased access to financial services and markets, business connections, education, training and exposure, mentorship and support systems for networking that unlock their full potential.

Increasingly, it is being recognized that Africa needs to utilise a different set of capital to grow its entrepreneurs to a competitive level on a global dimension. In seeking to do so, it is recognized that collaboration and professionalism are two important ingredients to building an entrepreneurial culture and base that can facilitate entry, survival and further innovativeness of the young African entrepreneurs in business. It is therefore imperative that a dynamic ecosystem of actors and resources that further business incubation, facilitate access to capital and business development services, strengthen mentorship, networking and exposure, as well as peer-to-peer support, are explored, implemented and supported sustainably. The focus of such actions is to ensure that the burgeoning young enterprises' mortality is reduced and they are spurred to achieve their

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considerable potential in speeding inclusive economic growth and facilitate better livelihoods and poverty reduction. Despite active involvement in enterprise development, many of Africans youth businesses are concentrated in limited sectors; for example, 64% of the youth in sub-Saharan Africa are involved in the retail, hotel and restaurant trade with almost all (97%) of youth businesses in the retail sector being low-growth businesses and 54% of which offer employment to only the business owner. Even amidst these presumably grim statistics, Africa’s young entrepreneurs offer great opportunity to; create new businesses, drive and shape innovation, speed up structural changes in the economy, and introduce new competition-thereby contributing to productivity and expanding the employment base by absorbing several other young people into their enterprises. Africa’s young entrepreneurs thus need critical support to successfully go through the entrepreneurial pipeline with the focus being to see more young people as established business owners; who own and manage a business that has been in operation for more than 42 months. Moving this direction is not only strategic but important at the national and regional level as a foundation to increasing the range of jobs that they create in the economies, increase their participation in the economy as well as strengthen financial inclusion of the youth in Africa.

RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition (RUYAEC)

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of [161 Universities](#) in 40 African Countries, launched the call for 2022 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition (RUYAEC) on 31st May 2022. RUFORUM targets to recognise young innovators and entrepreneurs especially in the following fields: Food and agribusiness, ICTs, Health, Engineering, Natural Resources, and Meteorology, among others.

Purpose

The RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition primary purpose is to promote business innovation through entrepreneurship and provide seed funding to young entrepreneurs with creative and innovative business ideas to be valorized and enhance and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship among African youth. The competition specifically seeks to:

- Provide young entrepreneurs with the opportunity to showcase their businesses and share their development as an inspiration to many young African potential entrepreneurs
- Bring collective action towards the provision of seed funding to young entrepreneurs through a transparent and competitive process.

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- Provide a platform for young entrepreneurs to demonstrate their impact and pitch their business with investors and stakeholders through capacity building opportunity.
- Create a network of young entrepreneurs across Africa working together and sharing experiences that escalate youth contribution and job creation in Africa.

Target group and selection Process

The call for applications was open to applicants from southern African, however due to the low response; the call was expanded to the wider Africa. For this year competition, RUFORUM selected 20 winners of the 2022 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition. The awards will be made in Harare, Zimbabwe during the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting “AGM” slated for 12 to 16th December 2022.

The following three-stage process was undertaken to identify the top 20 winners:

1. All 136 applications received were reviewed for compliance to the call guidelines,
2. A total of 131 (96.3%) applications were compliant and were each evaluated by four independent assessors,
3. Top 20 applications were selected basing on the average scores from the four independent evaluators.

RUFORUM believes in the transformative power of entrepreneurship in addressing youth unemployment in Africa. Empowering and involving young people in enterprise development will support youth integration into the economic growth for youth employment. The twenty (20) competitively selected business enterprises will participate and pitch their innovations during the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting slated for 12-16 December 2022 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Draft Programme

Time	Description	Responsible person
Tuesday 13th December, 2022		
All Day	Arrival of Young Innovators	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM Ushers and transportation team
Wednesday 14th December 2022		
08:00-08:30	Arrival, registration and networking	Ushers
08:30 - 08:40	Welcome remarks	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM
08:40-08:50	Opening Remarks	H.E Prof. Abraham Matoc, Vice Chancellor Dr. John Garang

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		Memorial University of Science and Technology
08:50-11:00	Training on Entrepreneurship and Business Management	Mr. David Gonahasa, Enterprise Uganda
11:00-11:30	Health Break	LOC Zimbabwe and Ushers
11:30-13:30	Training on Entrepreneurship and Business Management	Mr. David Gonahasa, Enterprise Uganda
13:30-14:30	LUNCH WITH SELECTED LEADERS	LOC Zimbabwe and Ushers
15:30-18:30	Training on Entrepreneurship and Business Management	Mr. David Gonahasa; Enterprise Uganda
Thursday 15th December 2022		
08:30-11:00	Proposal Writing and looking for opportunity (D-Prize, www.d-prize.org)	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM Mr. David Gonahasa; Enterprise Uganda
11:00-11:30	Health Break	Ushers
11:30-12:30	Proposal Writing and looking for opportunity (D-Prize, www.d-prize.org)	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM Mr. David Gonahasa; Enterprise Uganda
12:30-13:30	Harnessing digital technologies to promote business and entrepreneurship	Dr. Drake Patrick Mirembe, Senior Lecturer, Makerere University, Uganda
13:30-14:30	Lunch with Selected Leaders	LOC Zimbabwe and Ushers
15:30-18:30	Communication, Brand identity and Pitching	Mr. David Gonahasa; Enterprise Uganda
Friday 16th December, 2022		
08:30-13:00	Communication, Brand identity and Pitching and Final Practice on pitching	Mr. David Gonahasa; Enterprise Uganda
13:00 – 14:00	Preparation of the Award Ceremony (Young Innovators, Young Scientists and Outstanding Farmers)	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM Mr. Artur Inacio, RUFORUM
13:00-14:00	Lunch: Incoming Executive Secretary and other leaders	Dr. Patrick Okori, ICRISAT, Malawi Dr. Limiaa XXX, AOAD BADEA Representative, H.E. Prof. Intisar Soghayroun, Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan
14:00-18:00	1. Prize Awards for Outstanding	Prof. Anxious J. Masuka, Minister

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	<p>Farmers</p> <p>2. Prize Awards for Young Scientist</p> <p>3. Prize Awards for Young Innovators;</p>	<p>of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, Zimbabwe</p> <p>Ministers Present</p> <p>Dr. Limiaa Abdelgafar Khalafalla, AOAD</p> <p>H.E Prof. Ibrahim El-Dukheri, Director General, AOAD</p> <p>Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM</p>
19:00 – 22:00	Gala Dinner	Government of Zimbabwe
Day Three: 17th December 2022		
All Day	Departure	Mr. Yamungu Alongo Boniface, RUFORUM and Transport team

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