AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY for HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Awakening the sleeping genius in each of us

12th GRADUATION CEREMONY

2026



GRADUATION HANDBOOK

THEME: CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY EDUCATION MODEL: ROOTED IN COMPETENCE, TEACHING AND LEARNING

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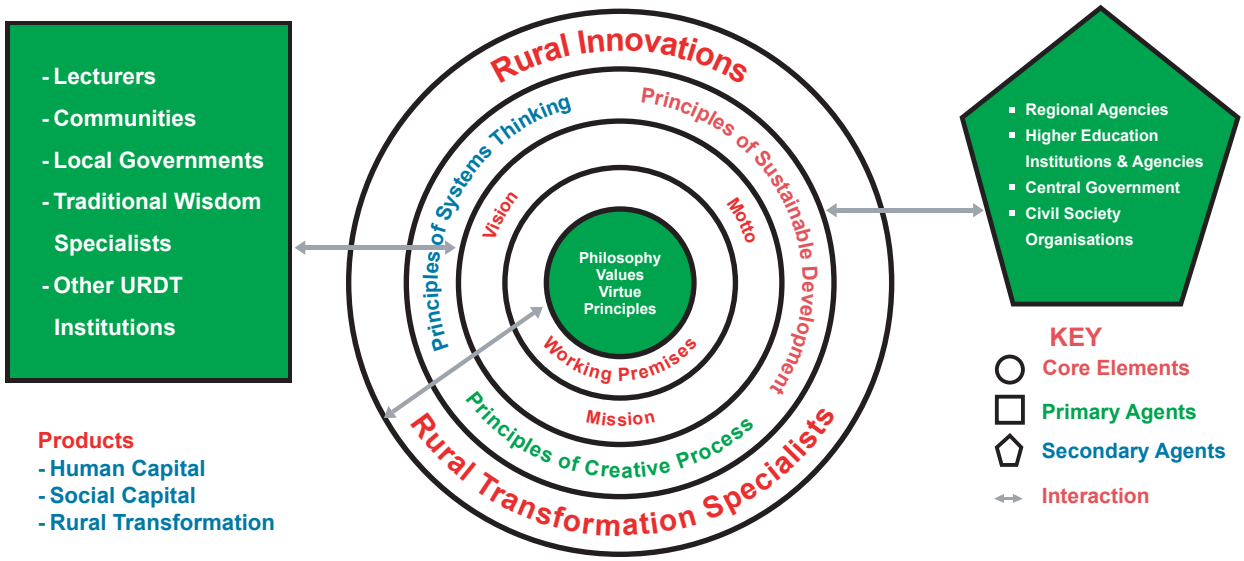
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WHO WE **ARE**

ARU EDUCATION MODEL



African Rural University (ARU) is a non-profit value-based, all-women's university located in Kagadi district, Western Uganda. ARU as the only university centered on rural transformation in East Africa provides transformational education that empowers women to become effective change agents within the African development context. With an educational approach that calls for a re-orientation of mindset and generating energy around visions and possibilities, rather than problem-solving, ARU blends traditional wisdom, science, humanities, and arts into academic programs that skill women to enable transformative processes for rural communities.

ARU's education blends theory (60%) and practical application (40%), engaging students in real-life community projects. They live and work with communities, fostering a direct link between academic learning and rural transformation.

> Women-Led Change: Community Engagement and Rural Development in Uganda



ARU VISION

African Rural University is a value-based all women university that offers a professional Discipline in Technologies for Rural Transformation and enables students, Staff and supporters to have a shared vision and purpose; ARU is an institution that has:

- Governance and Management systems that nurture and promote participatory decision making, transformational education, training and endogenous knowledge development.
- Professional Board of Trustees, Council, Staff and Promoters grounded in the principles of the creative process, disciplines of a learning organization and holistic development.
- Products which include community practice, publications, public lectures, library, Rural Transformation Specialists and research methodology based on the Visionary Approach.
- A sustainable resource base and collaborates with public, private and academic institutions, Civil Society Organizations and the donor community that share similar philosophy of empowerment of rural people for self-reliance.



