



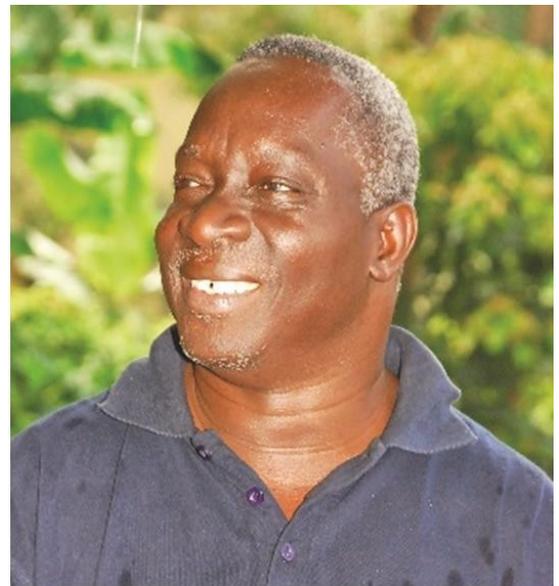
05-December, 2021 | Volume 1, Issue 02

A Daily Brief on the 7th Africa Higher Education Week #AfricaHEWeek2021

## The RUFORUM Triennial Conference: Perspectives for the Present and Future Convenings

**Prologue:** Africa and the global economy both face headwinds of post covid-19 pandemic recovery, that has been tapered by increasing resurgence of the disease and prevalence of new variants of the pathogen SARS-Cov-2: Alpha (B.1.1.7 and descendent lineages), Beta (B.1.351 and descendent lineages), Gamma (P.1 and descendent lineages), Epsilon (B.1.427 and B.1.429), Eta (B.1.525), Iota (B.1.526), Kappa (B.1.617.1), 1.617.3, Mu (B.1.621, B.1.621.1) and Zeta (P.2).

Currently the delta strain first reported in India is increasingly the most-wide spread and considered Variant of Concern (VOC) due to its high transmissibility, more severe disease (e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures among others. This present threat by COVID-19 (SARS-Cov-2) currently poses the single most driver of negative economic growth globally. [Please click here to Read More.](#)



Professor Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM

## Staying Safe during the RUFORUM Triennial Conference

### Inside this Issue:

- Press Releases
- Thought Pieces
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RUFORUM extends appreciation to the RUFORUM Board, the World Health Organisation and Africa Union Commission through the Africa Centre for Disease Control for the work you have done to help Africa cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you to all other organisations including our National Governments for the work done towards managing the COVID-19 pandemic, and efforts towards economic recovery of the African continent.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed key gaps in Africa's Science capacity to respond to the COVID-19 and other global challenges and clearly showed the urgent need for Africa to make significant and sustained investment in Science, Technology and Innovation. We encourage all participants to follow the safety guidelines by the Government of Benin. [Click here for more Information on COVID-19 testing and Results.](#)

## The Future of Africa: Contours of Opportunities and Challenges

Africa's development trajectory since independence has been a topic full of contradictions and contours. As a continent endowed with resources that no other continent has, there is need for a deeper analysis to delve into the reasons why development has been not only slow but also lagging amid plenty yet, over the past decade or two, the narrative "Africa Rising", has been a dominant discourse. There are a number of reasons towards this narrative, chief among them being:

- Increased consciousness of how rich the continent is and yet Africa remains poor;
- Irrefutable evidence of Africa being a "Youthful continent" – meaning that the continent is home to one of the rare resources – cheap labour;
- Structural Economic transformation through an integrated and visionary initiatives by African leadership through the African Union; [Click here to Read More.](#)



Professor Address Mauakowa Malata,  
Vice Chancellor, MUST- Malawi

*"Despite the continent's promise obstacles to success linger as job creation still has not caught up with the growing youth labor force, gaps in good and inclusive governance remain, and climate change as well as state fragility, threaten to reverse the hard-fought-for gains of recent decades"*

