

## AN AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION ICON EXITS THE STAGE

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Celebrating **Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile's** Nine (9) years of Service  
as the Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU)



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PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

SECRETARY GENERAL  
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
(Aug. 2012 - Sept. 2021)

# Forward

The Association of African Universities is proud and privileged to be associated with Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile, an astute academic who served as its Secretary General for the period August 2012 - September 2021. Overall, the AAU has had 10 Secretaries-General in its 54 years of existence, and Prof. Ehile is the 10th. Prof. Ehile was not entirely new to the AAU before this period, as he had served the Association in the capacity of an AAU Governing Board Member (2005 - 2012) representing the West Africa Region.

During his nine (9) year stay at the AAU Secretariate, headquartered in Accra Ghana, he proved to be a true Pan-African Icon devoted to leading the transformation of the Higher Education sector, and working with stakeholders to solve its long-standing challenges. Prof. Ehile made significant contributions to the higher education sector, helping raise its profile and competitiveness. We highlight the top 10 achievements of Prof. Ehile during his stay as the Secretary General of the AAU as follows:

**1. STRATEGIC DIRECTION** – Prof Ehile oversaw the development of two strategic plans for the Association: 2016/2020 and 2021/2025

**2. VISIBILITY OF AAU** – Under his leadership, the AAU’s visibility increased tremendously, through his strong support for communications and its various channels including social media, the AAU Newsletter, AAU Television, and vibrant websites. AAU previously did not use social media nor have an e-newsletter

**3. DECENTRALIZATION OF AAU FUNCTIONS** – Prof. Ehile recorded this remarkable achievement through the establishment of AAU regional offices in East Africa, North Africa and North America. This strategy is making the Association’s programmes more relevant in responding to specific regional needs. Further, it is increasing the ownership of the Association by the members. Desk Officers were also appointed in member institutions to improve the communication between the Secretariat and AAU members

**4. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES** – During his tenure, the workshops strategy was strengthened to increase the number of participants who benefitted from the AAU’s capacity building trainings. The number of Face -to- Face workshops held, as well as the diversity of training areas covered, all shot up in line with meeting the needs of stakeholders of African Universities. During the COVID19 era we saw the Secretariat training 40,163 individuals virtually between 1st July 2020 to 13 April 2021

**5. NEW PARTNERS** – The partnership with the World Bank was brokered in 2014 and has been renewed for the current Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) Project. This partnership is worth US\$350 million and is supporting the transformation of Africa’s higher Education. Other partners nurtured by Prof Ehile were Carnegie Corporation, The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA).



**6. INNOVATIVE PROJECTS** – Prof Ehile oversaw the establishment of the AAU Television, the online African Jobs Board Platform, the implementation of Virtual Meetings Platforms and the AAUeLearnAfrica Learning Management System.

**8. STAFFING** – The strategy to recruit interns has helped to cover the staffing gaps. Prof Ehile negotiated with the Government of Ghana so that National Service Persons would be assigned to the Secretariat at the cost of the Government of Ghana.

**7. HOSTING COUNTRY RELATIONSHIP** – The relationship with the Government of Ghana has continued to be strengthened. Prof Ehile oversaw the construction of the current AAU Secretariat building and the Secretary General's residence, which were both gifts from the host country

**9. FUNDING** – Funding was stabilized during his term of office through the prudent use of resources. The staff End of Service Benefits savings account was established to ensure that when staff disengage from the AAU, they are immediately paid their dues. An endowment fund has also been established for the Association

10. **ADVOCACY** – Prof Ehile continued to advocate for the building of resilient Higher Education Institutions by engaging African Ministries of Higher Education and Regional Research and Education Networks



We sincerely thank Prof. Ehile for laying this solid foundation upon which the sector will continue to thrive. We wish him well in his retirement and hope that though he is stepping out of his role as the Secretary General, he is not stepping out of the higher education scene. We pray for a rejuvenated energy to enable him provide consultancy services to higher education stakeholders, both on the continent and beyond, for the benefit of Africa's development.

We also appreciate all our stakeholders who submitted their well wishes, reminiscing about their engagement with Prof. Ehile and wishing him well in the next phase of his life.

From All of us  
at the AAU  
Secretariate,  
with lots of  
love!!!



## Biography

Prof Etienne Ehouan Ehile is an Ivorian and a renowned physiologist. He graduated from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Abidjan in 1974, where he obtained his Master's degree. He then joined the University of Aix Marseille III (France) and obtained his Doctorate in Neurophysiology with honors in 1978. His research work was carried out at the Neurophysiology Laboratory of the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France.

He is the former Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Côte d'Ivoire and former President of Nangui Abrogoua University, Côte d'Ivoire, where he spent two terms of 4 years each (2001-2010), before assuming the role of Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU) in August 2011.

Professor Ehile has published over 50 scientific articles in various regional and international scientific journals from 1978 to 2019. From 1992 to date, Professor Ehile has held numerous managerial and administrative positions.



# Farewell Messages from Higher Education Stakeholders



Message from  
**Prof. Abdullahi Y. Ribadu**  
(Former Secretary General,  
Association of West African  
Universities –AWAU)

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be called upon to write a Farewell Message for Prof. Etienne Ehouan Ehile, the out-going Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU).

I had the opportunity of interacting closely with Prof. Ehile while serving as the Secretary General of Association of West Africa Universities (2016 – 2019). I found him to be hard-working, energetic and focused towards the development of higher education in Africa. He particularly encouraged and promoted co-operation between the regional associations with the AAU. Under Prof. Ehile's able leadership, the AAU moved to its permanent Secretariat

built by the Government of Ghana at East Legon, Accra, Ghana. The AAU Television has continued to serve as a one-stop nexus for information on higher education in Africa. All these achievements could be attributed to the dedication of the out-going SG.

I also visited the AAU Secretariat on several occasions for meetings. I was quite impressed that the out-going SG assembled a strong team of dedicated staff at the SG's Office, Research and Academic Planning, ICT, Communications and Knowledge Management Directorates.

It is noteworthy that under the leadership of Prof. Ehile, the AAU North America Headquarters was inaugurated on 1st October, 2019. I had the opportunity to witness the event in Washington, DC, USA.

It provided an opportunity to re-connect and network with African Academics in diaspora. The forum could galvanize African diaspora and friends of Africa to contribute to the development of the continent.

It is my sincere wish that the in-coming SG, Prof. Olusola Bandele Oyewole will build on the solid foundation established by his predecessors and propel higher education in Africa to a higher pedestal.

An  
Energetic  
and  
Focused  
Leader



Message from Distinguished  
**Professor Peter A. Okebukola**  
(President, GUNi-Africa and Chairman,  
Governing Council, National Open University  
of Nigeria)

On behalf of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi-Africa) and the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), I thank Professor Etienne Ehile for his sterling service to Africa as Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities (AAU). He remains, unarguably, one of the best, if not the best Secretaries General in AAU's 54-year history. Professor Ehile came to AAU with hardly matched experience as a former Minister and a former and highly successful Rector (Vice-Chancellor).

On arrival at AAU, he met quite a number of programmes and projects. On departure, he left at least three times more programmes and projects. I am able to quantify this having been

given the opportunity to conduct the mid-term review of the latest Strategic Plan of the Association. The variety and uniqueness of the programmes are particularly striking.

The AAU TV; the Africa Centres of Excellence; Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA); Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) and the rich and highly informative AAU Newsletter are some of these initiatives. He was able to win back the partners whose interest in AAU had waned. He significantly expanded this partner base. On arrival at AAU as Secretary-General, his spoken and written French was 100% and his English was 70%. On exit, he was 100% French and 100% English. This is testament to his power of lifelong learning.

## Etienne Ehile: A Secretary General Like No Other

Professor Ehile could not have done these alone. He had the unflinching support of very able staff. That Professor Ehile could do it is a clear indication that he was a good leader- able to draw from the strengths of his staff to achieve organisational goals. AAU emerged the true voice of higher education in Africa during his tenure.

By inference, as SG of AAU, he was the voice of higher education in Africa! He spoke and represented us well.