ARU MISSION

African Rural University provides transformational education to create effective change agents and makers within an African development context. ARU applies theoretical learning, innovative instruction, and field practice, so that ARU graduates can create conditions for rural people to improve their lives, transform their communities, awaken inherent leadership and increase their capacity for self- generating and sustainable change.

ARU VALUES

African Rural University (ARU) follows a set of values that guide its policies and practices:

1. Respecting Life
   Acknowledging the dignity and inter-de-pendence of all beings, treating them with respect and consideration.
2. Health
   Promoting holistic well-being, encompassing physical, spiritual, and mental health. Encouraging freedom of worship and active participation in various activities for mental and physical health.
3. Freedom
   Empowering individuals to make choices aligned with their aspirations. Emphasizing the principle of "Most Important Now" (MIN) and discouraging distractions such as social activities and unplanned pregnancies.
4. Peace
   Striving for the highest within each individual, fostering harmonious relationships with others and the broader community.
5. Creating and Adjusting
   Keeping focus on the vision while remaining flexible in the course of action.
6. Being True
   Staying true to oneself and others, aligning personal vision with reality, and supporting others' aspirations.
7. Being Creators
   Emphasizing entrepreneurship and innovation over mere problem-solving. Providing ample opportunities for creativity and innovation in projects, practicum, and internships.
8. Eliciting Abilities
   Encouraging individuals to recognize and utilize their own abilities and fostering a commitment to service.
9. Justice
   Upholding values, virtues, and principles for fairness in practices.

> Our values guide us to serve with integrity, empower communities, and lead lasting rural transformation.

GUEST **SPEAKER**



Dr. Lenard Nkalubo

Senior Lecturer, Kyambogo University | Director, Bunyoro Development Think Tank

Dr. Lenard Nkalubo is a computer scientist, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at Kyambogo University, and Director of the Bunyoro Development Think Tank. His work sits at the intersection of scientific research, technological innovation and socio-economic transformation, with a focus on harnessing emerging technologies to address practical challenges facing communities while shaping the future of education.

His research spans artificial intelligence, machine learning and computer vision, particularly their application to real-world challenges in health, agriculture, infrastructure and inclusive development. In agriculture, his work explores the use of deep learning to improve agricultural information systems and enable early detection of crop diseases, contributing to efforts to strengthen agricultural productivity and food security. In health, his research includes artificial intelligence applications for malaria diagnosis, while his work in road safety explores automated technologies that can improve transport safety.

A unique aspect of his work is the application of technology to improve accessibility and inclusion. In collaboration with Kyambogo University's disability unit, he has been involved in developing assistive smartphone technologies to support visually impaired persons in navigating their environments more independently. His research also explores hybrid and continuous learning approaches to optimise real-time object detection models, advancing the development of more adaptable and efficient AI systems.

Beyond the university, Dr. Nkalubo brings a regional development perspective to his work as Director of the Bunyoro Development Think Tank. Through the Think Tank, he contributes to research, development dialogue and efforts to mobilise knowledge and innovation in support of the Bunyoro sub-region's socio-economic transformation.

For African Rural University's graduands, his work offers an important perspective on the role of science, technology and locally driven innovation in shaping resilient communities and advancing sustainable development.

