



## Mo Ibrahim Foundation announces there will be no winner of the 2023 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership

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London, UK, 20 March 2024 - Today, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation has announced that there will be no winner of the 2023 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

The Ibrahim Prize is a prize awarded in recognition of exceptional leadership. The prize is only awarded when a candidate meets the rigorous selection criteria set out by the Prize Committee, meaning it is not necessarily awarded every year.

The decision not to award the Prize for the year 2023 was taken following deliberations by the independent Prize Committee. Announcing the decision, Prize Committee Chair Festus Mogae commented:

*"Having carefully considered the list of leaders who have achieved their constitutional mandate in the last three years, and were therefore eligible for the 2023 award, the Prize Committee has decided there will be no Laureate"*

The criteria for a candidate to be eligible for the Prize are:

- Former executive heads of state or government of an African country;
- Have ended their constitutional mandate in the last three years;
- Have been democratically elected;
- Have demonstrated exceptional leadership.

This marks the third consecutive year in which the Ibrahim Prize has not been awarded.

## Notes to Editors

### Contact MIF

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### The Ibrahim Prize

- Recognises and celebrates African leaders who, under challenging circumstances, have developed their countries, strengthened democracy and paved the way for a sustainable and equitable future for their citizens;
- Highlights exceptional leadership role models for the continent;
- Ensures that the African continent continues to benefit from the experience and wisdom of exceptional leaders once they have left national office, by enabling them to work beyond their own countries once their mandate has ended;
- Is an award and a standard for excellence in leadership in Africa, and not a 'first prize' – there is not necessarily a Laureate every year.

### 2023 Ibrahim Prize

There were seven former heads of State or Government considered for the 2023 Ibrahim Prize, having been democratically elected and whose mandate ended in the past three years (2021-2022-2023).

1. Mandate ended in 2021: Jorge Carlos Fonseca, former President of Cabo Verde
2. Mandate ended in 2021: Evaristo Carvalho, former President of Sao Tomé e Príncipe
3. Mandate ended in 2021: Edgar Lungu, former President of Zambia
4. Mandate ended in 2022: Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of Kenya
5. Mandate ended in 2022: Mohammed Abdulahi Mohammed, former President of Somalia
6. Mandate ended in 2023: George Weah, former President of Liberia
7. Mandate ended in 2023: Muhammadu Buhari, former President of Nigeria

### The Ibrahim Prize is the largest awarded prize in the world, consisting of:

- US\$5 million over ten years

### Prize Committee

The winner of the Ibrahim Prize is selected by an independent Prize Committee, appointed by the Foundation Board, comprised of:

- President Festus Mogae (Chair) | Former President of Botswana; 2008 Ibrahim Prize Laureate
- Aïcha Bah Diallo | President, Network for Education for All in Africa; Former Minister of Education in Guinea; Former Assistant Director General for Education (ADG/ED), UNESCO;
- Mohamed ElBaradei | Director General Emeritus, International Atomic Energy Agency; 2005 Nobel Prize Laureate

- President Horst Köhler | Federal President of Germany 2004-2010
- Graça Machel | President, Foundation for Community Development; Former Minister of Education in Mozambique; Mo Ibrahim Foundation Council Member
- Mary Robinson | Chair of the Elders; Former UN High Commissioner on Human Rights; Former UN Envoy on Climate Change; Former President of Ireland; Mo Ibrahim Foundation Council Member
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf | President of Liberia 2006-2018; 2017 Ibrahim Prize Laureate

## **Prize Laureates**

Since being launched in 2006, the Ibrahim Prize has been awarded seven times. The previous Laureates are Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger (2020), Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia (2017), President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia (2014), President Pedro Pires of Cabo Verde (2011), President Festus Mogae of Botswana (2008), and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (2007). Nelson Mandela was the inaugural Honorary Laureate in 2007.

## **About the Mo Ibrahim Foundation**

Established in 2006, MIF is dedicated to strengthening the African voice on global challenges. The Foundation provides data and analysis to assess continental challenges, convenes stakeholders for discussions, and supports initiatives to enhance leadership and governance in Africa.

## **You can follow the Mo Ibrahim Foundation on:**

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