



**Mo Ibrahim**  
FOUNDATION

## **No sound governance in Africa without strong public services, says the Mo Ibrahim Foundation**

London – 19 April 2018 - The Mo Ibrahim Foundation has just released its 2018 *Ibrahim Forum Report: Public Service in Africa*.

This *Report* will inform the discussion of the 2018 Ibrahim Forum taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, on Saturday 28 April. The Forum will focus on *Public Service in Africa*: its key relation to good governance and effective leadership, new challenges and current shortcomings, and the ways and means to strengthen it and make it appealing to the next generation.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "Public service is the pillar of governance. Without strong public services and committed public servants, there will be no efficient delivery of expected public goods and services, nor implementation of any commitment, however strongly voiced."

The 2018 *Report* first looks at the demand addressed to African public services, pointing at growing expectations from citizens. New demands stem from the 21<sup>st</sup> century's multiple challenges and Africa's specific young and urbanising demography: solidarity, protection against various criminal threats, jobs, business enabling environment, culture, climate change mitigation, rural sector development. These pile up on traditional demands - safety and security, health, education, justice - for which citizens' dissatisfaction appears growing. An additional load is the multiplication of multilateral commitments: SDGs, COPs, AU's 2063 Agenda... Many actors could be responsible for all these, within the public sector - African Union, Regional communities, national governments, cities, or outside of it - private sector, multilateral donors. This calls for a careful assessment of who is best positioned to address these demands and who has to pay for the delivery.

The *Report* further assesses the current state of African public services and their key challenges, both from the job attractiveness side and from the delivery side. On average, African public services display a continent-wide lack of capacity. They remain a relatively small employer, at a cost higher than in other regions, with large country disparities. In health, education and security, public supply is far from answering the demand. Partly to answer the exponential demand, partly to substitute failing public supply, a growing range of non-state actors have become key providers of public goods and services, to an extent that may have sometimes prevented national governments from owning public policies. Public employees in Africa are on average better educated than in the private sector and are also twice older on average than the population they serve. Job motivation is mainly about job security rather than wages, mobility within or outside public service is almost non-existent, political dependence is strong, working equipment is scarce, corruption is among the highest at global level, "ghost public servants" populate many services, while too many of the best-trained choose to work abroad. Building public services in post-conflict settings, often from scratch, represents a specific challenge. But on a young continent whose ability to leap-frog has been often displayed, potential solutions and best practices exist: monetary and non-monetary incentives, internal and external mobility, capacity building, new technologies...

Concluding, the *Report* highlights the need to build a sound contract between citizens and public service providers. Trust being key to any sound deal, transparency and accountability need to be ensured, and commitments implemented. On a continent where external financial flows are still equivalent to almost half of domestic tax revenues, where tax revenues only amount to less than 15% GDP on average, and where a majority of citizens are in favour of paying for their public services, strengthening tax collection is a key path to autonomy and ownership.

**Report Highlights:**

- Only three countries - Libya, Mauritius and Tunisia, have at least one doctor per 1,000 people
- Filling the void left by public services, private security, private education, and private health are rising exponentially, with the risk of widening inequalities on the continent
- DRC and Kenya have some of the smallest police force rates globally, with around 100 officers per 100,000 people
- Cairo's population is larger than each of the 36 least populous countries on the continent
- Five out of the ten African countries with the largest public health expenditures as a % of total government expenditure are also among the ten countries with the highest share of external financing of their total health expenditure
- 30% to 50% of Africa's total tax liability remains uncollected
- The average size of the informal sector in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 42% of gross national income, reaching 60% in Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
- Sub-Saharan Africa, the average for private health expenditure is 57.4%, more than twice the level of Europe & Central Asia
- Personal Safety is the most deteriorated of the 14 sub-categories in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, over the past decade
- In Africa on average, public employees are better educated, older, and include more women compared to the private sector
- In Nigeria, roughly 82.3 million bribes were paid in 2016, equivalent to 39% of the combined federal and state education budget
- Mauritius is the only country where civil servants are appointed and evaluated entirely based on professional criteria, according to Global Integrity
- Africa loses around \$2.0 billion annually through brain drain in the health sector
- In Ethiopia, local governments have only 21% of working days with Internet access, equivalent to only one day in a working week
- 22% of Africa's population who had contact with a public service in 2015 said they paid a bribe, mostly to the police and the courts
- Ghana is the only country where civil servants operate entirely freely without political interference, according to Global Integrity
- In e-government, Africa lags far behind the global average In Rwanda, the delivery time of an emergency blood supply with drones is reduced to 30 minutes from three hours by road
- Many Indices point to a low and decreasing level of open government practices in Africa
- Over the past decade, the African average for the Accountability of Public Officials has deteriorated, with the pace of decline worsening over the last five years
- A majority of African citizens are in favour of paying for public services
- Only seven African countries have a complete birth registration system
- In Rwanda, the delivery time of an emergency blood supply with drones is reduced to 30 minutes from three hours by road

For the first time the Forum will be preceded on Friday 27 by a 'Next Generation Forum' where the young generation will discuss as citizens what they expect from their public services, and as potential jobseekers the attractiveness, or lack of, of civil service, at national, local or regional level. Outcomes will be shared the following day at the Ibrahim Forum by their representatives who will serve as 'challengers' by sitting as panellists in each of the sessions.

