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Botswana to host Pan-Africa's most celebrated innovation event of the year - Innovation Prize for Africa!

The prestigious African award marks its 5 year milestone boasting the "Made in Africa" spirit

Gaborone, Botswana 20 January, 2016 -- The [African Innovation Foundation](#) (AIF) in a joint collaborative effort with the Government of Botswana (GoB) represented by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology and the Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) today announced that the next [Innovation Prize for Africa](#) (IPA) event will be held in Gaborone, Botswana in June 2016*. The decision to host IPA in Botswana received the highest endorsement from H.E. President Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, the President of Botswana.

IPA is a landmark program of the AIF, whose purpose is to increase the prosperity of Africans by catalyzing the innovation spirit in Africa. IPA celebrates its 5 year milestone in helping to shape the innovation landscape in Africa. To date, IPA has attracted more than 6 000 innovators from 50 African countries, making it a truly Pan-African initiative. This year's event with its "Made in Africa" theme promises to be ground-breaking, extending beyond the Awards ceremony. AIF is offering several avenues of opportunity for local, national, regional and international growth and exposure to Africa's next cadre of innovators. The event will provide an unprecedented platform for African innovators and innovation enablers to network, share knowledge, explore business opportunities and boost collaboration.

Botswana's selection as host country for IPA 2016 is seen in its commitment towards building its national innovation ecosystem. This is demonstrated by the GoB's catalytic role in capitalizing on and supporting the knowledge economy through the development of a 57-acre Science Park, dubbed the Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH). The Icon Building in the BIH Park will be launched in September 2016, as Botswana celebrates yet another milestone - 50 years of Independence. "Hosting IPA 2016 and celebrating African ingenuity in Gaborone will afford Botswana an opportunity to showcase its commitment to putting innovation at the center of its development strategy," says the Botswana Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology, Honorable Nonofu Molefhi. He added: "We are **Exact date to be confirmed*

greatly honored to have been selected to host IPA 2016 and look forward to showcasing the positive strides Botswana and indeed Africa is making in the innovation landscape.”

IPA is today recognized as Africa’s leading innovation initiative based on its track record since its inaugural launch with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the endorsement by Ministers attending the Africa Union (AU)/ECA conference in 2012. IPA recognizes, rewards and mobilizes for African innovators through promoting home-grown, market-driven solutions addressing intractable challenges in agriculture, health and well-being, manufacturing and service industry, ICTs and environment, energy and water. IPA has been successfully celebrated in African major capitals representing African regions: Addis Ababa (2011), Cape Town (2013), Abuja (2014), and more recently in Skhirat, Morocco (2015).



INNOVATION PRIZE FOR AFRICA
CELEBRATING AFRICAN
INGENUITY
GABORONE 2016

This year’s theme for IPA is “Made in Africa”, based on the belief that Africa can posit itself on the world map through self-innovation, carving its own success story of growth economies and creating incentives to commercialize and scale up home-grown innovations. Says Mr Walter Fust, AIF Chairman of the Board: “We are delighted to collaborate with the Government of Botswana in celebrating African ingenuity. With its many inspiring and success stories, Botswana is an excellent choice to host the 5th edition of IPA, helping us continue to catalyze the innovation spirit in Africa”. He added, “‘Made in Africa’ heralds a message of enterprise and prosperity for African innovators, and we encourage more Africans, especially young people and women to catalyze transformation through innovation - not only in their lives - but for the broader community and their respective economies.”

Besides a host of exciting side events and brand new initiatives for Africa by Africans, IPA 2016 will offer the following prizes and incentives to winners and applicants:

- √ Grand prize of US\$100 000
- √ Second Prize of US\$25 000
- √ Special Prize for Social Impact US\$25 000
- √ A voucher for each IPA nominee of US\$5 000
- √ Business development support for top 10 young innovators selected post Awards event
- √ Business development support for top 10 women innovators selected post Awards event.

The IPA Call for Applications ran from August to October 2015 and attracted more than 3 600 respondents from 50 African countries, clearly demonstrating the creative potential that exists in Africa. Proposed innovations showcased African ingenuity in diverse fields, from agriculture and technologies to green energy initiatives. The expert panel of judges will carefully select Africa’s new

crop of ingenuity this year from 985 successful submissions spanning 46 African countries through a rigorous, transparent process of critique, validation, interview and consensus.

Next stop: Who inspired the judges? Look out for the announcement of the 10 IPA 2016 nominees. For more information, check out www.innovationprizeforafrica.org

About the African Innovation Foundation (AIF)

AIF works to increase the prosperity of Africans by catalysing the innovation spirit in Africa.

About the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)

IPA is a landmark initiative of the AIF with the purpose of strengthening the African innovation ecosystems and spur the growth of market-driven African solutions to African challenges

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