

Press Release



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New Staff appointments at RUFORUM Secretariat

Kampala 10 December 2018 As part of revamping and aligning Secretariat operations for delivery of the the [Vision 2030](#) of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), we are pleased to announce the following appointments at the RUFORUM Secretariat:

1. Dr. Jolyn Runyararo Rukarwa (from Zimbabwe) – Manager, Research and Innovations

Dr. Runyararo is a plant biotechnologist. She holds a PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology from Makerere University, Uganda. Runyararo has extensive experience in research in plant breeding and Biotechnology. She will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the RUFORUM Vision 2030 Flagship programme Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence (CREATE), that will involve, amongst others, facilitating academic mobility, research collaboration and staff development in RUFORUM member universities.

2. Dr. Egeru Anthony (from Uganda) – Manager, Training and Community Engagement

Dr. Egeru holds a PhD in Dryland Resources Management from University of Nairobi, Kenya and will be responsible for the implementation of two flagship programmes: Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and Development (TAGDev) and Regional Anchor Universities for Agricultural Higher Education (RANCH)

3. Dr. Otto Francis (from Uganda) – Manager, Knowledge Hub

Dr. Otto holds a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. Dr. Otto has more than 15 years' experience in Higher Education and ICT sectors. Dr. Otto will be responsible for the Knowledge Hub for University Networking, partnerships and Advocacy (K-HUB). He brings a diverse experience in quality assurance, networking and systems development as well as artificial intelligence applications in education.

4. Dr. Sylvanus Mensah (from Benin) – Technical Specialist, Undergraduate and TVETs

Dr. Sylvanus Mensah (Eng.) holds a PhD in Environment and Forestry from the Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He has been appointed to serve as the Technical Specialist in charge of Undergraduate and Technical and Vocational Education Training. He will be responsible for strengthening TVET institutions engagement with universities and enhancing technical and vocational training for mid-career level professionals.

5. Dr. Hatim Mohammed Elamin (from Sudan) – Technical Specialist, Youth Development and Community Engagement

Dr. Elamin holds a PhD in Application of Remote Sensing and GIS Technology from the University of Kordofan. Dr. Elamin has been appointed as the Technical Specialist, Youth Services and Community Engagement is responsible for RUFORUM core mandate of strengthening university and community connectedness and enhancing youth innovation and

entrepreneurship. He brings expertise value chains development with experience especially Gum Arabic and dryland agriculture.

6. Ms. Meri Siaka (from Ghana)- Internal Auditor

Meri Siaka is a certified chartered accountant with over eight years working experience and a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA, UK). Meri has been appointed as the Internal Auditor at RUFORUM, where her responsibilities entails ensuring that RUFORUM's risk management, governance and internal control processes are functioning effectively. Meri brings experience from the private sector in financial management and assurance.

7. Ms. Nakyobe Judith (Uganda) – Manager, Finance and Administration

Judith Nakyobe is a qualified Chartered Accountant, a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA, UK) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants Uganda (ICPAU). Judith has been re-appointed as the Finance and Administration Manager. She is responsible for the management of the financial and human resource management systems in line with existing policies, laws, regulations and procedures.

8. Mr. Reginald Doodu Donkor (from Ghana) – System Accountant

Reginald Doodu Donkor is a chartered accountant and tax practitioner. He is a member of The Institute of chartered Accountants, Chartered Institute of Taxation, and Institute of Internal Auditors, in Ghana. Reginald has been appointed as a Systems Accountant. He brings expertise in data analytics, digitalisation and financial systems integration.

RUFORUM, a consotium of 105 Universities in 37 countries in Africa, developed the African Universities' Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI). The 12 year strategy (2018-2030) was developed to strengthen the capacity of African universities and other tertiary institutions to contribute to economic transformation through development of skilled, entrepreneurial and innovative human resources, technologies and innovations for community and economic transformation.

The restructuring serves to support the implemetnation of AHESTI and the RUFORUM Vision 2030. The Secretariat is also recruiting for other staff positions of; [Manager, Program Results Measurement & Learning \(PRML\)](#); [Technical Specialist, Staff Development & Academic Mobility](#) and [Technical Specialist, Graduate Training](#). Announcements of appointments to these other positions will be made in due course.

"We look forward to working closely with the new staff at the Secretariat to serve the Network better" – Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary

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 105 universities operating in 37 countries in Africa 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 Uganda Ministry of Education and Sports with Secretariat at Makerere University in Kampala. In 2014, RUFORUM signed 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 60 Under graduates, 1,883 MSc and 503 PhD graduates of whom 94% work in their home countries or region, generated over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$201 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

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

Name: Maureen
Agena

Corporate
Communications, &
Advocacy Officer

Email:
communications@ruforum.org
