

# Finalists announced for Africa women entrepreneurs awards

Promoting excellence in entrepreneurship and innovation amongst women-owned businesses in all sectors and across all 54 African countries is the aim of the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) Awards, which announced the finalists in the awards this week.



"Women-owned businesses are a vital part of our African economy," commented Irene Ochem, AWIEF founder and chief executive officer. "The massive response to the AWIEF Awards underscores the fact that women in Africa are resilient and seeking recognition and celebration for their achievements and contribution to the economy and Africa's sustainable development.

"Given the huge number and quality of the nominations received this year, I must say that female entrepreneurship is strong and thriving all across African countries," said Ochem.

The AWIEF Awards Panel of Judges is made up nine high-calibre industry experts and thought leaders spread across the continent. Forty women founders and entrepreneurs have been selected as finalists, from 12 different African countries, across eight categories.

#### Conference

The AWIEF Awards ceremony will follow the 2018 AWIEF conference and exhibition on 8-9 November at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town. AWIEF Awards category winners will be announced at a gala dinner on the Friday, 9 November, at The Westin Cape Town Hotel.

The finalists for 2018 are:

# Young Entrepreneur Award

Jane Kagiri, CreativeEdge Solutions, Kenya Nomso Faith Kana, Sun n Shield 84 Tech, South Africa Juliet Namujju, Kimuli Fashionability, Uganda Kunmi Otitoju, Minku, Nigeria

## **Tech Entrepreneur Award**

Benji Coetzee, Empty Trips, South Africa Faith Kimeu, Dial A Pad, Kenya Beth Koigi, Majik Water, Kenya Darlene Menzies, Findfind, South Africa Juliana Rotich, BRCK.Org, Kenya

## **Social Entrepreneur Award**

Essma Ben Hamida, Enda Inter-Arabe, Tunisia

Madalitso Chidumu, Impact-Ceed, Malawi

Shamim Nabuma Kaliisa, Community Dental And Reproductive Health, Uganda

Lorna Rutto, Ecoposts, Kenya

Amina Slaoui, Groupe AMH, Morocco

#### **Global Brand Award**

Sarah Collins, Wonderbag, South Africa Adele Dejak, Adèle Dejak, Kenya Renchia Droganis, Africology, South Africa Njeri Rionge, Wananchi Group, Kenya Bethlehem Tilahun-Alemu, SoleRebels, Ethiopia

## Agri Entrepreneur Award

Ngabaghila Chatata, Thanthwe Enterprises, Malawi Elorm Goh, Agrisolve, Ghana Jeanne Groenewald, Elgin Free Range Chickens, South Africa Joyce Kyalema, Josmak International, Uganda Jane Maigua, Exotic EPZ Ltd, Kenya

## **Empowerment Award**

Emma Dicks, Codespace, South Africa
Kate Ekanem, Kate Tales Foundation, Nigeria
Chiedza Daneek Nobuhle Kambasha, Hemmingworth Cartwright, Zimbabwe
Irene Kiwia, The Women Of Achievement, Tanzania
Marvella Odili, Save Our Need Organisation, Nigeria

# **Creative Industry Award Category Finalists**

Folake Folarin-Coker, Tiffany Amber, Nigeria Nana Akua Oppong-Birmeh, Archxenus, Ghana Soraya Piedade, Soraya Da Piedade Ltd, Angola Abai Schulze, Zaaf Collection, Ethiopia Winnifred Selby, Afrocentric Bamboo, Ghana

### **Lifetime Achievement Award Category Finalists**

Iyalode Alaba Lawson, Naccima Business Women Group, Nigeria Margaret Hirsch, Hirsch's Homestores, South Africa Tabitha Karanja, Keroche Breweries, Kenya Wendy Luhabe, Women Private Equity Fund, South Africa Jennifer Riria, Echo Network Africa/Kenya Women Holding, Kenya

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