We wish him glorious years ahead in good health and sound mind as he leaves AAU better than he met.

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Message from

**Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai,**  
Former Secretary-General, Association of  
African Universities  
Honorary President, International Association of  
Universities  
Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

I first met Prof. Etienne Ehilé in 2008 in Accra, Ghana when I took up office as Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities (AAU). He was then President of Université d'Abobo-Adjamé in Côte d'Ivoire and a Board member of the AAU. He was an active and dedicated member of the Board, always ready to propose solutions to the myriad of challenges that the AAU had to overcome. His first term as Board member representing the West African region ended in 2009 and he was re-elected for a second term at the 12th AAU General Conference held in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2009.

When eventually the vacancy of the position of Secretary-General arose at the AAU in 2012, it was not surprising that Prof. Ehilé was the selected candidate. He knew well the working of the AAU, just as the AAU was

aware of his capacity for the position.

Prof. Ehilé has several noteworthy achievements to his credit during his long tenure as AAU's Secretary-General but I will mention only two. First, with the support of the Government of Ghana and the University of Ghana, he was able to complete the construction of a permanent secretariat of the AAU. The initiative for building a dedicated secretariat was actually initiated by my predecessor at the AAU, Prof. Akilagpa Sawyerr, and I followed the matter up with the Government of Ghana when I was Secretary-General. Prof. Ehilé, and all those closely associated with the AAU, must be proud of finally having a spacious and modern secretariat for the Association.

Second, he effected the decentralisation of the AAU by establishing regional offices in different regions of Africa. Again, the idea of decentralisation had been mooted a few decades earlier but there was always some reluctance at the Board level in seeing it through.

Prof. Ehilé was able to overcome the various administrative and diplomatic hurdles to finally make decentralisation a reality. His successor will have the task of ensuring that the Association derives the full benefits expected from the decentralisation process.

In my capacity as a former Secretary-General of the AAU, I wish to congratulate Prof. Ehilé for all his achievements, and to thank him for

his long and dedicated service to the Association. I wish him well in whatever he undertakes in the next phase of his career.

## Mastery in Overcoming Administrative and Diplomatic Hurdles





## An Inspirational and People focused Leader

Message from  
**Prof. Orlando Quilambo,**  
Immediate Past President of AAU

Today, I wish to bid farewell to one of our colleagues and wonderful leader, the outgoing Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, Professor EHILE. We are deeply thankful and blessed for the unique opportunity we had to meet you and work with you.

Do you realize we've been sharing each other's company for 3,285 days? Nine years of fun times, challenging times and everything in between. During these Nine years you have filled AAU with joy, and have never let the organization down.

It's bittersweet to see you leave the AAU you've enjoyed. I realize we have been very fortunate to have you lead the AAU secretariat. I am proud to have been a member of the Governing Board that worked with you.

In addition to your professionalism, you have a set of personality qualities that many wish to have. You are a very calm, endowed and honest person who is very productive and can be trusted to get the job done.

In the middle of our busy business at AAU developing new projects, initiating projects and meeting targets, you never allowed us to lose sight of the most important element of all in any organization – us, the people, with hearts, minds, and feelings. Thank you, Prof. EHILE for your inspirational leadership.

It was also fun to be around when we did not work. I remember you taking us for a walk to enjoy tasteful dinners and try lion nuts in Accra, in what is surely is one of the best eating experiences of my life.

We've been involved in some outstanding projects under your leadership. I'll always remember your contribution to our strategic direction by overseeing development of two strategic plans for the Association: 2016/2020 and 2021/2025.

I'll always remember increased visibility of AAU through your strong support for communications, social media, AAU Newsletter, AAU Television and Vibrant websites.

You championed successfully the decentralization of AAU functions through establishment of AAU regional offices in East Africa, North Africa and North America. We have enjoyed your work to strengthen the LEDEV and many other workshops, including virtual training during this era of COVID19, to build capacity in African universities. We also enjoyed seeing you build new partnerships worth more than US\$350 million, especially with the World Bank to finance current ACE Impact Project.

The establishment of the AAU Television, the online African Jobs Board Platform, the implementation of Virtual Meetings Platforms and the AAUeLearnAfrica was under your innovative inspiration.

During your tenure we witnessed you continue and strength a hosting country relationship with the Government of Ghana which resulted in the construction of the current AAU Offices with your overseeing.

The staffing of AAU benefited a lot from your leadership when you negotiated with the Government of Ghana so that National Service Persons would be assigned to the Secretariat at the cost of the Government of Ghana.

AAU funding was stabilized during your term of office through the prudent use of resources which led to the establishment of an endowment fund and the The staff End of Service Benefits savings account to ensure that when staff depart they are immediately paid their dues.

Advocacy was one of your strengths as you continued to engage African Ministries of Higher Education and Regional Research and Education Networks to advocate for resilient Higher Education Institutions.

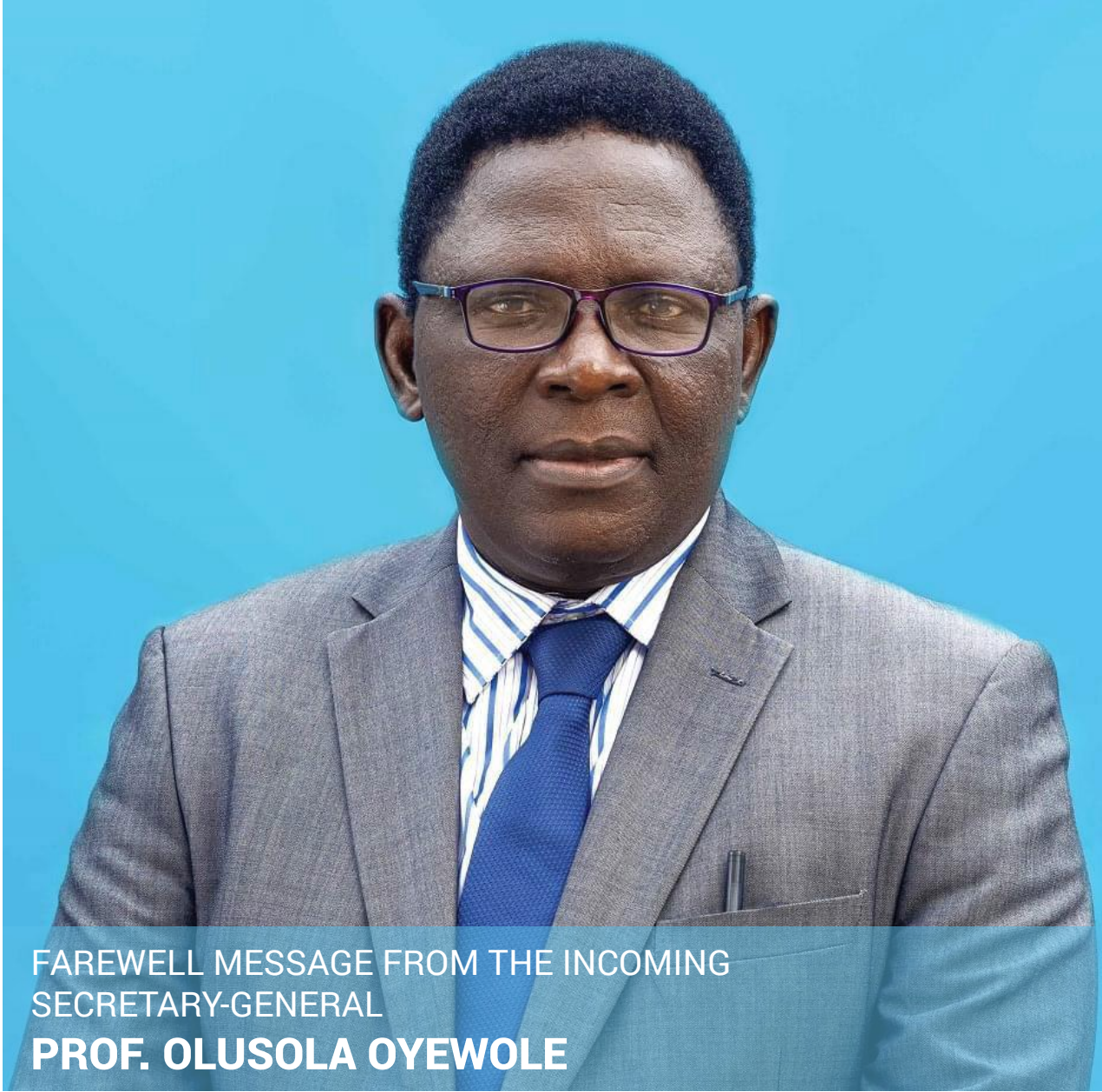
With so much to be grateful for – outstanding colleagues, an ethical humane company, and meaningful work, it seems perverse to see you leave.

