

German Africa Award 2022

Friday, 25 November 2022

Allianz Forum, Berlin

Greetings by the President of the German Africa Foundation Dr Uschi Eid

Dear Chancellor Scholz,

Dear Members of the German Bundestag,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors,

dear members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of the German Africa Foundation,

honoured guests,

On behalf of the German Africa Foundation, I would like to welcome you to this evening and to the presentation of the German Africa Prize.

I am very pleased that you have followed our invitation.

I would like to say thank you to the Allianz, and you in particular, Mr Townsend, most sincerely for your hospitality again this year.

It is great that we have been able to be your guests in this wonderful building for years and I hope that the Alliance will continue to grant us hospitality.

But now, above all, I would like to welcome our two award winners:

Dear Professor de Oliveira, dear Dr Moyo,

It is a special honour and pleasure for us to have you with us today and to be able to hand over this award to you. The German Africa Foundation does this in appreciation of your pioneering research, but also in appreciation of your research ethics.

The Covid 19 pandemic has posed major challenges to states and societies worldwide, highlighting enormous deficits in preparedness and response to such global health crises. Some of these deficits were particularly evident here. The fact that African states reacted more efficiently and decisively at the very beginning of the pandemic was something we only noticed here much later and understood even later.

For a long time, we in Europe failed to learn from the wealth of experience of African scientists and medical personnel in combating the pandemic.

And so, after the discovery and immediate reporting of the Omicron variant by you, Prof de Oliveira and you, Dr Moyo, and your research teams, Germany and some other nations reacted not with admiration for your essential contribution to the global fight against the pandemic, but with border closures. What a fatal mistake!!!

But the two of you have not allowed this to affect your work.

With your successful transnational cooperation, you show that you are among the leaders in health research, both in Africa and internationally.

You also prove that international cooperation is important in the search for solutions and strategies for global problems, i.e. not only across national borders, but also across continents. It is this international cooperation that the German Africa Foundation also strives to promote by informing, educating and communicating realities from Africa.

With today's award, we are not only honouring two top researchers in South Africa and Botswana. We also want to make a contribution to correcting the not always accurate, sometimes even distorted perception of Africa in this country and to show

that we do not always just talk about learning from each other, but actually do it. For only in this way can we put German- African relations on a good footing and hopefully deepen them.

Dear Chancellor, I am delighted that you and your government are committed to deepening these relations. The fact that you are presenting the German Africa Prize this evening is concrete proof of this. And for this I thank you on behalf of the Board of the German Africa Foundation.

Just a few days before the German Africa Business Summit in Johannesburg, you are making it clear to the German Federal Government what an important strategic role the continent plays for it in jointly tackling the many global challenges.

You, dear Prof de Oliveira and Dr Moyo, are already indispensable for mastering global health challenges.

We therefore hope that this award will encourage you to continue your work actively for the benefit of humanity and for international cooperation in the field of health.

Congratulations for receiving the German Africa Award 2022 and all the best to both of you for the future! Many thanks