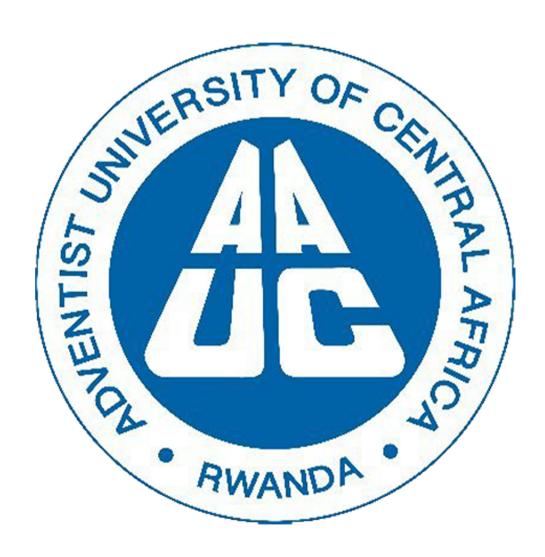
**Adventist University of Central Africa** 

# NEWSLETTER

AUCA - 2024





AUCA Mission AUCA Vision Belief & Values

Ovide Christ-centred wholistic quality education to prepare for prepare for service in this world, and in the life to come

Become an international center of academic learning with global impact.

LOVE
FAITH
INTEGRITY
RESPECT
COMPASSION & CARE
FAIRNESS & JUSTICE
EXCELLENCE

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Adventist University of Central Africa operates on the basis of the Seventh day Adventist worldview, which holds that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and the source of true knowledge. The entrance of sin caused man's alienation from God, therefore the restoration of the relation between man and God is the main aim of the Christian Education that leads students to discover and understand the truth through critical thinking."



"Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy - Director of Education - General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church, speaking at the Pinning Ceremony"



"Pinning Ceremony, an exercise that speaks volumes for what it means to be a nurse"



"Maintain the quality of education and always strive to move forward in shaping citizens of the world, Dr. Rose Mukankomeje, Executive Director of Higher Education Council, told AUCA administration."

Some people out there are sheep-coated. Beware of such people to avoid falling in temptations that may destroy your future, Dr. Blasious Ruguri, AUCA Chancellor, told the graduates



AUCA, hub of knowledge for students from all walks of life

The Adventist University of Central Africa held its 29th Graduation Ceremony in which a total of 537 students from both Master's and Bachelor's levels were conferred with academic degrees on 12 November 2023, at Masoro Main Campus.

The graduates awarded with degrees on this special occasion come from the departments/Majors of Nursing, Finance, Accounting, Management, Theology, Marketing, Software Engineering, Networks and Communication Systems, Information Management, History and Geography Education, English-French Literature Education, Accounting-Information Technology Education, and Educational Psychology.

The function attracted people from all walks of life including parents, spouses, relatives, government officials, AUCA staff, members of the private sector, to mention but a few.

Speaking to graduates, the Chancellor of the Adventist University of Central Africa, Dr. Blasious Ruguri, tipped the graduates with life skills and secrets of excelling on the market place. As he said, the marketplace is both good and scary depending on the choice one makes.

"Watch out once there. Not everyone on the marketplace is a sheep. Some are hyenas. You need therefore to be careful and wise", he told them.



#### "PAKISTANI HIGH COMMISSIONER TO RWANDA VISITS AUCA"



It was jubilation when the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Rwanda, H.E Naeem Ullah Khan visited the Adventist University of Central Africa on 27th February, 2024.

His visit aimed at learning more about the services offered by the institution and delivering a talk on the historical background of Pakistan with opportunities inside that country.

Like the High Commissioner said, Pakistan is a country with a lot of opportunities for people ready to collaborate. He added that an institution like AUCA can benefit from a range of collaborations since the country has a number of educational institutions credited with commendable achievements.