I wish you good luck with your new endeavors. Because of your character, I trust that you will surely reach greater heights.

Thank you, merci, obrigado for your stay and work at the AAU.

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de évolue, L'Afrique se transforme,  
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FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

**PROF. OLUSOLA OYEWOLE**

TO THE OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL

**PROF. ETIENNE EHOUAN EHILE**



Our very dear, Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile, the outgoing Secretary- General, of the Association of African Universities, I give thanks to God for the grace to bid you farewell after nine good years of great service to higher education in Africa.

In 2006, I came into the Association of African Universities as a project Officer, when you were serving as a member of the Governing Board. Little did I realize that we will have many things to do together in the future of AAU. You were not expecting to be called upon to lead AAU in 2012, when the sudden, unexpected vacancy opened up to you. That was also the time that I was taking over the Vice-Chancellorship of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Through a competitive process, I was voted as the President of the AAU in 2013 at the Conference held in Gabon. I am sure that your memory of my Presidency was one that gave the Secretary-General the support he needed to give off his best towards achieving tasks assigned by the Board, for the Association. We worked hand in hand, together for the advancement of our Association. The comradeship that we shared was so great that God blessed our efforts to record the time as the time when AAU moved to its permanent Secretariat, courtesy of the Government of the Republic of Ghana, for which we shall always be grateful.

Little did I realize that I will be the one to take the baton from you, following the great work you have done in the Secretariat of AAU in these past nine years. In the course of these past nine

years, you have made your mark in AAU. You have seen to the increased visibility of AAU , decentralizing its functions through regional offices, diversifying the capacity building initiatives , identifying new partners and nurturing the relationship with the government of Ghana and more importantly, your continued advocacy to various stakeholders to support higher education in Africa.

I am very sure that these great strides will outshine some minor flaws that all of us as mortals cannot but leave behind. I salute your courage that has helped AAU to wade through many difficult waters in the past nine years. Let me assure you that we shall keep the flag of AAU flying. We shall continue to work as a family in AAU for the advancement of higher education in Africa.

We wish you well in your future endeavours.

**Prof. Olusola Oyewole**  
In-Coming Secretary-General,  
Association of African Universities,  
Accra, Ghana



Assurance to  
Keep the  
Flag of AAU  
Flying









**Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang**,  
Former Board Member, AAU  
Former Minister of Education, Ghana  
Former Vice Chancellor- University of Cape Coast, Ghana

To my dear Colleague, Brother and Friend - Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile, on the Occasion of your Retirement from the Association of African Universities

You came to the Association of African Universities at a time when our backs were literally pinned to the wall in terms of membership, finances, publicity, focus, among others. I recall those long, frustrating, arduous board meetings trying to find ways of surmounting huge challenges. Many are those who jump ship because an

“  
**A Mind  
Unafraid to  
Open New  
Vistas**  
”

organization from which they have benefitted is surviving by the skin of its teeth. It is clear that you were not lured by the position, but by a determination to make a contribution, and surely you have.

I have appreciated your hard work, good manners, great working relations and admirable inter-personal skills.

Today you bow out of the AAU with such a fine legacy which include the following:

- A befitting secretariat built from scratch which relieves workers of the hitherto cramped space
- A fine residence for the Secretary General, saving cost to accommodation rentals
- Creation and strengthening of cluster and regional offices
- Expansion of membership, especially in the North Africa enclave
- Opening up the AAU to the African Diaspora, with a deep understanding that our continent is never complete without our relations who live outside of it.

All these you have bequeathed without complaining, with personal sacrifice and a focused commitment to serve.



Opening up an office in the United States of America and its attendant structure, membership and conferences will remain no doubt, a landmark contribution that will forever testify to a mind unafraid to open new vistas and stand forever in your name. Thanks for thinking ahead, for transforming what you inherited and making such a huge difference to the AAU you found at the beginning of your term. Such is the marks of true leadership.

You have raised the value, integrity and relevance of the Association of African Universities to a status that many respect, and even envy.

You ought to be very proud of your legacy, aided no doubt by many both seen and unseen hands.

**Ayekoo!**



Message by

**Professor Clement Dzidonu,**  
President, Accra Institute of Technology (AIT)

Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile's leadership of the Association of African Universities registered a number of notable accomplishments that we need to acknowledge and celebrate. Beyond being an accomplished academic he has also demonstrated that a capable Professor can also lead an international continental organization to deliver on its mission to the benefit of its member institution.

quality assurance; faculty and staff capacity building, university leadership training and institutional capacity building among others.

My impression of Professor Ehile was that he is that type of 'let's get it down' hands-on leader who on occasions can be seen doing his own PowerPoint presentations during major AAU meetings and conferences. His passion for the promotion of Africa's higher education is reflected in everything he has done during his leadership of the AAU.

I do believe that although he is stepping down from his role as the SG of the AAU, he is not stepping out of the African higher education scene. I for one will be contacting him soon on a continental initiative that can draw on his leadership and experience.

This is therefore not a farewell message, but rather to say we will see you later.

“  
Professor  
Ehile is a 'let's  
get it down'  
hands-on  
leader  
”

Under his leadership, Africa higher education found ways to address some of the key challenges within the sector and took a couple of steps forward to address issues relating to broadening access to higher education;



— PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

**Prof. Domwini Dabire KUUPOLE,**  
Former Vice-Chancellor, UCC  
Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques

Today, we meet and become friends. We work together for a common goal; exchange fruitful thoughts; share our life challenges and joys; etc. But alas...! Tomorrow, we part company because your term of office has ended. You have sustained, nurtured and kept the mantle of our friendship and, indeed, our brotherhood burning since 2012, when I joined the Association of African Universities' Board as a member.

En toi, Etienne, je trouve un ami sincère, honnête et transparent dans tes relations humaines et sociales. Je me réjouis de ton humilité sans égale! In fact, you "do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility" and you "count others more significant than yourself." (Philippians 2:3).

“**You made  
Selfless  
Sacrifices, and  
traded off your  
comfort to see  
the AAU grow**”

Thanks to your hard work, foresighted corporate leadership and quality human relationship, with the support of your able team and the Board, you succeeded in putting AAU back on a high pedestal in the higher education landscape. You embarked on an aggressive fundraising and membership drive that paid off by improving tremendously AAU's programmes and activities. I can vouch for the numerous selfless sacrifices you made by cutting down your personal budgetary expenditures as well as trading off your comfort by travelling in Economy class, all in an effort to reposition AAU as a competitive world class regional higher education organisation/body. There is no gainsaying that all the service you rendered was "with a good will as to the Lord and not to man" (Ephesians 6: 7).

I particularly commend you and your team for working tirelessly to put up a magnificent building that now serves as the Association's permanent Secretariat. You will always be remembered for this beautiful edifice!

As you retire from a long active service from AAU, I pray for long life, good health, peace of mind and above all,

God's continuous grace and endeavours!

**Ayekoo!** Congratulations! Félicitations pour ce dynamisme sans frontières !!



## Professor Olugbemiro Jegede

Former AAU Secretary General

It gives me great pleasure to send this tribute on the outgoing Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile, who served the Association meritoriously from 2012 to 2021. Professor Ehile was my successor when I had to leave rather abruptly and reluctantly, at the instance of the Government of Kogi State of Nigeria, to assist in the administration of the State as Secretary to Government.

