

UoA unveils growth plan for Zambia, rest of Africa

By *Mavuto Chipeta*

The University of Africa (UoA) has unveiled a raft of measures to strengthen growth of the Lusaka-based, long-distance tertiary learning institution.

UoA Chancellor, Ruth Mubanga

said in Lusaka on Tuesday that, the measures, would put the university in a strong position to meet the projected growth of tertiary education in Africa.

According to her, the university's optimism was buoyed by the fact that a number of studies showed the conti-

nent's demographic structure of more than 50% of the population being below 20 years coupled by the pressing need for skills to support sustained productivity-led growth would spur the demand for higher education demand.

"These measures, therefore, give priority to strengthening our governance structures, staffing, accessibility and quality in keeping with the desire of the university to be the leading provider of quality long-distance tertiary education in Zambia and the rest of Africa," Dr Mubanga said.

Dr Mubanga also announced the departure of the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Christine Mushibwe.

She said the university had appointed her in the interim to fill the vacant position left by Dr Mushibwe.

"In announcing these measures, I would like to say University of Africa owes the out-going Vice Chancellor Dr Mushibwe a debt of gratitude for the sterling work she had done during her tenure. She leaves a positive legacy on which we can build on," Dr Mubanga said.

The measures included the creation of a board of directors to oversee the business side while the council and senate focused on day-to-day management and academic affairs, respectively.

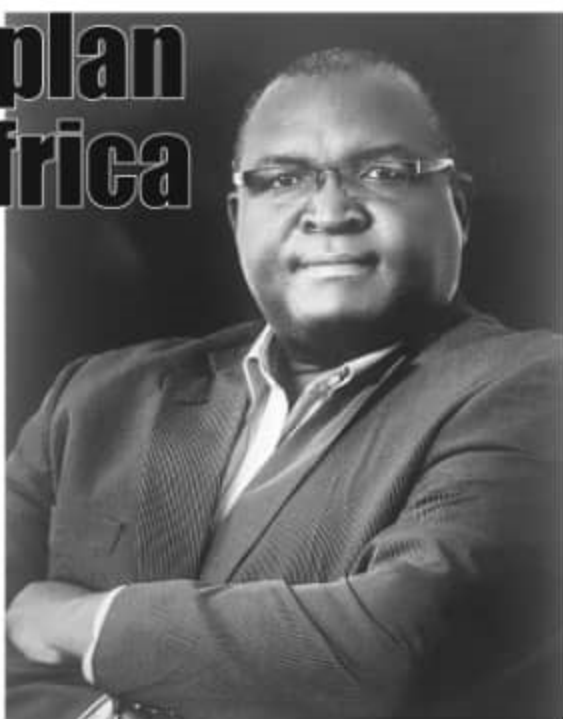
Victor Nyasulu, a Lusaka-based business management consultant was named board chairperson.

Other board members were Roland Rohrs, Peter Kriel and Dr Mubanga as *ex-officio*.

The university council will be co-chaired by Nyasulu and Tom van der Zee.

Other council members were Rohrs, Kriel, Mubanga (*ex-officio*), vice chancellor, staff representative and student representative.

At the helm of the senate was John Volk while other members were Alex



Victor Nyasulu

Kuyanga, Sichelwe Kasanda, Stephen Witika, vice chancellor, registrar and heads of faculty.

UoA was established in 2006, and in 2008 was accredited by the regulatory body of university education in Zambia, the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

Its student base has grown in the last decade with than 2 000 students across the African continent, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Swaziland. It offered 22 Bachelors, eight Masters and a Doctoral degree.

Recently, ADvTECH, South Africa's Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed company which is Africa's leading provider of tertiary private education, acquired a 52% stake in UoA, a development that bolstered the

university's expansion plans.

Nyasulu said he was optimistic the newly introduced measures would ensure UoA ramped up the growth it had registered in the last decade by not only continuing to provide accessible, affordable and quality university education but also continuing to innovate the offering to fill gaps identified in driving Africa's sustainable development.

"An ideal outcome is UoA should positively be linked to solving major social economic, environmental challenges in Zambia and the rest of Africa in more tangible ways of bringing our motto of empowerment through education to life," he said.

This was contained in a statement by Public Relations Consultant Davies Mulenga yesterday.



Ruth Mubanga