"AUCA as an institution of higher learning can benefit in one way or another from a range of collaborations. Students exchange programs, training sessions and other related academic initiatives can be discussed for mutual benefits between AUCA and Pakistani universities" he said.



H.E Naeem Ullah Khan said that cordial relationships between countries can pave the way for partnerships between institutions inside those countries

Education like any other sectors make headway in a country where government leaders are visionary. In line with this, His Excellency Naeem Ullah Khan praised the leadership of Rwanda spearheaded by H.E Paul Kagame for the efforts invested in scaling up Rwanda's economy despite the hardships suffered three decades ago.

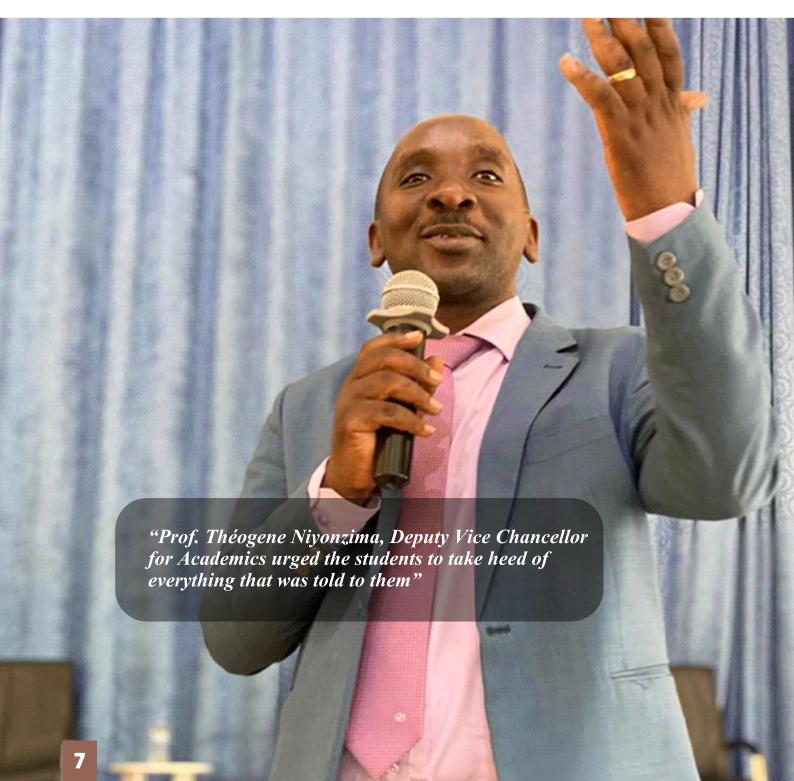
"In Asia, we call Rwanda, Singapore of Africa with His Excellency Paul Kagame as a leadership model. It's incredible to see that Rwanda has been able to make this progress in such a short period of time", he said.

With the world moving at a faster pace, H.E Naeem Ullah Khan urged AUCA students to always think of contributing to the world of knowledge with something new.

"Be creative and add something new to the existing knowledge. A lot of knowledge is already accessible via search engines such as Google, Wikipedia and many others. You must use your senses to come up with your own judgment of things", he urged the students.

Practice makes perfect, so goes a saying. The High Commissioner told the gathering that practical skills are needed for effective training to take shape. The way people go to driving schools to acquire driving skills, should be the same way to develop one's knowledge.

"Sit on a bike if you want to learn how to ride it. You don't need to read books about riding so as to acquire riding skills", he said. The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Prof. Théogene Niyonzima appreciated the advice and knowledge shared by the High Commissioner and appealed to the students to take heed of everything said as that will impact positively on their future.









### **WEEK OF SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS**

The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) alongside the AUCA Church were blessed to have Prof. Awungashi Samshokwo Varekan from India during the week of prayer that spanned from 16th March to 23rd March, 2024. It was a week of spiritual emphasis in which all members of the AUCA community was treated to the word of God in a week long period.