Professor Ehile, a humble administrator, a quiet achiever and an astute academic, performed creditably well in many respects while in office, to the admiration of many, especially those of us who were interested in the sustenance of the Association. Let me make reference to three of such instances.

It is on record, especially in Africa, that Vice Chancellors are a difficult cohort of people to manage. You not only have to win them over on your issues with superior argument, you also must bend over backwards to follow it up with personal discussions on how their universities stand to benefit in whatever ideas you put across to the generality of membership. Professor Ehile performed well in this regard.

I must also commend him for his posture on continuity of projects by predecessors. For the first time in the 53 years of the existence of the AAU, I approached the Government of Ghana early in 2012 to stop paying the annual rent for the Secretariat of the AAU and the Secretary

General's residence. I requested that the Government should instead provide us with the money to build our Secretariat and residence. The President of Ghana graciously accepted my request and gave us the money. I began the acquisition of the land, called for expression of interest and submission of drawings and tenders by Ghanaian universities with the capacity to do so. Professor Ehile continued with this project and by the grace of God,

AAU now has an imposing Secretariat as well as the SG's Residence at the back of the Secretariat.

“  
Professor Ehile's  
tenure promoted  
the growth and  
development of  
the AAU  
”

He also continued with the World Bank supported Centres of Excellence which my administration initiated and today we have over 50 of such centres thriving on the continent.

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish Professor Ehile a wonderful rest and a stress-free engagement in his future endeavour. AAU and Africa and indeed the International Development agencies that fund AAU's projects will continue to remember his tenure as one of sustaining the growth and development of the Association.

**Emeritus Professor  
Olugbemi Jegede**

Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, 2010 to 2012

Foundation Vice Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria

Immediate Past Secretary to the Government of Kogi State of Nigeria

The Ogurefa of Ogori



Professor Ehile  
is a humble  
administrator, a  
quiet achiever  
and an astute  
academic



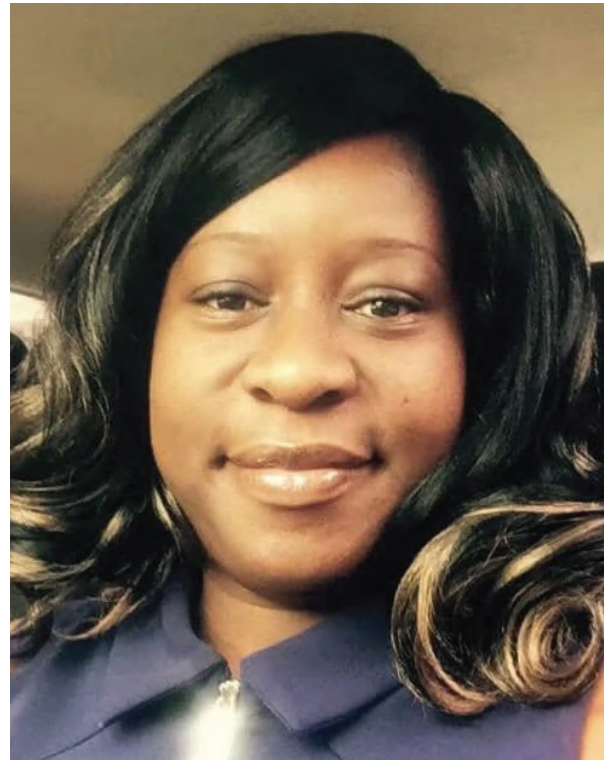
## **The International Fellowships Program (IFP)**

### **Alumni Association of Ghana (IFPAAG)**

IFPAAG is sincerely grateful to you, Professor Etienne Ehile for your continuous support to the Alumni. AAU has been an excellent resource for the Alumni, nurturing the group from Fellows-elect in 2001 to becoming an association. Working together with you to strengthen higher education in Africa through conferences, programmes and research has been our greatest joy.

You made life comfortable for us and for that we shall forever be indebted to you. IFPAAG is proud of your achievements and looks forward to continuing this bond with your team at the Secretariat. We shall continue to champion social justice. Wishing you well in your next endeavours.

**- Angela Adwoa Asare Affran**  
**Angela, IFPAAG**





PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

Farewell Message to  
Professor Etienne Ehoulan Ehile from the  
**All -Africa Students Union (AASU)**

In his capacity as Secretary-General, Professor Etienne Ehoulan EHILE's nine years of excellent service in Africa's education sector are remarkable years that should never be forgotten.

Prof. Ehile served Africa with so much humility, passion, dedication, and selflessness. He fulfilled the scripture in Matthew 23:11 – “But the greatest among you shall be your servant”. He not only assumed the position of Secretary-General but lived up to the task and tenets of leadership.

The students of Africa are exceptionally grateful to Prof. Ehile for his mentorship and the many opportunities and exposure he, through the Association of African Universities (AAU), gave to help us improve and grow. He believed in AASU and her leadership and never hesitated to involve us in the activities of the AAU.

He never said ‘no’ whenever we needed his assistance, guidance, advice, and involvement in our activities. Under your leadership, AASU enjoyed the highest form of mutual cooperation between the two organisations. Your open-door policy ensured that the AAU was always a home to us whenever we needed assistance or resources. At the moment of our dire need for office infrastructure, Prof. Ehile directed the AAU to support AASU with office furniture and equipment to enhance our operations. If we are efficient in fulfilling our core mandate today, it is in great part because Prof Ehile believed in us and always stood ready to support us materially and morally. Thank you very much, Sir! We are eternally grateful!

The students of  
Africa are  
exceptionally  
grateful to  
Prof. Ehile for  
his mentorship

If we ever forget all our treasured moments with you, one that will always remain on our hearts and minds is your famous quote, “there can NEVER be a University without students”. As we celebrate you, the All-Africa Students Union will always fondly remember your persistent advocacy for students inclusion at all decision-making levels;

because of you, AASU was actively involved in the Tuning Africa Phases I & II, HAQAA 1 & 2 and the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF), among other key education policy matters at the Continental level.



Prof. Ehile has been a leader, father, mentor, advisor and a lot more to us, and today, we join hands with the AAU, not only to bid him farewell but to congratulate and celebrate him for the great work done.

Professor Etienne Ehouan EHILE, all students in Africa and AASU, say, WELL DONE!  
It is our hope that despite the end of your term of office, you will continue to be available whenever we call on you.

Thank you, Sir!, we wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

**Peter Kwasi KODJIE**  
Secretary-General  
All-Africa Students Union (AASU)





**Prof. Goski Alabi**, President  
Laweh Open University College, Ghana

I met Professor Etienne Ehile, in 2012 at the old Secretariat of the AAU at North Ridge in Accra, Ghana, where the AAU had been housed from January 1993 - February 2017. My first encounter with my senior colleague was indeed very welcoming. He expressed so much interest in the Quality Assurance Project agenda.

Prof. Ehile's comradeship and team spirit was indeed unapparelled. Not so long after our first interaction, I was given the opportunity by the AAU to represent the Association in Spain, the University of Barcelona to prospect for the HAAQA Project 1. The humility of this transformational leader ignited a passion and commitment in me to support the AAU in any way I could.

Prof. Ehile's expectational leadership qualities was demonstrated when in his tenure, the AAU sought after the pledge of the government of Ghana to build a befitting secretariat for the AAU, and this came to fruition. Prior to that, my understanding is that the AAU had been housed in a couple of places, from Asylum down in Accra, to the State House and to North Ridge where I first met Prof. Ehile. Working with Prof. Ehile as a leader taught me two great lessons, humility and service in leadership.

In 2017, I had the rare opportunity to launch my book "Managing for Excellence in the 21st Century: The Total Quality Approach" during the International Quality Assurance Conference at the new AAU Secretariat, and to my utmost surprise, Prof. Ehile in addition to all his kindness offered to travel with copies of the book anytime he was travelling to market it for me. Prof. willingly did this several times. This is what I call authentic leadership. Leadership with service in humility is your hallmark.

