Making History: Professor Mabel Imbuga, first female elected and New RUFORUM Board Chair

28th August, 2015

The RUFORUM network is pleased to announce that Professor Mabel Imbuga, the current Vice Chancellor of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has been elected Chair of the RUFORUM Board and she is the first woman to fill this position. On the 28th August of 2015 during the RUFORUM 11th Annual General Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, Professor Mabel Imbuga was elected as the new board chair replacing Professor Levy Nyagura, the Vice Chancellor of University of Zimbabwe.

Professor Mabel Imbuga is a Professor of Biochemistry with over 33 years of teaching and scholarly experience. Her extensive knowledge of and experience in higher education systems have been rounded by her career as a Research Assistant, Deputy Vice Chancellor in Charge of Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor among others. She is a member of several international associations including the African Women in Science and Engineering, Global Consortium on Higher Education and Research for Agriculture and the International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists among others.

“I am delighted to become the new Board Chair of RUFORUM Network,” Professor Imbuga said. I have worked closely with RUFORUM for many years and look forward to continuing to partner with Deputy Board Vice Chair Professor George Kanyama-Phiri, Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Board Executive, the Board of Trustees, International Advisory Panel (AIP), the Technical Committee, the Principals and Deans Committee, Secretariat staff and all stakeholders to enhance the capacity Building.

During the election, Professor George Kanyama-Phiri the Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources was appointed as the Deputy Board Vice Chair.
Notes to editors

The Board Executive Committee is chosen through a formal nomination and election processes ensuring democratic Board governance. The processes is designed would aims at a balance that includes both geography and number of member Universities in a country caucus.

Higher education for Africa*

- Africa needs to produce future leaders who will promote better governance and management in all sectors, and facilitate innovative solutions to society’s problems.
- Universities are best placed to provide the trained labour force needed as the drive for knowledge-based economies takes hold on the continent through producing more PhDs and more ‘industry-ready’ graduates
- Postgraduate enrolment both in master’s and PhD programmes in Africa rose from 6.9 per cent of the total enrolment in 1997 to 9.3 per cent by 2014 as a result of educational reforms.

* Source: Sci Dev Net. Article: Making higher education work for Africa: Facts and figures by Irene Friesenhahn.

RUFORUM

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a dynamic regional network of 46 member universities operating in 22 countries that fosters collaboration, coordination, training and research amongst member universities. Its vision is to help build a vibrant agricultural sector. We help African universities produce high-performing graduates and high-quality research, responsive to the demands of African farmers for innovation to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development. To share our work, call +256-417-713-300, email communications@ruforum.org, or visit us online at www.ruforum.org or on our blog at http://blog.ruforum.org/

For additional information, photos and interviews with key delegates, contact Ms Joan Apio, Communications Publicity and Marketing Officer, below.

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