The leading theme of the week was 'When You....'. Expounding more on the theme, Prof. Awungashi Samshokwo Varekan used the illustration from King David before he was crowned King of Israel. Like he said, David was a little boy who looked after his father's flock. During that time, Israel was at war with the Philistines and the latter was wreaking havoc across Israel. One day David went to visit his brothers on the battlefield and found them panic-stricken.

He wondered why people who believed in the Lord were behaving that way. He then requested King Soul to allow him to fight Goliath, the giant. Finally, David defeated the giant and beheaded him, reaffirming Israel's invincibility.

Like the preacher said, David was able to defeat the giant because he put his trust in the Lord, and he did not want to wear the armor of the earth, but he put on the armor of God as described in Ephesians 6:13. This therefore agrees to the leading theme of the week which seeks to ask people what they do when they face challenges. Difficulties are only overcome through putting God first and allowing Him to handle them.

The week was full of benefits for both young and adult. Young people for instance were advised biblically on how to find a life partner, spouse. As the preacher said, true marriage occurs when the couples share beliefs. "Don't be like Samson in the bible who went beyond his home country to marry Delilah who would put an end to his strength after revealing what the source of his strength was", he warned them.

He went further to urge young people to borrow a leaf from Abraham who tasked his servant to go and find a wife for his son Isaac from his own country as indicated in Genesis 24. The weak climaxed in eight (8) souls brought back to the flock of Jesus. The eight souls were baptized on Sabbath as Prof. Awungashi Samshokwo Varekan bade farewell to AUCA church members. With the eight souls, the preacher has fulfilled the mission in Mathew 28:19.

As he bade farewell to the congregation, the AUCA Church administration extended gratitude to him on behalf of the congregants. The AUCA Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eustache Pennicook thanked the preacher for bringing the message of God to the Adventist University of Central Africa in a week long worship service.







#### AUCA TAKES ITS BRAND TO RWAMAGANA DISTRICT AS AN EDUCATION FAIR UNFOLDS

On Friday 8th March, 2024 the Adventist university of Central Africa honored an invitation by Agahozo Shalom Youth Village for an education fair that was taking place at the premises of that institution located in Rwamagana district.

As Julius Kaboyo, Dean of students and Career Resources Center Director said, the organization came into existence through an idea a one Anne Heyman had in 2005 after attending a talk about the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

in that talk Anne learnt about children who had been orphaned by the genocide, and this emotionally shocked her as a person whose family had also endured the harshness of the Holocaust.

She then in 2008 resolved to establish Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, a place where orphans and underprivileged children from all backgrounds of life will be finding hope and comfort.

"Our founder, Anne Hevman started this project with express purpose to help vulnerable children to afford education and regain hope after maybe the loss of their parents or when their families can't afford school fees to take them to schools. Therefore, the leading goal here is healing the heart, and whv we have psycho-social workers who help in healing the hearts of our children; and in turn these children go and heal the world after graduating from here".

Mr. Kaboyo told the gathering at the official opening of the education fair.

Looking at the faces of the children enrolled at the village school, they look optimistic with no sign of hopelessness. They truly look ambitious.

Surprisingly however, their level of English is impeccable despite the fact that when most of them are admitted, they cannot form a single meaning sentence in English. As Mr. Kaboyo disclosed, this is attributed to a one-year enrichment programme which enables the students to learn English and use it inside the village and at school.

Ms. Stella Wayianzuvuko, Principal of the Village School thanked the participants and made it clear that the village believes in partnerships as that is one of the ways their children can continuing seeing hope even after they graduate from the village school.

"I wish to thank all of you for having responded positively to our invitation. We love partnerships and we'd like to know more about where our students go after graduation. As universities, you're the ones to host their post-secondary level. That's why your presence here to exhibit what you do is a move in the right direction",

She told university delegates at the venue.