Prof. Etienne Ehile, thank you for your many years of service to the Association of Africa Universities. Indeed, you came, you served and left your mark distinctively in the history of the AAU and in the community itself. Laweh Open University College will always remember your contribution as you etched in her wall and history tour name as the one who commissioned it.

We thank you for the support and encouragement during your tenure in AAU. Your presence will continue to have an impact on me and remind me of the value of leadership with service. The Alabi family wishes you the best and joy in your future endeavours. We trust that the AAU will carry on the work you have carried out for the Association and the continent as a whole.

You've made your mark here and we wish you happiness as you begin a new chapter in your life.

**Prof. BAKUNDA Athanase.**  
Former AAU Quality Assurance  
Project Officer

Par la présente, nous voudrions vous adresser nos sincères salutations, remerciements et reconnaissances pour toutes les actions que vous avez bien menées ou conduites pendant près d'une dizaine d'années à l'AUA. L'aboutissement au grand building abritant l'AUA restera un grand symbole et souvenir. Nous connaissons bien cette institution pour y avoir travaillé quelques années durant. Nous reconnaissons votre abnégation pour avoir maintenu l'institution sur les rails et l'harmonieuse collaboration de ses serviteurs.

Nous n'avons pas pu nous rencontrer lors de notre passage à Accra en 2017 lors d'un Workshop l'Assurance de la Qualité dans l'Enseignement Supérieur, toutefois vous avez laissé de bonnes recommandations et nous avons été bien accueillis.

Nous vous souhaitons un bon retour dans votre pays natal, une bonne continuation au service des communautés surtout dans le domaine universitaire.

Au plaisir de nous rencontrer physiquement ou virtuellement dans les mois ou les années à venir.

Amitiés,  
**Prof. BAKUNDA Athanase.**

## Farewell Messages from Partner Institutions

### Carnegie Corporation of New York

#### **Claudia Frittelli.**

Program Officer, Higher Education  
and Research in Africa

Dear Prof. Ehile,

Many thanks for your dedication and service to increasing the visibility and profile of African universities on the continent and globally.

It's been a pleasure working with you and the AAU team. All best wishes for your next venture. Bonne chance, meilleurs vœux, et à bientôt.

With gratitude,  
Claudia Frittelli, program officer, Higher  
Education and Research in Africa,  
Carnegie Corporation of New York.



Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA)

**Dr. Lucy Heady,**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ESSA

Dear Prof Ehile

I am writing on behalf of the whole ESSA team and board, both past and present, who all want to send you our good wishes as you retire from your role as Secretary General. In particular, we want to express our deepest thanks for your partnership with ESSA since our beginning and to congratulate you on your extraordinary contribution to universities across Africa over the last nine years.

Under your leadership we have seen the incredible support that AAU has been able to provide for its members and how this has been strengthened through increased participation from the Francophonie and the introduction of regional offices. Never was this support more visible than during the COVID-19 crisis: from the start AAU pivoted its work to skill up universities for teaching online, strengthening campus networks infrastructure through the African Research and Education Network and advising on various aspects to help universities carry out their core functions, despite the crisis.

You have also driven innovative and high-impact partnerships which brought in projects such as

the Africa Centres of Excellence project being implemented by the AAU, the World Bank, AFD, Governments of the participating countries and other partners. The impact of this project has been tremendous, and the enrolment of 13,616 students in masters and PhD programmes (40% percent of which are female) is among the many good successes that the project has chalked.

It has been a privilege for ESSA to count AAU as its first partner on the continent and your personal support for our collaboration on the Demographics of African Faculty Project made a big difference. It has been a pleasure to continue the collaboration now as we expand the work into East Africa. Knowing how important these issues of faculty are, it has been fantastic to work with you and your team to launch the Jobs Board to solve one aspect of faculty mobility. I am sure part of your legacy will live on in the income stream from this endeavour. Thank you once again for your partnership.

I have touched on just a fraction of what the AAU has delivered during your time here. It is sad to see you go but your retirement is much deserved, and I hope you will manage a well-earned rest before starting new projects – of which I know you have many.

All good wishes from Lucy and the whole ESSA team



## OBREAL Global



### Ramon Torrent

President of OBREAL Global  
Lead institution of the EU-funded project  
Harmonisation, Accreditation and Quality  
Assurance in Africa (OBREAL Global, AAU,  
DAAD, ENQA)

I got to know Professor Etienne Ehile in 2015 when we were preparing the proposal for HAQAA (Harmonisation, Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Africa), the EU-funded project in which the AAU participates as African partner. I've been in close contact with him during HAQAA-1's implementation and HAQAA-2's (2019-2022) preparation and implementation.

Professor Ehile taught all of us how to think in terms of Continental African Higher Education

and how to work in its favour.

This is not easy: Africa is an extremely complex continent with four levels of policy definition and implementation of Higher Education policy: that of the Universities and Higher Education institutions themselves (more or less autonomous), that of national Governments and Parliaments, that of the Regional Economic Communities and that of the African Union and its different institutions.

These four levels overlap and the challenge is that of creating synergies between them and avoiding contradictions and doubles-emplois. We learned from Professor Ehile how to organize our thinking and our action in order to face this challenge.

We also learnt from Professor Ehile the importance and high political sensitivity of multilingualism, another very difficult issue, but one that cannot be left aside if we really want to work close to the citizens of all African States and not in a superstructure of so-called "international expertise" that remains closed in itself and self-referenced.

As an old professor who has always known that his first obligation is to continue to be a learner, I thank Professor Ehile for his teaching and his masterful approach at leading the Association of African Universities. He will always remain the beacon that leads our action in favour of African Higher Education and Africa – EU relations.

Thanks, many thanks, Etienne.



## Partnership for Social and Governance Research (PASGR)



**Dr. Anthony Mveyange,**  
Executive Director of PASGR

Prof. Etienne Ehile is an Ivorian who became the Secretary-General of the AAU in August 2012. He has served for 9 years and during his tenure of office, AAU has seen some tremendous successes.

He managed external relations very well and brought on board new partners to promote the relevance of higher education in Africa.

Some of Prof.'s notable achievements include:

The decentralization of coordination from Accra to newly created Regional Offices in Sudan, Egypt and a special Office in Nigeria.

He also engineered the establishment of the North America Office in Oct. 2019 in Washington DC, in partnership with the African Union through its then African Union Ambassador to the United States, HE Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao.

Prof. Ehile is credited for ensuring Government of Ghana gave the AAU a permanent Secretariat, and a permanent residential facility for the Secretary Generals of the Association.

During the outbreak of COVID-19 when most higher education institutions were in a state of dilemma, Prof. Ehile mobilised support from AAU development partners to help African universities migrate to online delivery.

To PASGR, the setting up of AAU TV under Prof. Ehile's administration has been very beneficial to both organisations as the PASGR training programs provided content for AAU TV while the PASGR was also assured of a repository for its content by the AAU for future use.

PASGR wishes Prof. Ehile an active retirement where he will still play the role of an advocate for higher education in Africa.



## Farewell Messages from North Africa Region



### **Prof. Mohammed Hussien Al-Mahasawy**

President of Al-Azhar University,  
Cairo, Egypt -  
Vice-President of AAU

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, Prof. Ehile's work as the Secretary General of AAU has made a noticeable impact and has added an immense value to African Higher Education.

His major preoccupation throughout his long involvement with AAU had been to keep all African Higher Education Stakeholders from all African Regions together and enhance collaboration between them in favour of promoting African Higher Education Quality. To this end, the Regional Offices had been established, during his term, to play a vital role in

linking the African Higher Education community and enhancing its contribution to Africa's development, crossing all borders and language barriers. I particularly single out the North Africa Regional Office, hosted by Al-Azhar University, which effectively engaged North Africa Universities in AAU activities after more than 30 years of absence.

Prof. Ehile also put in every effort to engage the African Academic Diaspora to benefit from their experience to improve the quality and efficiency of African Higher Education. This was in addition to scientific research projects, academic exchange, capacity-building, conferences, forums and other activities, events and projects established during his tenure as Secretary-General of AAU.

