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"The Prize Committee has been greatly impressed by President Pedro Pires' vision in transforming Cape Verde into a model of democracy, stability and increased prosperity."

"Under his ten years as President, the nation became only the second African country to graduate from the United Nation's Least Developed category and has won international recognition for its record on human rights and good governance"

"The result is that Cape Verde is now seen as an African success story, economically, socially and politically."

"Throughout his long career President Pires has been dedicated to the service of his people, including those in the diaspora, while retaining his humility and personal integrity."

Pedro de Verona Rodrigues Pires served as Head of State of Cape Verde from 2001 to 2010. He was appointed Prime Minister by the Parliament of the newly formed Republic of Cape Verde in 1975, and began pushing for democratic reform in the 1980s. He held this post until 1991, when he lost the first multiparty election. He remained active in his party until he was elected President in 2001. President Pires was awarded the 2011 Ibrahim Prize for his work in transforming Cape Verde into an African success story, recognised for good governance, human rights, prosperity and social development. President Pires's democratic credentials were enhanced by his decision not to alter the constitution so he could run for a third term in office despite popular demand. He is also highly regarded for his success in international relations and engaging Cape Verde in the African, and wider international community.

President Festus Gontebanye Mogae





"Botswana demonstrates how a country with natural resources can promote sustainable development with good governance, in a continent where too often mineral wealth has become a curse."

"President Mogae's outstanding leadership has ensured Botswana's continued stability and prosperity in the face of an HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatened the future of his country and people."

"President Mogae responded to the challenge by mobilising his country and the international community ... and put in place one of Africa's most progressive and comprehensive programmes for dealing with the disease."

"President Mogae consolidated and built on the successes of his predecessors."

Festus Gontebanye Mogae served as Head of State of Botswana from April 1998 to April 2008. He first became President in 1998, as leader of the Botswana Democratic Party, and was elected again in October 2004. President Mogae was awarded the second Ibrahim Prize for his role in maintaining and consolidating his country's stability and prosperity. His time in office was characterised by careful stewardship of the economy and management of Botswana's mineral resources, a tough stance on corruption, and successful policies in combating HIV/AIDS. Since leaving office, President Mogae has established Champions for an HIV-Free Generation, a group of former African Presidents and other influential personalities, which aims to strengthen efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. During 2008 he was one of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoys on Climate Change. He is currently Chairperson of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa.

President Joaquim Alberto Chissano



"His decision not to seek a third Presidential term reinforced Mozambique's democratic maturity and demonstrated that institutions and the democratic process were more important than personalities."

"[The] remarkable reconciliation between opponents [in Mozambique] provides a shining example to the rest of the world, and is testament to both his strength of character and his leadership."

"It is in his role in leading Mozambique from conflict to peace and democracy that President Chissano has made his most outstanding contribution."

"President Chissano also made a major contribution outside his country's borders. He was a powerful voice for Africa on the international stage."

Joaquim Alberto Chissano served as Head of State of Mozambique from November 1986 to February 2005. He inherited the leadership of FRELIMO (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique) after the death of Samora Machel and oversaw the transition from civil war to multiparty democracy. He was elected President in October 1994 and then again in December 1999. President Chissano received the inaugural Ibrahim Prize for his achievements in bringing peace, reconciliation, stable democracy and economic progress to his country following the 16-year civil war which lasted until 1992. The Prize also recognises the major contribution he has made outside his country's borders. This included serving as Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (2003-2005) and as the United Nations Special Envoy to Northern Uganda (2005-). President Chissano is currently chair of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation and the Africa Forum of Former African Heads of State and Government.

President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected President on 10 May 1994. He went on to form a Government of National Unity, before stepping down in 1999 after one term of office. Nelson Mandela is recognised throughout the world as an exceptional leader. He dedicated himself to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, at great personal sacrifice, culminating in the country's first democratic elections on 27 April 1994. Since leaving office, President Mandela has worked to promote democracy, equality and development across the world. He has established three foundations to pursue these goals: The Nelson Mandela Foundation, The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and The Mandela-Rhodes Foundation. In 2007, President Mandela was awarded an honorary Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.


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