Prof. Munyamasoko Cyeze Emmanuel, who was heading the AUCA delegation, lauded the initiative by Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, and described their project as very promising. He also said that any institution can learn from Agahozo Shalom Youth Village since the village has more projects apart from the renowned school.

"This village is stunning. I've had time to walk around and seen with my eyes the wonders of the village. They've hybrid cows which are said to be producing milk for the students. I was also told that children here live in small families with a 'mama' taking care of each family just to make the orphans feel the warmth of being in a family.

This is very inspiring and I think the lessons will be shared back home", he enthusiastically said.

It is worth noting that only senior 5 and 6 students were allowed to visit the exhibition site since these are the ones who will soon join universities.

As the dean of students put it, both classes count more than 230 students. This has been a wonderful opportunity for AUCA to showcase its undergraduate and master's programmes to the prospective candidates.











"AUCA TAKES PART IN A UNIVERSITY AND CAREER FAIR AT GASHORA GIRLS" On 26th March 2024, the Adventist University Central Africa (AUCA) was one of the institutions that attended the university and career fair which was organized by Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology. The fair aimed at enlightening the minds of the young students about the advantages of studying in Rwanda as opposed to the education in western universities. The fair was themed, "

Officiating at the opening ceremony, Cleo Ingabire Munyangabo, Director of University Counseling at Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology, said that the fair intended to equip the students with what higher learning institutions offer so as to make the right choices once there and impact the community.

"The career fair aims to provide our students with valuable insights into higher education and various career emphasizing opportunities available within Rwanda. By bringing together universities, professionals, and students, we hope to foster meaningful discussions and inspire the next generation pursue education and careers that align with their passions and contribute to the growth of our community', she said.



Mr. Jean Baptiste Manirakiza

Marketing and Communications Officer - AUCA

Mr. Jean Baptiste Manirakiza, who was representing AUCA at the function, told the young women that education in Rwanda has been registering commendable strides since the genocide against the Tutsi was stopped.

He attributed the positive trend on the visionary leadership that prioritized inclusive politics in all levels of education.

"The genocide against the Tutsi destroyed everything without sparing education. It required the new government to rebuild the nation from almost a scratch.

Heavy investment in the sector of education coupled with equal treatment of Rwandans has led to the robust realizations we're witnessing today, with the education sector currently making headway therefore, I don't see why people should still aspire to fly to the west for education as we currently all it takes to produce quality students", he told the students.

All institutions represented at the fair were given time to share their take on what needs to be done to convince young people that Rwanda has all it takes to educate her students with no one going to the outside world.

The discussions were first held in panel style; before everything institution was given a room to present to the young women more about the services offered.

Before everything was wrapped up, the institution, the students were given the floor to ask questions and the latter met satisfactory answers.





#### **AUCA DEBATERS OUTSHINE THEIR NATIONAL** COUNTERPARTS

The period between 26th and May, 2024 31st will undoubtedly go down into history as this is when the maiden Commonwealth Universities' Debating Championship was held in Kigali (UR-College of Business and Economics) bringing together universities from across the globe.

The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) was one of the universities in Rwanda to have delegated debaters to this prestigious event.

The debate competition, which run under the theme 'Fostering Open Discussion to Provoke a New Thinking', used the British Parliamentary Debate Style to make sure that all participating universities faced one another in the rounds.

After all preliminary rounds, the adjudicators, who hailed from different countries such as Uganda, Nigeria, Canada, etc. held a session to disclose teams making it to the semi-finals.

It was a tough contest since all the participating universities had brought their very best speakers whom they entrusted with confidence. The adjudicators however, used their prowess to determine who among the best was the best to qualify for semi-finals.

Good news landed on AUCA delegates when they were read out among those making it to the semis. Fascinating as it was, the entire delegation from AUCA took as the fruition of hard work, team spirit and most importantly reliance on God's will.







