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A Daily Brief on the 18th RUFORUM AGM Week #RUFORUMAGM2022

Building on Professor Adipala's Legacy



Left to Right: Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon; H.E the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care, General (Rtd) Dr Constantino G.D.N. Chiwenga; H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe; Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe; Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Outgoing RUFORUM Executive Secretary. Standing: Dr. Patrick Okori, RUFORUM Executive Secretary

The closing ceremony of the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Regional University Forum was a mix of nostalgia and expectation. It was the culmination of the gallant efforts of a veteran over the past 18 years and the acceptance of the mantle and mandate by his student.

After 18 years of serving as the executive secretary for RUFORUM, Prof Adipala Ekwamu passed the button to Dr Patrick Okori, who coincidentally is his former student from Makerere University.

It was a monumental ceremony as delegates acknowledge and honour the work of Prof Adipala as the founding Executive Secretary of the organisation. He was appointed in 2004 when RUFORUM was just a company of 10 universities from 5 nations. Through his strategic and visionary leadership, he steps down leaving the forum membership at 161 universities in 40 countries.

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In his farewell remarks, Prof Adipala urged RUFORUM to strategically reposition itself.

“For the road ahead, RUFORUM must reposition itself to emerging contemporary opportunities and challenges such as strengthening Africa’s agri-food system, climate change adaptability and related shocks, globalisation and new dynamics harnessing demographic dividends and managing demand for expansion.”

Like the mentor he is, Prof Adipala encouraged the incoming Executive Secretary to, “Demonstrate relevance, effectiveness, impact and increasing visibility of RUFORUM and its universities.”

In passing on the mantle, Prof Adipala handed over the RUFORUM Constitution, Charter and Strategic Plan to Dr Okori. The student is now firmly in his mentor’s shoes with huge expectations on his shoulders.

He gracefully accepted the task and pronounced his agenda and focus as the new executive secretary.

“Professor Adipala, as we all know, has provided stellar leadership for the past 18 years and I congratulate him for it. I am humbled by the trust of the RUFORUM board to build on the partnership that Prof. Adipala built over the years. The height of a building very depends on its foundation, and Prof. Adipala has dug a very good foundation and pulled the building off the ground. It is now up to use to build a skyscraper.”

With that, the first transition of RUFORUM executive authority was witnessed.



(Left) Prof. Adipala Ekwawu holds over to Dr. Patrick Okori the new Executive Secretary of RUFORUM (Right)

The AWARDS Ceremony

The closing ceremony also honoured a number of young people who are excelling in farming and other agri-business venture. Prizes were awarded for Outstanding Farmers and Outstanding Upcoming Scientists from Zimbabwe, Africa Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs, and Outstanding Contributors to Africa’s Development.



With glitz and glamour synonymous with any awards night, young innovators, scientists, farmers and entrepreneurs received a guard of honour from the esteemed dignitaries before receiving their awards.

So extensive were the selection criteria that even rural farmers like Terrence Maphosa from Mhondoro Ngezi and Terrence Muripo from Mt Darwin, both rural districts in Zimbabwe were recognised for the outstanding work they are doing on their farms.

Young scientists from Zimbabwe, Bruce Mutari, Joseph Manzvera and Casper Kamutando we also recognised for their various work with farmers and their contribution to the body of knowledge.

RUFORUM also recognised 20 young African innovators and Entrepreneurs for their contribution to job creation and poverty reduction. These were selected from member countries across the whole continent.

With a new executive now in place and RUFORUM’s popularity ever increasing, the building blocks to greater results are firmly in place. This 18th RUFORUM AGM has indeed cemented the need for Africans to be their own solution-bearers. Many changes and greater collaborative efforts by member universities will no doubt be witnessed and new results reported when the next AGM is hosted by Cameron in 2023.

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Thank You for making this AGM in 2022 Memorable!



[Click here to view and download images from the various sessions happening during the RUFORUM AGM](#)

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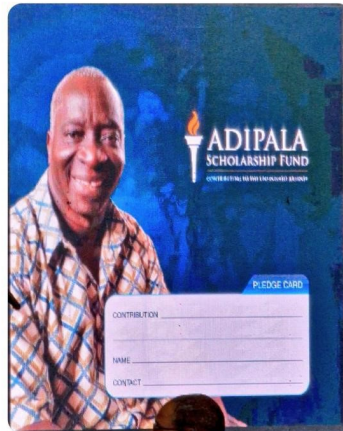
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#RUFORUMAGM2022 – at Harare International Conference Centre



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 RUFORUM has launched the Adipala Scholarship Fund. Pledges were welcomed, and applications are open.
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 Prof. Adipala receives an Honorary Degree from Prof. Salah Edin Mohmed Al Arabi, Vice Chancellor of University of Gezira
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