APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR

The Africa University Board of Directors and the Vice Chancellor, are pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. Engineer Talon Garikayi (PhD), as the Africa University Deputy Vice Chancellor with effect from the 1st of March 2024.

Prof. Garikayi is an award-winning leader, author, curriculum development and management, research, innovation, and commercialisation strategist whose expertise has seen him superintending over multi-disciplinary technological and policy developments. Before joining Africa University, he was the Pro-Vice Chancellor – Research, Innovation and Commercialisation at the Harare Institute of Technology. Prof Garikayi sits on the boards of NetOne (Pvt) Ltd, ZUPCO (Pvt) Ltd, Elevate Trust and the Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries Committee for Research. He has undertaken research on behalf of the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Health and Childcare, USAID, PEPFAR, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science, Innovation and Technology Development and the Southern African Development Community.

Prof. Garikayi has published in reputable journals in the field of Mechatronics, Biomechatronics, Artificial Intelligence, Biomedical Engineering and Software Development. His notable consultancy work includes the design and installation of a robotic painting system for Ford Motors South Africa, the development of an Automated Continuous Casting System for Steelmakers (Pvt) Ltd, and the development of a Moisture Regulation System for Cotton Ginning for Cottco Zimbabwe. He has also developed Power and Distribution Transformers for ZESA and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), the Tap Card Bus Payment system, Sahara Fuel Management System for Service Stations, National Fuel Smartcard, Bureaux de Change Transaction Management System for the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, Pension Management System for Public Service Commission, Labour Case Management System for Management System, Electronic Tollgate System and Procurement Management Systems, Core Banking Systems and several ERP systems, as well as the COVID-19 alert mobile and vaccination applications being utilised by the Government of Zimbabwe. Prof. Garikayi has also been instrumental in carrying out general maintenance and upgrades of already existing systems in the Food and Beverage industry, Mining and Processing. He is the current holder of the Presidential Innovation Award.

Prof. Garikayi holds a PhD in Mechatronics from Stellenbosch University (South Africa); a Masters of Engineering degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the National University of Science and Technology (Zimbabwe) and a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechatronics Engineering from the Chinhoyi University of Technology (Zimbabwe). Furthermore, he holds an MBA-Finance and is currently pursuing an MSc in Data Science. A German-trained Design Thinking Expert from Hasso-Plattner Institute (Berlin), specialising in business process optimisation and product development, Prof. Garikayi is a professional member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, South Africa Institute of Mechanical Engineering, Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers, Engineering Council of Zimbabwe and Global Engineering Teams Member (German, US, India and SA).

The Board of Directors welcomes Prof. Garikayi to the AU family and wishes him every success, as he contributes to the consolidation of a student-centred university.