Shema Nsimbi Hakidu and Umwari Abi Benie, both constituting AUCA Debate Team, were stunningly excited to hear their names announced among those qualifying for the semi-finals. This is understandable as they were the only Rwandan side to reach that far. The rest of the universities that were representing Rwanda lost their spots right in the preliminary rounds. With this, AUCA was to lock horns with seven other qualifying teams from across the commonwealth bloc.

The semis were held in a blind format with no disclosure of those making it to the finals. The debaters and the rest of the attendees would wait until the morning of 30th May, 2024 to know who the finalists are. Four teams from Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana (this had two teams) were announced finalists of the championships. Shortly after the disclosure, the four teams had to face off for the championship. Minutes later, Nigerian debaters were declared champions with a prize worth 3000USD.

Despite losing their ticket for the finals, Umwari Abi Benie from AUCA, was ranked Second Best Female Speaker of the Tournament, sending a strong message that the Adventist University of Central Africa does not only equip students with knowledge and skills, but also with problem solving and critical thinking skills for them to effectively contribute to the wellbeing of the society as soon as they reach the job-market.



**David NTAMBIYE**, Executive Director of Aspire Debate Rwanda was happy with the outcomes of the first edition of the Commonwealth Universities Debating Championship

David NTAMBIYE, Executive Director of Aspire Debate Rwanda, an organization behind the success of the event, attributed everything to the collaboration of a number of players including universities in the Commonwealth region.

"The success of this competition is attributable to the positive collaboration of many individuals and institutions. We are therefore thankful to the commonwealth fraternity and universities that grasped the opportunity to send their students to debate", he underscored.

The vote of thanks goes to Aspire Debate Rwanda along with the Commonwealth fraternity for making this tournament a success. It was a platform for our students to weigh their skills and learn the ropes of public speakers as they prepare to serve the world tomorrow.





## **KWIBUKA 30 AT AUCA**



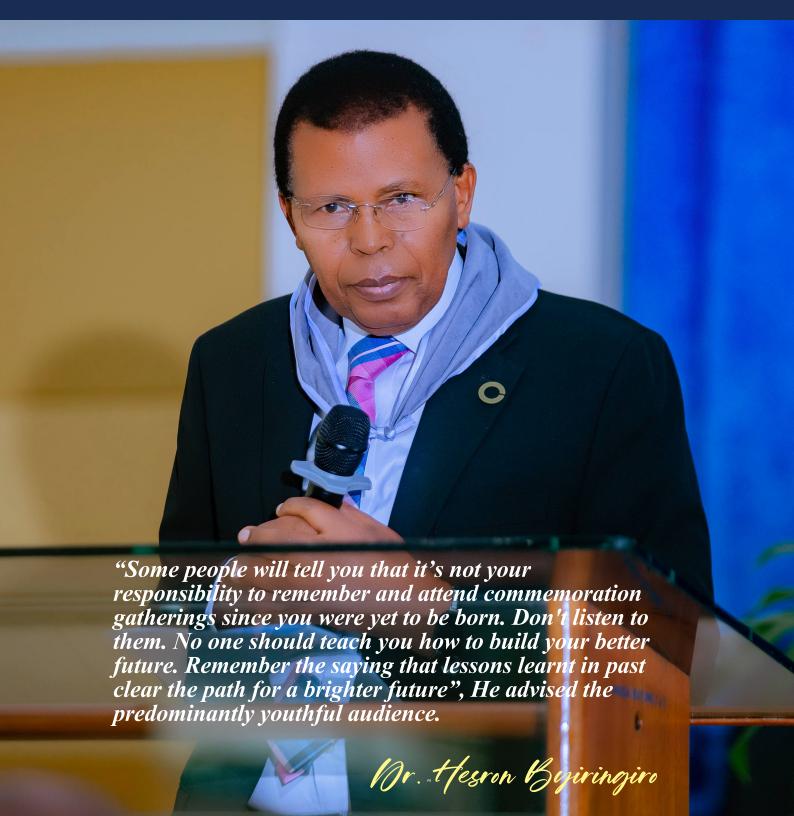
On 3rd May 2024, the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) commemorated the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in 1994, an event that was attended by some of the survivors hailing from Mudende Sector where the former Mudende Campus of AUCA used to be.

