



15 October 2012

## **No laureate this year for the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership**

The Prize Committee of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation met in London yesterday to conclude its deliberations on the 2012 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. Following its meeting, the Prize Committee informed the Board of the Foundation that it had not selected a winner for 2012.

The Prize is an annual US\$5 million award paid over 10 years and US\$200,000 annually for life thereafter. It has been established to recognise and celebrate excellence in African leadership, and to provide Laureates with the opportunity to pursue their commitment to the African continent once they have stepped down from office. It is awarded to a democratically elected former African Executive Head of State or Government who has left office in the previous three years; served her/his constitutionally mandated term; and demonstrated excellence in office.

The Prize Committee stated: "The Prize Committee reviewed a number of eligible candidates but none met the criteria needed to win this Award. The Award is about excellence in leadership. In the first six years the Prize Committee has selected three very worthy Laureates who continue to be an inspiration and whose examples, we hope, will be emulated."

In 2011, the Prize was awarded to President Pedro Verona Pires of Cape Verde for his "vision in transforming Cape Verde into a model of democracy, stability and increased prosperity."

President Pires followed Joaquim Chissano (2007) and Festus Mogae (2008) as Ibrahim Laureates. Nelson Mandela was made the honorary inaugural Laureate in 2006. In 2009 and 2010 the Prize Committee did not select a winner.

**-Ends-**



## Notes to Editors

To request an interview, please contact:

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The press conference will be streamed live on the Foundation's website, where journalists will also be able to submit live questions. You can access the live stream here: <http://moibrahim.org/index>

- Twitter: **@Mo\_IbrahimFdn**. Suggested hashtag to comment on the 2012 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Governance announcement: #MIFPrize
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MoIbrahimFoundation>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/moibrahimfoundation>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/moibrahimfoundation>
- Google +: <https://plus.google.com/108279944197155618576/posts?hl=en>

### **The Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership**

*Established in 2007, the Ibrahim Prize celebrates excellence in African leadership. It is awarded to a former Executive Head of State or Government by an independent Prize Committee composed of eminent figures, including two Nobel Laureates. Previous laureates, awarded for transformation of their countries and citizens' lives during their tenure, are President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (2007), President Festus Mogae of Botswana (2008), President Pedro Pires of Cape Verde (2011) and President Nelson Mandela (Honorary). The Laureates provide role models for the continent. The Ibrahim Prize enables them to use their skills and experience at the continental level once they have left national office. The Prize Committee may choose not to award the Prize, as was the case in 2009 and 2010.*

*On 4th October in Johannesburg the Mo Ibrahim Foundation has announced a one-off extraordinary award to Archbishop Desmond Tutu in recognition of his lifelong commitment to speaking truth to power. This Award does not replace, but is additional to the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.*

### **The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF)**

*The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) invests in governance and leadership to catalyse Africa's transformation. By providing tools and advocating for progressive leadership and responsible management, the Foundation works to bring about meaningful change in Africa.*

*Africa has made considerable progress in recent years. New challenges arise, however, as the continent grapples with the question of translating material wealth into improved quality of life for citizens. The contradictions of growth without sufficient employment or economic gains without matching rights for citizens produce imbalances that can only be resolved through more effective government - visionary leadership and responsible governance. Overall improvements will occur when governments define an inclusive vision that builds on available human and natural resources, use data to assess results and determine the choices they make, and pursue implementation with vigour and determination.*

- Leadership is centred on setting priorities or making choices and taking risks.

*Progressive leadership:*

- defines a clear and coherent vision that is inclusive, inspirational and innovative
- requires courageous and forward-looking decision-making
- delivers results

*The Foundation focuses on highlighting examples of successful leadership and on providing opportunities and access for potential leaders to enhance leadership in Africa.*

- Governance is centred on the implementation of policies and the management of risk.

*Responsible management ensures:*

- optimal allocation of limited resources
- inclusivity of all sectors of society
- balanced pursuit of successful development
- effective implementation and delivery of programmes

*The Foundation focuses on promoting a data-driven and results orientated approach to policy-making and on bringing together diverse stakeholders to improve the quality of governance in Africa.*