UNIVERSITY **GOVERNANCE**

FOUNDERS



Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe
VICE CHANCELLOR



[The late] Silvana Franco Veltkamp



Mr Ephraim Rutaboba

KEY LEADERSHIP



Hon. Justice Muhanguzi
CHANCELLOR



Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa
CHAIRMAN (ARU COUNCIL)

UNIVERSITY **COUNCIL**



Dr. Matthias Kasaija Magunda
MEMBER APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS BOARD



Mr. John Kyaboona
CHAIRMAN FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIONS BOARD



Namubiru Zula PhD
MEMBER APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS BOARD



Sr, Daisy Nakanwagi
CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS BOARD



Alida Bakema-Boon
COUNCIL MEMBER



Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa
MEMBER PLANNING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION BOARD



Mr. Fredrick Kabuye Musisi
COUNCIL MEMBER



Ssengonzi Bagenda Jerome (D.Eng.), M.Sc. Eng.)
SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL



Patricia Seybold
AFRICAN FOOD AND PEACE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



Peninah Akampurira
ARU GUILD PRESIDENT



Ms. Eva Murora
ARU STAFF REPRESENTATIVE



Alinda Joy
MEMBER (ALUMNAE REPRESENTATIVE)



Dr Mwalimu Musheshe, PhD,
Senior Ashoka Fellow
VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT



Mr. John Tusiime
HEAD OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Dr Allawi Ssemanda
ACTING UNIVERSITY SECRETARY



Alinda Joy
ACTING ACADEMIC REGISTRAR



Ssengonzi Bagenda Jerome (D.Eng.), M.Sc. Eng.)
SENATE REPRESEN TATIVE TO COUNCIL



Ms. Tumukunde Patience
LIBRARIAN



Mr. Vincent Baleke
UNIVERSITY BURSAR



Dr. Maali Chrispo
HEAD OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Ms. Nampewo Josephine
RESOURCEFUL PERSONS OFFICER



Mr. Joseph Odoi
COMMUNICATION OFFICER



Mr. Oluba Delacco
PLANNING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION OFFICER



Ms. Kasfa Ategeka
DEAN OF STUDENTS



Ms. Doloka Namutosi
QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER



Dr Mwalimu Musheshe, Ph D,
Senior Ashoka Fellow
VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY **COUNCIL**

S/N	Name	Position	Gender
1.	Prof. Kyamanywa Samuel	Member (Chairman)	Male
2.	Dr. Magunda Mathias	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Male
3.	Dr. Zuula Namubiru	Member (Representative Sister Institution)	Female
4.	Dr. Sengonzi Jerome Bagenda	Member (Senate Representative)	Male
5.	Bishop Kyamanywa Nathan	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Male
6.	Mr. Kyaboona John	Member (Representative of the Department of Education of the Local Government)	Male
7.	Mrs. Patty Seybold	Member (Founding Body)	Female
8.	Mrs. Alida Bakema Boon	Member (Founding Body)	Female
9.	Sis. Nakanwagi Daisy	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Female
10.	Mr. Fred Musisi Kabuye	Member (Representative of the URDT Board of Directors)	Male
11.	Ms. Eva Murora	ARU Staff Representative	Female
12.	Ms. Alinda Joy	Member (Alumnae Representative)	Female
13.	Ms. Peninah Akampurira	Member (ARU Guild President)	Female
14.	Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe	Vice Chancellor (ex-officio)	Male
15.	Dr Allawi Ssemanda	Acting University Secretary (ex-officio)	Male

UNIVERSITY **SENATE**

S/N	NAME	TITLE	POSITION
1.	Mwalimu Musheshe (PhD Ashoka Fellow)	Vice Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Alinda Joy	Acting Academic Registrar	Secretary
3.	Dr Allawi Ssemanda	Acting University Secretary	Member
4.	Tumukunde Patience	University Librarian	Member
5.	Baleke Vincent	University Bursar	Member
6.	Namutosi Doloka	Quality Assurance Officer	Member
7.	Dr. Sengonzi Jerome Bagenda	Dean of Faculty	Member
8.	Odoi Joseph	Communications Officer	Member
9.	Tusiime John	Head of Community Engagement	Member
10.	Ayikoru Monica	Students Guild Representative	Member
11.	Ategeka Kasfa	Administrator and Ag Dean of Students	Member
12.	Twesiime Paolino	TWS Representative	Member
13.	Dr. Maali Chrispo	Head of Research and Publications	Member
14	Nampewo Josephine	Resourceful Persons Officer	Member
15	Oluba Delaco	Planning and Resource Mobilization Officer	Member