In sum, Prof. Ehile's efforts in service of African Higher Education are too rich and versatile to be limited to a few words, but it is sufficient to mention that he left a trail that is difficult to erase and painted a path for those who come after him to follow his example and keep promoting Africa's Higher education and development.



PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

He is a visionary man, and that is what made him establish AAU Regional Offices, which are playing a vital role in connecting all African regions and crossing all borders to achieve integration among all African Higher Education Institutions.

As the director of AAU-NARO, I would like to express our deep thanks and gratitude to Prof. Ehile for his enormous efforts exerted during his service as the SG of AAU.

**Prof. Amany El-Sharif,**  
Coordinator and Director of North  
Africa Regional Office of AAU

Prof. Etienne Ehile, the one who has taught us to work hard and sincerely for the sake of African Higher Education. You also taught us to aim to make a difference and draw our continent's future by our own hands, to dream without limits and to believe that we can achieve more than we imagine. You taught us that only Africans can rebuild their continent and develop it by sacrifice and tireless efforts of its dedicated people.

Prof. you taught us well, and your messages and lessons will stay with us for a long time to come. Prof. Ehile's outstanding leadership qualities, were demonstrated through his contributions to AAU and African Higher Education Community. He built bridges and filled the gaps to support harmonize and consolidate the ties between African Academic communities within and outside Africa.

It is proven and undebatable, that his support to AAU and its Regional Offices in favour of the advancement of Africa's Higher Education was extraordinary. Prof. Ehile is a role model for smart diplomatic management and a driving force for AAU quantum leap. He has successfully made a positive difference that will last forever.



**Prof. Ehile is characterized by**

**broadmindedness**, forward-looking,  
rigorous planning, **rapid implementation**,  
**diplomacy**, clarity of purpose,  
holistic vision, **teamwork** and  
respect for the people he deals with.

**Senator Prof. Yousuf Amer**

Chair of the Committee for Religious Affairs  
and Endowments at the Egyptian Senate

It is acknowledged that development and progress cannot be achieved except by good people selected by God -Glory be to Him- to make progress and to be in service of humanity. Prof. Etienne Ehile is one of those good scientists that were selected by God to lead the African Higher Education development through AAU.

Prof. Ehile realizes the crucial fact that education is the most safe, fast and real way to African development in all aspects of life. I believe this is what propelled him to work tirelessly for the sake of Educational Development at African Universities.

Prof. Ehile made grand efforts through different means to build the skills and capacity of HEI stakeholders, and to promote the exchange of expertise between African Universities' professors and leaders.

In addition, he is well known by his fairness, tolerance, honesty, fidelity, diversity and sincerity to our beloved continent and its people.

**Prof. Ehile, a brother and a friend!**

I hope you would keep shining everywhere and forever.

I hope you would continue to be  
**a source of nobility and good manners.**

I hope you would keep being an  
**advocate for good rights and justice.**

I hope you would always be  
**cheerful and a source of joy for all.**

I hope you would still be  
**a brother I'm proud of and a friend I learn from.**



PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

A Farewell Note to Prof. Ehile  
Outgoing AAU Secretary General

### **Prof. Amr Adly**

Prof. of Elect. Eng., Cairo University  
Former Deputy Minister of Higher Education  
for University Affairs, Egypt  
Member of AAU North Africa Board of Directors

I have known Prof. Ehile since 2018 during the time I started attending several AAU Regional Conferences in my capacity then as Egypt's Deputy Minister of Higher Education for University Affairs. It's only fair to say that Prof. Ehile has made a gigantic leap with regards to the African Nations awareness of AAU. Indeed, his term has revived this important African body and set the stage to initiate a new dawn of appropriately defining the mutual challenges facing African Universities and, more importantly, the will to deal with these challenges within the framework of fulfilling Africa's Agenda 2063.

As an attendee of the Washington DC AAU Regional office inauguration event, I can say that Prof. Ehile had placed the AAU on the agenda of international development partners and has thus tapped a very important source to support all African Nations.

Starting January 2020, and upon ending my ministerial post, I was honored to join the North Africa Regional AAU Board, through an invitation from Prof. Elmahasawy. This made me aware of the intensive set of AAU activities, especially those aiming at minimizing the negative effects and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African Higher Education Institutions.

On the occasion of Prof. Ehile's exit from the AAU as it's Secretary General, I would like to thank him very much for his dedication, relentlessness and sincere support to Africa's Higher Education Institutions .

Thank you, Prof. Ehile.



PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

### **Prof. Samir EL JAAFARI**

Coordinateur du point focal AAU-Maroc et Responsable de la Coopération Universitaire Institutionnelle et du programme Intra-Afrique Université Moulay Ismail Meknes, Maroc

L'aventure de l'Université Moulay Ismail de Meknes au Maroc au sein de l'Association des Universités Africaines a démarré en 2017 lors de notre participation à l'outil d'évaluation AQRM de l'initiative HAQAA où nous avons rencontré et apprécié l'engagement et le dynamisme de Prof. Etienne EHILE et de son équipe. En 2017, sa visite au Maroc a permis de renforcer la dimension africaine de la stratégie d'internationalisation de l'UMI, nommée dès lors point focal de

l'AAU au Maroc. Ainsi, au nom des universités marocaines, nous remercions Prof. Etienne EHILE pour les efforts consentis afin de rehausser la qualité de l'enseignement supérieur en Afrique et de promouvoir la collaboration intra-africaine et nord-sud-sud.

Monsieur Ehile, Merci pour tout le soutien et la bonne volonté que vous nous avez témoigné au fil des années. Nous vous souhaitons beaucoup d'épanouissement personnel et professionnel.

# Farewell Messages from AAU Staff



**Prof. Jonathan Mba**, on behalf of the Directorate of Research and Academic Planning (DRAP)

DRAP wishes to congratulate Prof. Ehile for a successful 9-year tenure. Professor EHILE is one of the longest serving SGs that AAU has seen in its 54 years of existence. We are thankful that under his tenure we constructed and moved into the permanent AAU Secretariat building with

financial support from the Government of Ghana.

Also, during his time as SG, AAU opened three regional offices, one in Egypt, another in Sudan and the other in USA. We were also able to open the Nigerian Office during his tenure.

Fee-paying workshops and AAU TV were also started during his tenure as SG. The Secretariat was able to negotiate for annual receipt of national service

personnel at the expense of the Government of Ghana, during his time.

DRAP is grateful for the support and guidance provided by the SG during his tenure of office that resulted in successful execution of our activities.

We wish SG well and God's direction in his future endeavors.



**Mr. Ransford Bekoe** (AAU TV)

In my twenty years of service to the Association of African Universities (AAU), I count myself privileged to have served five Secretaries-General and Prof. Etienne Ehouan EHILE, who is retiring, is the fifth boss. Overall, the AAU has had 10 Secretaries-General in its 54 years of existence and Prof. EHILE is the 10th.

My first association with Prof. EHILE was in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2005 during the AAU's 11th General Conference. It was his first appointment to serve on the AAU Board (from 2005 – 2009) in his capacity as President of Université d'Abobo Adjamé in Ivory Coast and as a representative of the West Africa region.

A stronger bond was established with Prof. EHILE in Dakar, Senegal in October 2009 during the third AAU Leadership Development (LEDEV) workshop facilitated in French for Francophone participants. Prof. EHILE was not only a participant, but the Course Prefect.

Seven years after our first meeting in Cape Town, this renowned neurophysiologist became my boss at the AAU, and that marked a significant turnaround in my career as well. I was almost making a job switch but decided to stay on and give a helping hand to his administration. I am happy I stayed on.

Working under him, sometimes directly or through the Heads of the various Directorates at the AAU, has been phenomenal for me.

I supported him to run the LEDEV workshop series, and he gave me the free hand but provided overall supervision in my running of the University-Industry workshop series as well as the AAU Graduate Internship programme. He was there also to support my coordination of the SHESRA Programme and many other roles I played under him.