The Chief Guest at this function was Hon. Christine Murebwayire from the Rwandan Senate. Also in attendance were Dr. Hesron Byiringiro, Chairperson of AUCA Council, Mr. Deogratias Nzabonimpa, Rubavu district Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Development, Dr. Pennicook Eustache, Vice Chancellor of AUCA, Dr. Theogene Niyonzima, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, security organs, IBUKA and AERG representatives, local leaders, AUCA staff and students to mention but a few.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Pennicook, the Vice Chancellor, commiserated with those who lost their loved ones during Rwanda's darkest time of the genocide, and he requested them to put their trust in God because killers can harm the body but not the soul.



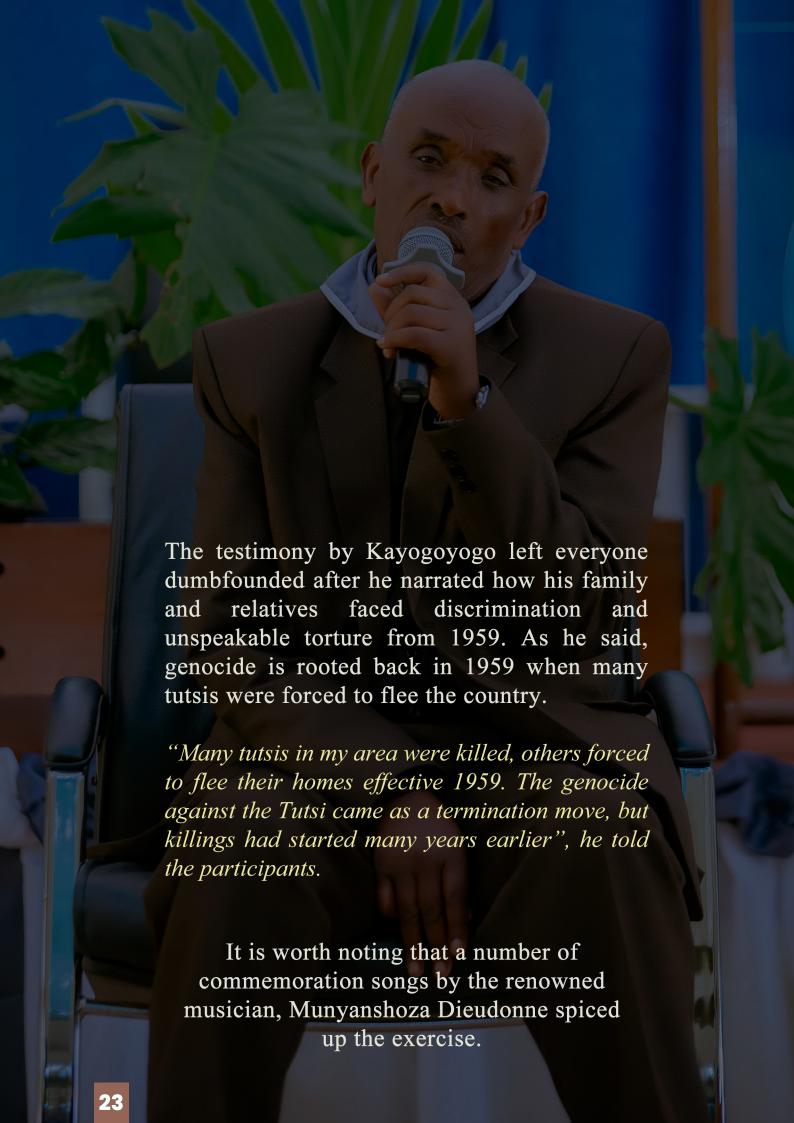
Every year Rwanda commemorates the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, an event that is marked by several activities including wreath laying, testimonies, commemoration songs, commemoration messages, lighting the candle of hope, name it. Speaking at the event, Dr. Hesron Byiringiro, AUCA's Chairperson of the Council told young people who were attending the function that the betterment of Rwanda is in their hands. Thus, they should not lend their ears to those who discourage them from attending commemoration events.



