



PRESS RELEASE

RE-APPOINTMENT OF PROF. ELIFAS TOZO BISANDA AS VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA FOR A SECOND TERM

The Chairman of Council of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof Rwekaza Mukandala, is pleased to inform the OUT community as well as the general public, that the Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, has appointed Prof Elifas Tozo Bisanda to the position of Vice Chancellor for the second and last term of five years starting from 2nd June, 2020.

PROF. ELIFAS TOZO BISANDA has been the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) since his first appointment on 2nd June, 2015. Before his first appointment, Prof. Bisanda, who is a Full Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Regional Services) for two (2) years (2007-9), then Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) for a period of six (6) years (2009-2015) at the Open University of Tanzania. Prior to joining the Open University of Tanzania, Prof Bisanda worked in the College of Engineering and Technology of the University of Dar es Salaam for 20 years (1981-2000), three years at the University of Namibia (2000-2003), and four years at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology – KIST in Rwanda (2003-2007).



Prof. Bisanda holds a PhD in Materials Science from the University of Bath, UK (1991), an M.Sc. in Metallurgical Engineering from Cranfield University UK (1984), and a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam (1981). He is also a Registered Professional Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Tanzania. He is also a fellow of the Tanzania Academy of Sciences (TAAS). On 25th February, 2016, Prof Bisanda was conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) by Chosun University of South Korea.

Prof Bisanda served for six years as the Chairman of the Governing Council for the Institute of Adult Education in Tanzania (2012-2018). He is the Chairman of the Council of Morogoro Vocational Teachers Training College since July 2014. He is also currently the Chairman of the National UNESCO Commission of Tanzania since September 2015. He is a member of the Council of the University of Arusha, member of the Tanzania Police Training Board,

and member of Senate of the East African Statistics College (EASTC). In November 2018, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO). Prof Bisanda is also a Board member of the Association of African Universities (AAU), the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), the African Virtual University (AVU), the Southern Africa Region Universities Association (SARUA), and the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA).

Prof Bisanda has accumulated years of experience in distance education, strategic planning, partnership development, negotiation skills, personnel management, resource mobilization, institutional management, academic audit, quality assurance, photography, desktop publishing and multi-media integration in online teaching and learning. He is also an expert in renewable energy, has done research work related to micro-hydro-power, biogas, wind-power, solar-power, and zero emission, and has published more than 70 papers in journals and conference proceedings.

During his first term as VC, Prof Bisanda has managed to uphold high standards of academic excellence and performance of the University, improving institutional infrastructure, and restoring the Foundation Programme as a main entry qualification into undergraduate degree studies. Prospects of expansion of university infrastructure and its contribution in training of science and technology human resources are his highest agenda during his second and final term.

As a dedicated Christian and Member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Professor Bisanda attributes his successful career to the Almighty God.