When I had almost run out of projects options, and workshops were not yielding my set minimum participation, I contemplated taking a long leave and perhaps a bow from academic endeavours. By art or design, Prof. EHILE breathed into me a new career life in 2018 by directing that I oversee the running of the latest AAU initiative then, the AAU Television.

Though not technically inclined, I picked up the challenge with the best weapon I had – networks and ability to develop programmes! I am thankful to both the Secretary-General and the Senior Management of AAU for entrusting the TV Unit in my care.

I had to learn fast to adapt, and I did. Prof. EHILE has made me who I am today because of my attachment to the AAU TV. I have created more networks and known more people in my 3 years' service at the AAU TV than the previous 17 years at AAU.

Human as we are, Prof. EHILE may have his flaws. However, his good leadership outweighs any noticeable shortcomings.

His able stewardship of AAU during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that staff were not retrenched, sets him apart from some of his peers in leadership positions who could not support their staff in those early moments of the pandemic. This leadership is inspirational, and Prof. EHILE's time here at the AAU has been a true gift.

Personally, I say "Thank You" for being such a wonderful boss. I wish you the best of luck as you move forward.







## Agnes Apedoe

Executive Secretary to the  
Secretary General

I can't believe it's  
already nine years  
since Prof Ehile  
assumed office.  
It seems so far but  
also near.

Prof, I first want to thank God for your life. Working with you has been amazing and I would like to thank you so much for having the confidence and faith in me, maintaining me in your office since you assumed office till the end of your tenure. I say a very big thank you. I must say that I am sincerely grateful to you, Prof.

PROF. ETIENNE EHILE

Prof Ehile is a very humble person, not intimidating, someone who gives you room to operate. In fact, he's a very nice person to work with and I must say you've been like a father to me, thank you Papa!

SG, we will miss your proverbs which brightened our conversations, and meetings with you. One popular one that has stayed with me is that 'a good and caring parent can only give to his children what he/she has'.

**Your beloved wife**, Mamaan Helene Ehile has also been amazing!. My message to her is: Je ne saurai finir tout cela sans adresser un mot à l'endroit de votre magnifique épouse car elle a été incroyable et très accessible.

Papa Ehile, dites-lui gentiment que je l'apprécie énormément surtout pour tout ce qu'elle a fait pour moi durant tout ce temps. Elle a été une mère pour moi, me donnant droit à un petit-déjeuner et aussi à un déjeuner surpris. Que Dieu la bénisse richement.

Papa Ehile Je vous souhaite bonne chance, une belle retraite bien méritée, Longue vie et santé durable !

I wish you all the best of good health!



Message from

**Ms Nodumo DHLAMINI**

I work as one of the Directors at the AAU and I reported directly to Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile since June 2015. As Professor Ehile departs from AAU it also marks 6 years of us working together. I will remember Professor Ehile in a special way and particularly for the following:

1. The support that we received to improve Communications, IT systems and IT infrastructure at the AAU Secretariat. The growth of AAU's visibility through the social media, blogs, websites, and the AAU TV were all through his support. Today we boast of the following:

- a. A robust mailing list of over 13,531 on the AAU Mailchimp
- b. 76,959 followers on the AAU Facebook page
- c. 4,006 AAU Twitter followers
- d. 1,309 followers on AAU LinkedIn
- e. 21,200 Subscribers on AAU YouTube

2. His approachability that made it easy to go to him with any issues that needed to be resolved

3. His focus on quality – especially in relation to the English to French translations that were done by the Secretariat.

4. His loyalty to the Higher Education agenda on the continent and wanting to see the Secretariat doing more to support African Higher Education institutions to be successful.

5. His diplomacy when dealing with issues of partnerships, host country and other institutional relationships.

I wish Professor Etienne Ehouan Ehile a restful retirement – and I am sure we will continue to have more opportunities to engage and benefit from his wealth of wisdom

Best Wishes Prof Ehile.



**DR VIOLET MAKUKU,**  
Quality Assurance Specialist and Workshops  
Coordinator

Dear Prof Etienne E. Ehile. I salute you for the work and achievements you attained for the Association of African Universities (AAU) and the African Higher and Tertiary Education community at large. It was a grand opportunity to have worked with you for 6 years within which you allowed me and others to work with no restrictions to the best of our abilities.

I will always remember you for that because it pushed me to Maslow's final stage on the hierarchy of needs which is self-actualization, coupled with more personal and professional growth. You always assisted in creating a conducive working environment, not only for me but for many others although it was not always easy because we don't live and operate in isolation. Yes, it is true that your doors were always open and no protocols or restrictions

were in place to prevent any member of staff, no matter their position at work, to come and talk to you about work-related and personal issues. That made it easier for most personnel at the AAU Secretariat to approach you without hesitation.

What I heard during the Farewell Meeting with staff, held on the 13th of September 2021 confirmed the way I know you and it was heart-warming to learn that most of the staff noted your HUMILITY and humbleness. You are down-to-earth Prof., to the extent that for all official trips, you travelled in the Economy class with the rest of the staff. You were highly diplomatic, sympathetic, and empathetic. I also learnt a lot from the way you resolved issues behind the scenes as a sign of maturity and your love for harmony. You were a listening leader who never closed ideas out but listened attentively, sought to understand issues first, digest them and come up with solutions which most of the time worked. I will forever remember you for three more very important things which are; i) the endless French translations that you accepted to do and review without an earlier booking/appointment from us, ii) using your own money for AAU business and iii) the well thought out proverbs that you normally use at the beginning and end of most of the conversations you were involved in. To me the most popular one was of the person who failed to demolish an illegal structure on his premises that was set up by somebody.

You said, he was told to go and sleep while nature takes care of itself. In the morning, the person realized that a heavy night storm demolished the illegal structure and by the following day he woke up to find out that the problem was resolved naturally. The lessons from this proverb, as you told us, is that for some of our challenges, we simply need to surrender them to GOD for natural solutions, and it works. Fare thee well, Prof Etienne Ehouan Ehile, one of the finest bosses I ever had. I wish you the best in life.

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### Mr. Abednego Corlety

– Senior IT Officer



You have been an incredible father, a mentor, a coach and a role model to so many young men and women on the African continent. As a lecturer you gave off your time to teach, direct and mentor your

students giving your all to help mold thousands of children who passed under your tutelage into responsible and upright personalities.

As a career professional, you did not relent in your efforts to guide and mentored your subordinates and supported them to self-actualization. You supported all without regard to their background. You truly were impartial in your dealings with your staff.

Indeed, many are those described as men, yet just a noble number can be pointed out as leaders and fathers! For all these and more we cannot enumerate here is the reason why I will forever memorialise my achievements under your mentoring.

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### Mrs. Bunmi Odufala,

Digital Communications Officer, AAU



It was a great experience to work with a leader and a father like you, Prof. Ehile. I will always remember you! I want to tell you that you are a

true leader and an inspiration to me.

Thank you for training me to become a Translation Professional with the edited and tracked changes of all documents that you shared with me and colleagues. Your support and time for every staff have been a real inspiration to us as well as your encouragement and down to earth nature.

I will forever cherish the moments of having a hard-working and fantastic Secretary-General. Thank you so much for the mentorship.

All the best, Prof!

I wish you well in your retirement.

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**Dr. Sylvia CC Mkandawire**  
Project Manager  
Africa Centers of Excellence for  
Development Impact

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Prof. Ehile as your tenure comes to an end, I would like to appreciate you for the awesome 2.5 years since I joined AAU. Each day, I would look forward to inspiring joys and happiness which emancipated for your energies and fatherly approach to leadership.

You are a phenomenal leader who made everyone realise their best self. You provided room for each staff to operate and show their best skills as they serve the Association.

Your impact in our lives is immeasurable. Thank you for your dedicated service to global agenda of Higher Education.



## **Yvette Quashie**

Human Resource & Admin. Officer,

Dear **Prof Ehile**,

Where do I start from? Parting is so difficult but it is inevitable.