The exercise of commemorating the genocide against the Tutsi at AUCA Main Campus was introduced by a minute of silence after which wreaths were laid at the monument bearing names of students and staff of the former AUCA campus of Mudende who were killed during the genocide against the tutsi.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Christine Murebwayire praised the then RPA troops who valiantly stopped the genocide. As she said, their bravery and determination put the genocide to an end after the entire humanity had failed. She then urged the youth and everyone at the event to relax and go about to their work since the same Inkotanyi troops who stopped the genocide are still there.







## JUNE, A GLORIOUS MONTH



If there is any month the Adventist University of Central Africa was privileged to receive high profile visitors, it is June, 2024.

In this month, the institution was blessed to have at its own premises both the Executive Secretary, Erton C.Kohler and Treasurer, Dr Paul Haysmer Douglas from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Interestingly, the two high profile officials did not come on the same day. The first to land on the premises of AUCA was the Treasurer, whose visit was witnessed on June 16, 2024. On the other hand, the General Conference Executive Secretary was received on Friday June 21, 2024, a day before his official welcome on the Sabbath of June 22, 2024 a Sabbath he actively partook in as the divine service preacher.

Dr. Douglas with his delegation visited the university to learn more about the services offered and facilities the institution has at its disposal.

Their presence was an opportunity to exchange with the AUCA staff, but most importantly offer a word of prayer together for God's relentless blessings on the institution.









## "Auca Researchers at cimpad Conference"

"The 13th International Conference on Public Management, Policy, and Development was held at Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village (KCEV) between 24th and 26th June, 2024 covering three days.

Participants to the conference came from various places of the world including the United States of America, African countries, Rwanda, and others."

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Speaking at the opening of the conference, Dr. Peggy Valentine, CIMPAD President, expressed her satisfaction vis-à-vis the number of academicians and researchers who have dedicated their time to the conference.

She said that the conference is an opportunity for researchers to share expertise on matters that contribute to the wellbeing of the community at large.

"We're delighted to have CIMPAD conference here in Kigali. Many of you have worked tirelessly to make this conference a reality. With all of us here, we expect more deliberations on issues affecting our communities and possible solutions to such issues". she told the participants.

The conference, which ran under the theme "Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development", attracted many local higher learning institutions with the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) being one of them.

Researchers from AUCA were led by AUCA senior managers i.e., Vice Chancellor, Prof. Penniecook Eustache and the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Prof. Theogene Niyonzima. During the three days, AUCA showcased its research power through presentations and inputs shared by researchers such as:

- . Prof. Jacques Kayigema,
- . Assoc. Prof. M. Cyeze Emmanuel,
- . Assoc. Prof. Butera Edison,
- . Dr. Casamayor Santiago,
- . Dr. Rosa Padilla,
- . Dr. Aurelie Mukabalisa,
- . Dr. Gisanabagabo Sebuhuzu,
- . Dr. Lynet Okiko,
- . Dr. Mulindwa Daniel,
- . Dr. Phanuel Hakizimana,
- . Mr. Jean Baptiste Manirakiza,
- . Mr. Enock Nibishaka, and
- . Mr. Aphrodise Nsabimana.



This was the first time CIMPAD was taking place in Rwanda. On the third day, participants expressed their satisfaction, and requested the organizers to find time in the future and bring it back to the land of a thousand hills. The Adventist University of Central Africa believes in a number of things including teaching, healing, and preaching. Apart from that, carrying out research studies on a number of topics remains a top priority for the institution.