UNIVERSITY **MANAGEMENT**

S/N	Name	Position
1.	Mwalimu Musheshe (PhD. Ashoka Fellow)	Vice Chancellor
2.	Mrs. Alinda Joy	Acting Academic Registrar
3.	Dr Allawi Ssemanda	Acting University Secretary
4.	Dr. Sengonzi Bagenda	Faculty Dean
5.	Ms. Tumukunde Patience	University Librarian
6.	Mr. Vincent Baleke	University Bursar
7.	Ategeka Kasfa	Dean of Students
8.	Mr. Oluba Delacco	Planning and Resource Mobilization Officer
9	Nampewo Josephine	Resourceful Persons Officer



CEREMONY **PROGRAMME**

Time	Event
8:00 AM	Graduands take their seats.
9:00 AM	Invited guests and parents take their seats
10:00 AM	Academic Procession
10:15 AM	Anthems.
10:35 AM	Chancellor constitutes the 12th congregation
10:40 AM	Remarks from the Vice Chancellor
10:50 AM	Chairman ARU Council addresses the Congregation
11:00 AM	Chancellor addresses the congregation
11:15 AM	Entertainment
11:30 AM	Guest Speaker addresses the congregation
12:00 PM	Conferment of degrees by the Chancellor
12:15 PM	Chancellor dissolves the congregation
12:30 PM	Anthems
12:45 PM	Closing Procession
1:00 PM	Luncheon.

ACADEMIC **PROCESSION**

The Chancellor's Procession shall include the following

- Members of Academic Staff
- President of the Students' Guild
- Dean of Students
- University Bursar
- University Librarian
- Academic Registrar
- Members of the University Council
- Chairpersons of Council Committees
- Deputy Chairperson of University Council
- Chairperson of Council
- Mace Bearer
- Vice Chancellor
- The Guest of Honour
- Chancellor

ANTHEMS

The Uganda National Anthem

Oh Uganda! may God uphold thee,
We lay our future in thy hand.
United, free,
For liberty
Together we'll always stand.

Oh Uganda! the land of freedom.
Our love and labour we give,
And with neighbours all
At our country's call
In peace and friendship we'll live.

Oh Uganda! the land that feeds us
By sun and fertile soil grown.
For our own dear land,
We'll always stand,
The Pearl of Africa's Crown.

The EAC Anthem

Ee Mungu twaomba ulinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

Chorus
Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa
Umoja wetu Natulinde
Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora

Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Chorus

Bunyoro Kitara Tukugonza
nyina itwe
Nitwe abaana b'ihanga
Abakutamu ekitiinisa

Lero Turakoraki
Tukugiza Mukama
Nitwijuka ekitiinisa
Kyihanga Iyaitu Bunyoro

Emyenda ya Kitara
Tukwatanize hamu
Twesigege Omukama
Nukwo twombeke Bunyoro

Mu njura nomu ihunga
Mu rubaale n'enkuba
Omu businge n'obubi Katufere hali Bunyoro.

African Rural University Anthem

African Rural University
The Cradle of learning
African Rural University
The cradle of creating
African Rural University
The center for transforming

You have a vision
That is inspiring
You have a mission
That is empowering

Chorus--

You educate a woman
Uganda to be prosperous
You educate a woman
African to be at peace

Chorus-

You educate a woman
The world to be free
You educate a woman
Humanity to be happy Chorus-

They come from the East
They come from the South
They come from the West
They come from the North
To drink on the well of wisdom.

Chorus--

SPEECHES

CHANCELLOR CONSTITUTES CONGREGATION

By the powers entrusted to me on this 20th day of November 2026, I constitute this Assembly into the 12th congregation of African Rural University. May I now invite the Vice Chancellor African Rural University, Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe, to give his welcoming remarks.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

Address by VC at ARU's 12th graduation held on November 21st, at ARU campus.

