

Press Release



29th June, 2022

A Tragic Loss in Africa's Higher Education Sector

Kampala June 28th 2022 – The RUFORUM Network on a sad note has lost one of her greatest female Vice Chancellors, Prof Christine Dranzoa, Vice Chancellor for Muni University and a fervent advocate of the girl child education. The late professor, rose from a humble background in a small village of Adua, in Moyo district and has been spearheading the University since its inception in 2014. At the time of her death, Prof Dranzoa, 59, was also serving as the Executive Committee chairperson of Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA).



Prof. Christine Dranzoa, the Vice Chancellor of Muni University.

Prof. Dranzoa began lecturing at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Makerere University in 1991 and she was entrusted to head the Wildlife and Animal Resource Management unit and oversee its development. By the time she left the portfolio in 2005 to take on administrative roles, the faculty had transformed into the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-Security. She became the Deputy Director of the Makerere University School of Graduate Studies

until 2010 when the government appointed her the Chairperson of the Muni University Taskforce and the de facto Vice Chancellor.

Late Prof. Dranzoa's work driven by persistence, dedication and consistency, attracted wide ranging recognition from the public including her professional peers. Her first major recognition was in 1999 from the Forum for African Women Educationists-Uganda Chapter awarded Dranzoa a medal of excellence in education for mentoring the girl child and she became the Honorary Secretary for the pan-African body. In 2002 her contribution in wildlife conservation was rewarded by the Dierenpark Amersfoort of the Netherlands with the Wankele Aarde (Unbalanced Earth Trophy). The Pan-African Ornithological Congress between 2004 and 2008 made her its President in honor of Dranzoa's contribution in the field of avian research and conservation.

She was a founding member of the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa (FAWoVC), which was established in 2016 to encourage more women to take leadership role and provide a platform to significantly influence the development of higher education in the continent. Prof. Dranzoa was a member of the RUFORUM Board and a member of the RUFORUM Finance and Administration Committee and she actively facilitated a number of RUFORUM webinars and Annual General Meetings.



Prof. Christine Dranzoa at the 2021 RUFORUM Triennial Conference in Benin

The RUFORUM Network stands together with her family and the Muni University fraternity to celebrate a life well lived, though taken too soon. May her soul Rest in Eternal Peace. Amen

Notes to Editors:

About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 149 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014 RUFORUM signed an 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. RUFORUM has supported the training of 2053 MSc, 627 PhD graduates and 229 BSc, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$236.3 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

For additional information see contact below.

Contacts:

Name: Evaline Acan Corporate Communications **Email:**
and Advocacy Officer communications@ruforum.org