The debates will be moderated by **Nancy Kacungira**, Presenter, BBC News, and **Ngaire Woods**, Dean, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University

**The speakers are:**

- **Aya Chebbi**, Founder, Afrika Youth Movement
- **Donald Kaberuka**, Chairman and Managing Partner, Southbridge Partners, former President, African Development Bank
- **Fanfan Rwanyindo Kayirangwa**, Minister of Public Service and Labour, Rwanda
- **Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- **Trevor Manuel**, Deputy Chairman of South Africa, Rothschild Group, former Finance Minister, South Africa
- **Herman Mashaba**, Mayor of Johannesburg
- **Ibrahim Mayaki**, CEO, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, former Prime Minister, Niger
- **Mariana Mazzucato**, Founder and Director, Institute for Innovation and Public Value, UCL
- **Akere Muna**, Chairman, International Anti-Corruption Conference Council
- **Jennifer Musisi**, Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority
- **Jay Naidoo**, Founding General Secretary, COSATU, Trustee of Earthrise Trust
- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Chair of the Board, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), former Finance Minister, Nigeria
- **Winifred Oyo-Ita**, Head, Civil Service of the Federation, Nigeria
- **Betsy Williams**, Founder, President's Young Professionals Program of Liberia (PYPP)

Between the three sessions, Mo Ibrahim will hold *A Conversation with* –

- **H.E. President Paul Kagame**, Chair of the African Union
- **Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations
- **Sanjay Pradhan**, CEO, Open Government Partnership

Read the full report: [mif.media/fr-2018](http://mif.media/fr-2018)



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### **Media Registration**

Local and international media are welcome to register and attend the 2018 Ibrahim Governance Weekend. Registration and media accreditation is already open at [mif.media/rwanda-invite](https://mif.media/rwanda-invite)

For more information, please contact Vanessa Sanda, [sanda.v@moibrahimfoundation.org](mailto:sanda.v@moibrahimfoundation.org), +44 (0) 207 535 5087 or media team, [mifmedia@portland-communications.com](mailto:mifmedia@portland-communications.com)

We encourage you to follow the live feed and discussions on Twitter by using #MIFKigali, or following @Mo\_IbrahimFdn

You can follow the Mo Ibrahim Foundation on:

- Twitter: [@Mo\\_IbrahimFdn](https://twitter.com/Mo_IbrahimFdn)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MoIbrahimFoundation>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/moibrahimfoundation>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/moibrahimfoundation>
- Website: [mo.ibrahim.foundation](https://mo.ibrahim.foundation)

### **Live webcast**

All the events will also be available to view via live webcast.

Watch: [mo.ibrahim.foundation](https://mo.ibrahim.foundation)

Embed on your own website: `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOB0xdYlpwU" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

### **Event Resources**

Media releases, 2018 Forum Report, photographs, video clips and other detailed resources will be available for all media on the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's website.

Audio and video footage of all events will also be available to all media as an edited video news release at the end of the Weekend on the Foundation's website.

Resources: [mif.media/igw-2018](https://mif.media/igw-2018)

A Video News Release of Saturday and Sunday highlights will be distributed on the Reuters World News Express as well.

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Mo Ibrahim Foundation**

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa. By providing tools to support progress in leadership and governance, the Foundation aims to promote meaningful change on the continent.

The Foundation, which is a non-grant making organisation, focuses on defining, assessing and enhancing governance and leadership in Africa through four main initiatives:

- Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)
- Ibrahim Forum
- Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership
- Ibrahim Fellowships and Scholarships



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### ***Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)***

*The IIAG is an annual statistical assessment of the quality of governance in every African country. Published since 2007, the IIAG was created to provide a quantifiable tool to measure and monitor governance performance in African countries, to assess their progress over time and to support the development of effective and responsive policy solutions. The IIAG measures governance performance across four main categories; Safety & Rule of Law, Participation & Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity and Human Development. Each of these contain subcategories which contain various indicators that provide quantifiable measures of the overarching dimensions of governance. In total, the IIAG contains 100 indicators. In order to provide a broad, documented and impartial picture of governance performance, the indicators used to measure governance are collected from 36 independent international and African data sources, utilising expert assessments, official data and citizen perception surveys. The IIAG is the most comprehensive and up-to-date existing dataset on African governance.*

### ***Ibrahim Forum***

*Established in 2010, the Ibrahim Forum is an annual high-level discussion forum tackling issues of critical importance to Africa. The Forum convenes prominent African political and business leaders, representatives from civil society, multilateral and regional institutions as well as Africa's major international partners to identify specific policy challenges and priorities for action. Previous Forums have dealt with: Africa at a Tipping Point (2017), African Urban Dynamics (2015), Africa in the next 50 years (2013), African Youth (2012), African Agriculture (2011) and African Regional Economic Integration (2010).*

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

*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. Previous Laureates: Presidents Joaquim Chissano (2007, Mozambique), Festus Mogae (2008, Botswana), Pedro Pires (2011, Cabo Verde) and Hifikepunye Pohamba (2014, Namibia). The 2007 Honorary Ibrahim Laureate - President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.*

- ***HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf 2017 Ibrahim Laureate***

*Ellen Johnson Sirleaf served as Head of State of Liberia from 2006 to 2018.*

*Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was awarded the 2017 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership for her exceptional and transformative leadership, in the face of unprecedented and renewed challenges, to lead Liberia's recovery following many years of devastating civil war.*

### ***Ibrahim Fellowships and Scholarships***

*The Ibrahim Leadership Fellowships form a selective programme designed to mentor future African leaders. Through this annual fellowship programme, we seek to deepen and broaden our growing network which continues to contribute its skills and learning to a better Africa. The Fellowships offer the opportunity to work in the executive offices of either the AfDB (Abidjan), UNECA (Addis Ababa) or the ITC (Geneva), with an annual stipend of \$100,000.*

*The Ibrahim Scholarships support aspiring African leaders at a number of distinguished academic institutions. The scholarships develop the talent of outstanding young Africans in selected disciplines.*