

# Press Release



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## The 2018 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition: 1,332 youth from 42 African and 4 non- African countries respond to Call

**Kampala 09 September, 2018** As part of efforts to promote and showcase youth innovations in enterprise development and business incubation, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) will for the second time recognize twenty (20) young entrepreneurs through the [RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs 2018 Competition](#) (RUYAEC).

RUFORUM believes in the transformative power of entrepreneurship in addressing youth unemployment in Africa. As such, 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 receive an all-expense paid trip (air ticket, conference registration, and hotel costs) to participate at the Sixth African Higher Education week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 22-26 October, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The selected young entrepreneurs will also have opportunity to pitch their enterprises innovativeness to the global audience, receive a recognition award and will each receive a cash price award to grow their enterprises.

The [first competition](#) which was organised in 2016, attracted a total of 756 applications from 38 countries. The ten (10) most competitive youth enterprises were awarded prizes during the [Fifth Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference](#) that was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Building on the success of the Competition in 2016, RUFORUM organized a second Young African Entrepreneurs Competition whose deadline was 31st August, 2018. The competition call was open to a broad range of focus areas including: innovations in agribusiness, ICTs, health, engineering, natural resources, meteorology, urbanization, green economy, and transport, among others. This year, the competition attracted 1332 youth from 46 countries, 42 of which being African countries and four (4) from other continents. This marks remarkable increase by 576 applicants from 2016 cohort. This trend is remarkable and highlights the interest of youth in Africa and elsewhere have on entrepreneurship.

A team of experts and professionals are currently undertaking evaluation of applications for compliance and competitiveness. All applicants will be informed of the status of their applications on a rolling basis. The final selection of successful applicants will be announced by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

RUFORUM extends its appreciation to all applicants for responding to the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs 2018 Competition. Please see below the per-country and gender statistics on applications.

**Summary of Applications to the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition 2018 by Country and Gender**

No	Country of Applicant(s)	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Nigeria	224	70	294
2	Kenya	137	40	177
3	Uganda	94	27	121
4	Tanzania	84	27	111
5	South Africa	53	25	78
6	Cameroon	46	26	72
7	Ghana	54	17	71
8	Benin	42	15	57
9	Malawi	31	20	51
10	DR Congo	27	6	33
11	Namibia	21	11	32
12	Rwanda	24	2	26
13	Zimbabwe	15	7	22
14	Zambia	18	4	22
15	Cote D'Ivoire	14	3	17
16	Burundi	14	1	15
17	Togo	10	5	15
18	Senegal	7	3	10
19	Ethiopia	7	3	10
20	Chad	6	2	8
21	Botswana	5	3	8
22	Niger	4	4	8
23	Congo (Brazzaville)	7	1	8
24	Burkina Faso	5	3	8

25	Mali	6	1	7
26	Liberia	4	2	6
27	Egypt	3	2	5
28	Morocco	4	1	5
29	Somalia	4	0	4
30	Tunisia	3	1	4
31	Madagascar	2	2	4
32	Comoros	1	2	3
33	Guinea - Bissau	3	0	3
34	eSwatini	2	1	3
35	Angola	1	1	2
36	Mauritius	1	1	2
37	Sierra Leone	1	0	1
38	Georgia	1	0	1
39	Gambia	1	0	1
40	Lebanon	1	0	1
41	Canada	0	1	1
42	South Sudan	1	0	1
43	Lesotho	1	0	1
44	Mozambique	1	0	1
45	Norway	1	0	1
46	Sudan	1	0	1
Total		992	340	1332
Percentage		74%	26%	100%

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**Notes to Editors:**

Established by African university Vice Chancellors in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 85 African universities operating in 36 countries on the continent with a vision to create “a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which produce high-performing graduates and high-quality research responsive to the demands of Africa’s farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development”. RUFORUM Secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda with Secretariat at Makerere University in Kampala. In 2014, RUFORUM signed a MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. As of August 2017, RUFORUM has supported the training of 1,716 MSc and 436 PhD graduates of whom 94% work in their home countries or region, generated over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$169 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact the RUFORUM Corporate Communications & Advocacy Officer below;

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**Name:** Maureen  
Agena

Corporate  
Communications, &  
Advocacy Officer

**Email:**  
[communications@ruforum.org](mailto:communications@ruforum.org)

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