*Brahima S. Coulibaly (Brookings 2020).*

## Trends and Innovation Impacting Capacity to Deliver on the African Agenda 2063

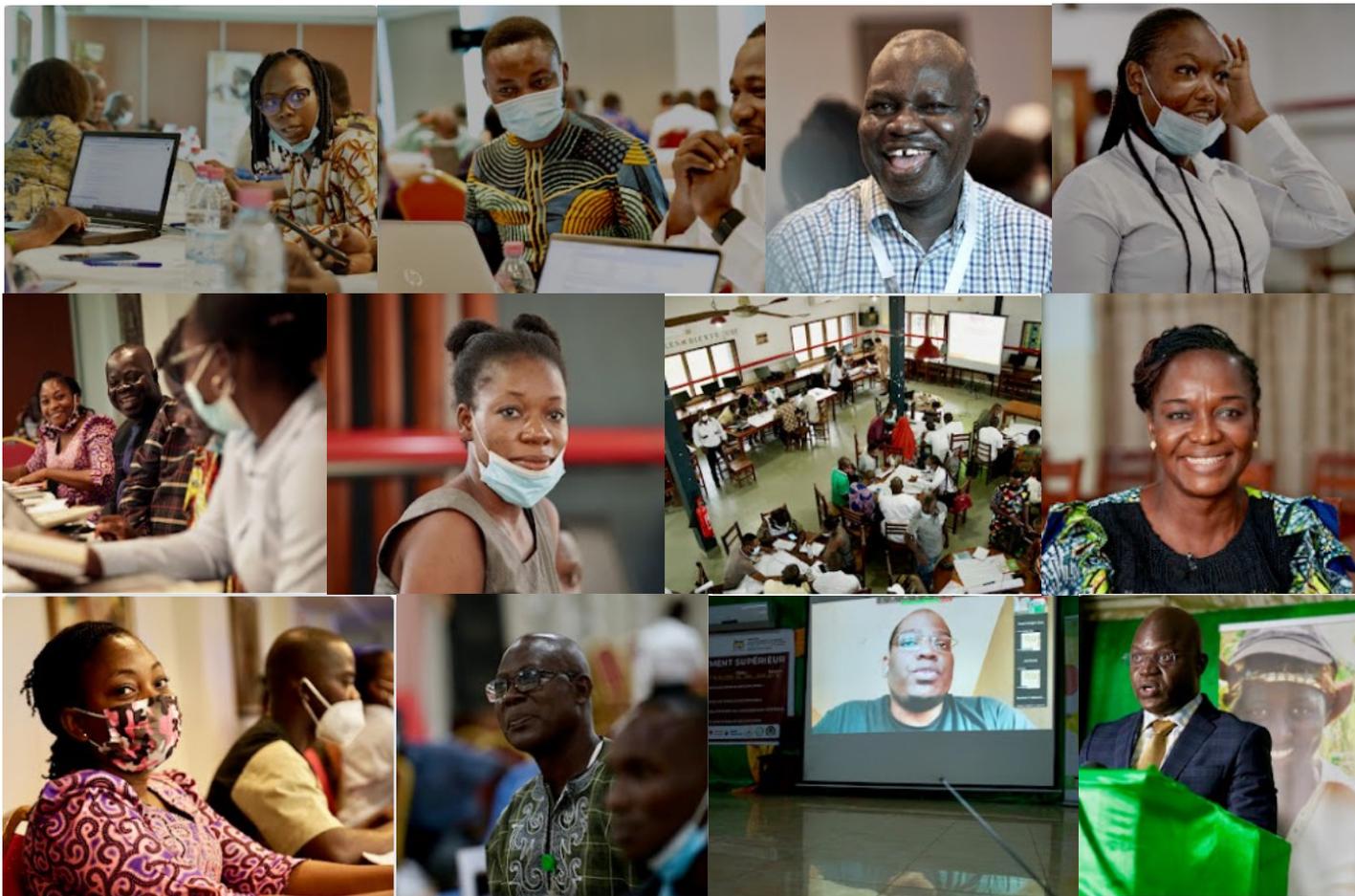


Author: Professor Kay Leresche, Chair of  
the RUFORUM Technical Committee

Africa is a continent of great promise – with a combined GDP of around \$3.5 trillion, the youngest and fastest-growing population in the world, and a diverse and extensive natural resource base. To realize this potential there needs to be significant investment in education, research and information sharing. Africa must be able to use new technology to create the knowledge, products and institutions to improve livelihoods. Although the technologies will allow Africa to leapfrog many old systems, they also require proactive and ongoing adaptation. Institutions and systems that cannot adapt will wither. The more structured for change the more likely it is that universities will be able to use the technological revolution to address the key drivers of change that impact progress.

Climate change with its increased droughts, floods and locust invasions, the Covid-19 pandemic, HIV, malaria and other devastating diseases, and the dislocation of poor governance and war, compound these challenges. But the natural exuberance of Africa and their determination to keep striving in the face of all obstacles will see them succeed. [Click here to Read More.](#)

# The 7th Africa Higher Education Week 2021 - Cotonou, Benin



## What's happening on Social Media?



**Nkumba University** @NkumbaUni · Dec 3

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jude Lubega, attends a workshop during the 7th #Africa Higher Education Week in the Republic of Benin. He joins a team from over 140 universities across Africa to attend the RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021.

#AfricaHEWeek2021 #DigitalTransformation



Drake P Mirembe, PhD and 6 others



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**RUFORUM** @ruforumsec · Dec 3

Strengthening collaborative action for digital learning across RUFORUM member universities through development and delivery of selected online courses #AfricaHEWeek2021



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| Website: [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)

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