VICE CHANCELLOR

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I now take the honor to invite the Chairman of the University Council to give his welcoming remarks

ARU COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO THE CONGREGATION

Speech by the Council Chairman at ARU's 12th graduation held on November 21st, at ARU campus.

VICE CHANCELLOR

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I now take the honor to invite you to give your speech

CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

Speech by the Chancellor at ARU's 12th graduation held on November 21st, at ARU campus.

CHANCELLOR

I now invite the Guest Speaker, Dr. Lenard Nkalubo, to give his speech.

GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

Address by the Guest Speaker at ARU's 12th graduation

VICE CHANCELLOR

I now invite the Academic Registrar to invite the Faculty Dean to present candidates for the conferment of Degrees of African Rural University.

ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

Mr. Chancellor Sir, may I invite the Faculty Dean, Jerome Ssengonzi (Dr.Eng), to present the candidates for the conferment of Degrees of African Rural University.

-

DEAN

Mr Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you the following candidates who have satisfied for conferment of 1; Bachelor of Rural Development and 2; Bachelor of science in sustainable agriculture Degrees of African Rural University

DEAN

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I have the honor to present to you the following candidates who have satisfied the requirements for the conferment of the degree of Bachelor of Rural Development (BRD) of African Rural University. The best candidate for Bachelor of Rural Development is Acirocan - Patricia with CGPA4.5

Bachelor of Rural Development (BRD)

Reg. Number	Student Name
22/ARU/BRD/001	Acirocan Patricia
22/ARU/BRD/002	Atuhura Monica
22/ARU/BRD/003	Atujune Ruth
22/ARU/BRD/005	Natumanya Kunihira

CHANCELLOR

By the powers entrusted to me I confer to those whose names have been read the degree of Bachelor of Rural Development of African Rural University.

DEAN

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I have the honor to present to you the following candidates who have satisfied the requirements for the conferment of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (BSSA) of African Rural University. The best candidate for Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (BSSA) is Alinatwe Jackline with CGPA4.6

Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (BSSA)

Reg. Number	Student Name
22/ARU/BSSA/001	Alinaitwe Jackline
22/ARU/BSSA/002	Kugonza Robinah
23/ARU/BSSA/003	Nagayi Topista

CHANCELLOR

By the powers entrusted to me, I confer to those whose names have been read the degree of Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (BSSA) of African Rural University.

VICE CHANCELLOR

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I now invite you to dissolve the 12th congregation of African Rural University.

CHANCELLOR

By the powers entrusted to me, I hereby dissolve the 12th congregation of African Rural University.

ANTHEMS

African Rural University Anthem

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African Rural University
The cradle of creating
African Rural University
The center for transforming

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That is inspiring
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Nitwijuka ekitiinisa
Kyihanga Iyaitu Bunyoro

Emyenda ya Kitara
Tukwatanize hamu
Twesigege Omukama
Nukwo twombeke Bunyoro

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United, free,
For liberty
Together we'll always stand.

Oh Uganda! the land of freedom.
Our love and labour we give,
And with neighbours all
At our country's call
In peace and friendship we'll live.

Oh Uganda! the land that feeds us
By sun and fertile soil grown.
For our own dear land,
We'll always stand,
The Pearl of Africa's Crown.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

YEAR	COURSE	NUMBER
2015	BRD	24
2016	BRD	06
2017	BRD	07
2018	BRD	04
2019	BRD	12
2020	BRD	11
2021	BRD	09
2022	BRD	11
2023	BRD	07
2024	BRD	08
2025	BRD	11
2025	BSSA	06
2026	BRD	04
2026	BSSA	03
Total Students		**123**

AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY

For Rural Development

AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY

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Website: www.aru.ac.ug

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