RUFORUM 13th AGM IN MALAWI

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) 13th annual general meeting was officially opened on Thursday, the 26th of October at BICC in Lilongwe. The meeting is being hosted by the government of Malawi and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) which is also the founding member of RUFORUM.

The event, which was presided by the Minister of Education Science and Technology Hon. Bright Msaka S.C. on behalf of the state president, saw over 300 professors, doctors and other dignitaries across Africa and beyond, including development partners and senior African Policy Makers.

Hon. Bright Msaka S.C. was delighted that Malawi is hosting this event for a second time. “This shows that there is a lot of confidence in the leadership of Malawi in university education, innovation and research. We do have eminent intelligentsia in Malawi who are excelling and making names on the continent,” said Msaka.

The Minister also hailed LUANAR and other public universities in Malawi for the commendable progress they are making in as far as higher education is concerned in Africa. “In a nutshell, this meeting suggests that Malawi is counted upon as a giant in education on the African continent.” He said.

Among the key events at the AGM were IMPRESSA awards that were given to outstanding farmers and university scientists making significant contribution in university leadership, Research for Development, and other contribution to the society.

One of the awardees in outstanding farmers’ category, Ngabaghila Chatata expressed excitement and said the award has motivated her to work harder in agriculture. “Farming is very beneficial because as people we need to eat daily for us to live and that can only be achieved if we do practice agriculture.” She said.

The young agribusiness entrepreneur therefore went further to urge the youth to invest in agribusiness because it is very beneficial and highly profitable.

Every year, RUFORUM organizes an Annual General Meeting for its member universities and this year’s meeting focused on the efforts to engage governments to support Higher Education in Africa.