All I want to say is thank you for all the fatherly role you have played in my life. I will miss you and may the Good Lord guide you in your future endeavours.

Stay blessed and forever in my heart.

## Alexandra Johnson Gomado (Mrs)

AAU TV



Prof. I am grateful to have worked under your leadership, you will be very missed when you leave. I'm extremely grateful to you for coming through for me in terms of translations and proofreading of documents,

even when sent at odd times. I am very appreciative of your patience, kindness, and meekness. You were more of a servant leader than just a leader.

I have learned many things from you and hope that I will make the best use of the advice and guidance. Thank you for being such an amazing boss. Thank you. God bless and keep you Sir.

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## Joan Akua Iyoha ,

AAU TV



A great teacher is not necessarily a great mentor. A great mentor is not necessarily a great leader. A great leader is not necessarily a great teacher. But you have been a great teacher, mentor, leader, and boss, all wrapped in one with a ribbon on it. You taught us to be the best at work, and treated us as friends; these, cannot be forgotten. One thing I

do admire so much, is the fond way you accept help with English phrases out of a French word, from your subordinates. You are a lifelong learner who learnt from everyone, irrespective of their level or grade. I won't forget your meticulous nature. You inspire me to work hard with an aspiration of having a wonderful retirement one day.

You are retired but not tired and so, I am very certain that the higher education space will continue tapping from your wealth of knowledge. I sincerely wish you the best in your health, family and future endeavors. Do have a blissful and restful retirement.

Farewell Prof. Etienne Ehile.  
Vous ne serez pas oubliés.

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**Nana Essumamba Sam,**  
AAU TV



Working with Prof. Ehile has been very easy due to his understanding nature and commitment towards pursuing the mandate of the Association of African Universities.

The proverbs and happy moments he constantly shared with us whenever we had engagements in his office will be missed dearly.

Your positive spirit and humble nature are contagious. I enjoyed working with you and we will miss your presence and leadership. Wishing you a wonderful retirement! Good wishes for your health, wealth, and well-being. May God bless you, Prof.



**Mrs. Felicia Kuagbedzi,**  
Communications and Publications Officer, AAU

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I count myself fortunate to have worked under Prof. Ehile, both directly and indirectly (mostly through the Director of ICT, Communications and Knowledge Management).

Since joining the AAU in 2015, I came to know Prof. Ehile as a strong supporter of communications and a person who places premium on the need to maintain regular quality communication flow between the AAU and its stakeholders. He was heavily involved in the activities of the Directorate and personally reviewed all communication materials in French before they were disseminated among our stakeholders.

Back in 2015 when the Directorate introduced innovations, such as the AAU Newsletter and setting up of various social media accounts for the AAU, Prof. Ehile quickly gave us his blessings and supported the process in every way possible. Today, those two platforms have proved to be a great source of quality information for our stakeholders.

Prof. Ehile maintained an open-door policy and created a psychologically safe work environment which encouraged staff to speak up, to share their ideas and bring their innovations on board to advance African Higher Education. Under him, we were motivated and implemented other activities aside our core tasks as communications persons - for instance organizing capacity building workshops and conferences related to women empowerment and other topical issues.

Prof. Ehile's achievements in AAU speaks volumes about his capabilities and leadership style. Above all his distinct qualities, Prof. Ehile was a boss who had a human touch and cared for the wellbeing of his staff. In sum, he can be described as a visionary leader wrapped in simplicity and care for others.

I wish you a very prosperous retirement and know that all the successes you have achieved will give you much satisfaction and fulfilment.



Commissioning of New AAU Secretariat



8th Leadership Skills Development Workshop  
Gaborone, Botswana

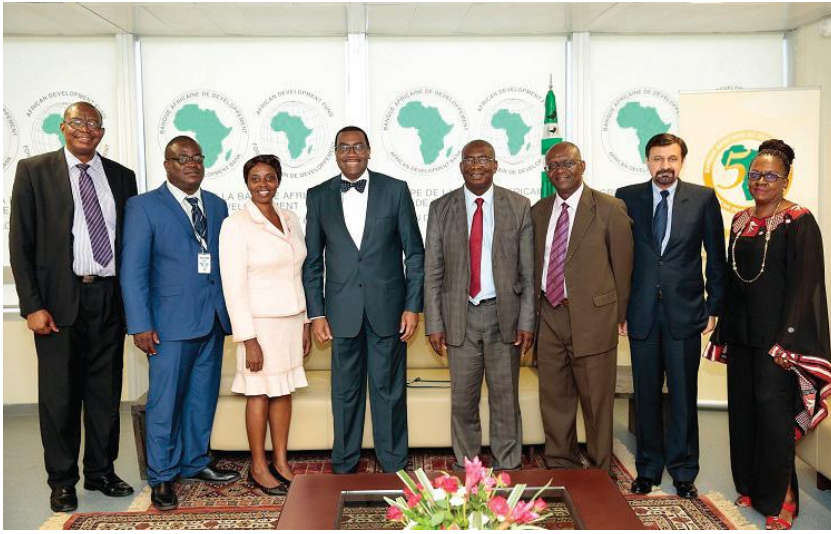


14th General Conference  
Accra, Ghana



# 14th General Conference Accra, Ghana





AAU delegates at the AfDB



Prof. EHILE at the Launch of AAU East Africa Regional Office



Prof. EHILE Briefs the Press, April 2017



ACE Dakar Workshop,  
September 2019

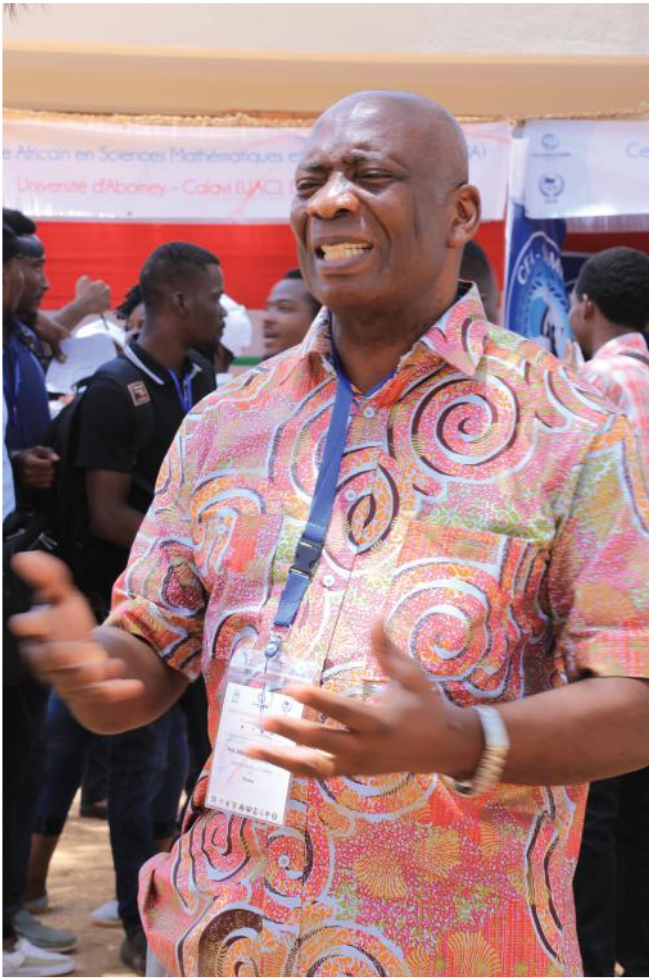


Prof. Ehile participates in ACE PSC Meetings



ACE Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria





ACE- Higher Education Fair, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



African Universities Olympics, Cairo, Egypt



African Universities Week 2019



African University Day and Innovation Week 2016





3rd CARLIGH AAU International Conference

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5th ACE Workshop - La Palm Beach Hotel,  
Accra, Ghana



## The Entrepreneurial African University Forum



Meeting with the  
Rwandan Prime  
Minister (2015)



Prof. Ehile's contact email :  
**[ehile\\_eh@yahoo.fr](mailto:ehile_eh@yahoo.fr)**