

Nelson Mandela named Honorary Laureate by Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Former South African President to be recognised for his 'devotion to democracy and equality'

Nelson Mandela's extraordinary leadership qualities and achievements are to be recognised today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. He is to be made an Honorary Laureate of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. The award will be officially announced at a gala ceremony at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, this evening.

In recognition of the award, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation is also making a grant to the four organisations carrying on the work of Nelson Mandela and his wife, Graça Machel - the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Mandela Rhodes Foundation, and the Foundation for Community Development in Mozambique.

Dr. Mo Ibrahim says, "Nelson Mandela stands as an inspiration, in South Africa and throughout the world, to all who share his devotion to democracy and equality. In presenting this Laureate, the Foundation would like to celebrate his extraordinary achievements and support the important work of the foundations he has established."

In a statement Nelson Mandela says, "We are proud to be the Foundation's Honorary Laureate and we accept it on behalf of all those across the continent, and indeed the world, who made it possible for us to stand here today."

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Contact

For more information on the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, contact Toby Orr, toby.orr@portlandpr.co.uk
+44 7736 175 311

For technical enquiries concerning the outside broadcast from Alexandria on Monday 26th November, contact Daniel Rivkin, daniel@rivkinmedia.com +44 7765 888 906

Notes for Editors

- 1) In October 2007, Joachim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique, was announced as the first winner of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, the world's largest prize, worth US\$ 5 million over ten years.
- 2) On the evening Monday 26th November, at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, 500 guests from around the world will gather to celebrate the achievements of President Chissano and Nelson Mandela. The ceremony will include a concert with performances by Youssou N'Dour, Salif Keita, Anjelique Kidjo and Mohamed Mounir. The Foundation will provide a live broadcast signal of the ceremony for any broadcasters and agencies that wish to use ceremony live, delayed, in programming or in news segments.
- 3) The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 to support the attainment of good governance in Africa. At the heart of its work are the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, a comprehensive ranking of sub-Saharan African countries according to governance performance and the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.