### REVIVAL WEEK AT AUCA

From 20th July to 27th July 2024, the Adventist University of Central Africa, through her local Church, 'AUCA SDA Church, organized a revival week to ignite and restore faith among staff and students. The week which ran under the theme, 'Evidence', had Pr. Highten Hamwenee as the facilitator. Pr. Highten came all the way from Zimbabwe to serve the Lord whom he loves.

The Revival Week would have sessions in the morning and in the evening each and every day. The morning session would kick-off at 6h30 A.M, while the evening session would start at 6PM. Both sessions could attract members and non-members of the church to learn more about what the Lord wants His people to do. In his sermons, Pr. Highten shared biblical facts indicating that there is enough and unquestionable evidence that God loves His people, and that He wishes them good. He picked more cases whereby Jesus was seen attending to people's needs and problems when he was still on earth.

"The bible is plain and clear that Jesus loves us. He proved this by sometimes travelling long distance only to save one person. The book of Mark, Chapter 5 narrates the ordeal of a man who had been demon-possessed for long, and Jesus is seen entering the land of this man and cured him before going back. He never stayed to heal many others. For Jesus, this one man was an asset not a liability in the mission", said the Pastor.



# Construction

### OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND THEOLOGY HOSTELS FLAGGED OFF



"Friday, 22nd August 2024 entered the archives of the Adventist University of Central; Africa after construction activities for a storey-building that will shelter hostels for students in Nursing, Midwifery and Theology were launched."

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by officials from the East Central Africa Division of the SDA Church led by Dr. Blasious Ruguri, the Division President and AUCA Chancellor, officials from Rwanda Union Mission led by Dr. Hesron Byilingiro, the President of the Union who also doubles as the Chairman of AUCA Council.



In his welcome message, Dr. Eustache Penniecook. Vice Chancellor the Adventist Central Africa, University of groundbreaking described the Ceremony as something gigantic as it paves the way for the construction of the facility that will enable AUCA to accommodate more students in the future and provide solutions to more countries across the globe.



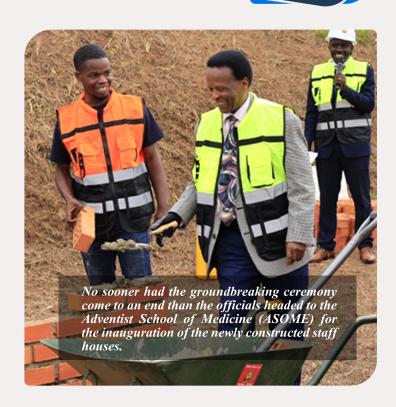
The Union President and AUCA Council Chairman, Dr. Hesron Byilingiro expressed his satisfaction to the Division leadership to have okayed the erection of the hostels at AUCA premises. He added that the facility will not only benefit AUCA, but also the society at large.

"We'd like to thank the East Central Africa Division of the SDA Church for having supported the idea of building these hostels here at AUCA, and accepted to fund construction activities. Today we've immense joy to put in place a facility that will help us in providing quality education to our students. The dormitory that will soon rise on this land will host our future theologians and medical practitioners to serve both the church and society", he told the participants.

Eng. Sebera Vincent who will oversee construction activities elucidated that the skyscraper will count numerous rooms with the capacity to host 250 students.

Officiating at the groundbreaking ceremony, Dr. Blasious Ruguri told the participants that the move to construct the hostels is in line with enabling young people to meet their dreams. He then pledged that construction activities will be speeded up so that the building can be in place before long.

"This project is very critical to the Adventist University of Central Africa because without its implementation, the dreams of shaping young people's lives will be impossible. We'll stand together with AUCA until this project is finished. I therefore encourage everyone to partake as we embark on the construction of this important facility", he said.





### **Since 1984**

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA Masoro Hill, City of Kigali PO Box 2461, Kigali Rwanda