



**Media release
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Botswana Vice President to launch the call for nominations for the 2010 Drivers of Change Awards

The Vice President of Botswana, Lieutenant General Mompoti Merafhe, will launch the call for nominations for this year's Drivers of Change awards at 18h00 on 30 March 2010 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre in Gaborone, Botswana.

Nominations are invited from the people of southern Africa with 30 July 2010 being the deadline for submissions. The influential and prestigious non-monetary awards acknowledge innovative practices and models that contribute to overcoming poverty in the region.

Awarded in the four categories of business, civil society, government, and individuals, winners must demonstrate innovation in the strategies used to develop and implement effective public policies that work to overcome poverty and inequality in southern Africa. They must particularly demonstrate how they have built partnerships with others to create new models for cooperation to overcome poverty.

Since 2006, 12 drivers of change from Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia have won the award for making a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty.

"Future generations are at risk of walking the path of poverty and inequality like our generation. If we truly want to bring systemic change to our countries and our region as a whole so that our children have a better future, we must act together now. We must better co-ordinate our efforts to drive down poverty and find new models and strategies that work more effectively. That means everyone in our region has a role to play," said Southern Africa Trust executive director, Neville Gabriel.

"We believe a change in the way we do things could bring a revolution to the effectiveness of our different efforts to end poverty in southern Africa. By raising ordinary voices in public policy development, we can fast track this revolution. The Drivers of Change awards provide a platform to raise inspiring examples of how this is already beginning to happen in our region," said Gabriel.

In 2009, the calibre of nominations for the Drivers of Change awards was particularly high with the winners in all categories demonstrating a new kind of leadership characterised by innovation towards sustainable strategies for change that work to drive down poverty.

In the government category, the Drivers of Change award was given to Dr **Bingu wa Mutharika**, President of Malawi, for changing Malawi from a country in perpetual food deficit to one that is entirely food sufficient. Under his leadership, poverty in Malawi has declined from 58 to 42 percent in five years.

In the civil society category, the **Luanda Urban Poverty Programme (LUPP)** was recognised for driving systemic change in the way poverty reduction programmes are run in Angola, through a fresh

approach to cooperation between state and non-state actors that others have struggled to achieve. LUPP is building participatory governance and more effective delivery of housing and basic services such as water to over 400,000 of Luanda's poorest citizens.

A unique partnership between **WBHO Construction** and the **Eastern Cape Red Meat Project** was recognised in the business category for driving change in the way corporate social responsibility is practised. Black livestock owners can access previously inaccessible red meat markets, turning their cattle into assets that are generating real and lasting returns.

In the individual category, **Archbishop Njongo Ndungane** was the winner in recognition of his unwavering commitment to social justice activism and his service to the peoples of southern Africa. He has consistently advocated for an end to poverty, hunger, disease, genocide, war and corruption.

This year's winners will be honoured along with the Mail & Guardian's Investing in the Future awards on 28 October 2010 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Drivers of Change awards and the Investing in the Future awards are presented through a partnership between the Southern Africa Trust and the Mail & Guardian newspaper.

Nominations are accepted in English, French and Portuguese. Nomination forms and guidelines are available by contacting Sudley Adams at +27 11 250 7300/7425 or +27 82 900 0776.

The Southern Africa Trust is an independent non-profit agency that supports deeper and wider regional engagement to overcome poverty in southern Africa.

More information about the Drivers of Change awards is available at www.southernafricatrust.org

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