

IfEDI AFRICA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

Stage 1 nomination form

Recognising Excellence. Celebrating Impact. Advancing Africa.

Presented at ACOEDI 2026 | 26-29 October 2026 | Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS FORM

These Excellence Awards recognise people, institutions, partnerships and sustained practice. They are separate from ACOEDI paper, research-presentation and innovation competition awards. Complete one form per category. Keep the nomination focused on demonstrated results and evidence. For competitive awards, the primary assessment period is 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2026.

Section A - Award category

Select	Competitive category
☐	Economic Development Professional of the Year
☐	Young Economic Development Professional of the Year
☐	CEDEL Ethical Leadership Award
☐	Economic Development & Innovation Institution of the Year
☐	Municipal Economic Development Excellence Award
☐	Economic Development Agency Excellence Award
☐	University & Knowledge Institution Economic Development Leadership Award
☐	Enterprise & Innovation Ecosystem Excellence Award
☐	Economic Development Partnership of the Year
☐	Evidence-to-Policy & Practice Impact Award
☐	Economic Development Enablers & Catalysts Excellence Award

Note: Distinguished Contribution to African Economic Development & Innovation is a special honour and does not use this standard competitive nomination form.

If selecting Enablers & Catalysts, indicate the primary application area

- ☐ Energy ☐ Water ☐ Transport & Mobility ☐ Digital Infrastructure / Data / AI
☐ Land & Spatial Development ☐ Finance ☐ Procurement ☐ Skills / Knowledge
☐ Trade & Market Access ☐ Tourism / Culture / Sport ☐ Natural Resources / Food Systems
☐ Climate / Green / Circular Transition ☐ Human Settlements ☐ Health Systems ☐ Human Mobility /
 Diaspora
☐ Other enabling system / capability: _____

Section B - Nominee details

Field	Information
Nominee / Institution / Partnership name	
Nominee type ☐ Individual ☐ Institution ☐ Partnership	
Position / institutional type	
Organisation (for individual nominees)	
Province / Country	
Website (if applicable)	
Primary contact person	
Email	
Telephone	
Date of birth (Young Professional category only)	

Partnership details - complete only for Economic Development Partnership of the Year

Partner organisation	Sector / type	Role in partnership	Country

Section C - Nominator details

Field	Information
Nominator name	
Organisation	
Position / title	
Email	
Telephone	
Relationship to nominee ☐ Supervisor ☐ Colleague ☐ Client ☐ Partner organisation ☐ Community stakeholder ☐ Self-nomination ☐ Other: _____	

Section D - Nomination summary

In no more than 250 words, explain why this nominee should be recognised in the selected category. Lead with the strongest results and what makes the contribution exceptional.

Nomination summary - maximum 250 words

Section E - Challenge or opportunity addressed

In no more than 300 words, describe the economic-development or innovation challenge/opportunity, the context, who was affected, and why action was necessary.

Challenge / opportunity - maximum 300 words

Section F - Intervention, leadership and what was exceptional

In no more than 400 words, explain what the nominee did, how the approach differed from routine practice, the partnerships or leadership involved, and why the work deserves recognition in this specific category. Directly address the published category-specific criteria in the Awards Handbook.

Intervention and excellence - maximum 400 words

Enablers & Catalysts nominations: explain the causal link between the selected enabler and the economic-development outcome. Do not rely on technical scale, infrastructure size or sector performance alone; show what productive activity, investment, enterprises, jobs, market access, productivity, inclusion or place-based transformation was unlocked.

Section G - Measurable impact

Provide only indicators that are relevant and supportable. Leave irrelevant rows blank. Clearly state the measurement period and evidence source where possible.

Impact indicator	Result / change	Evidence source
Jobs created / sustained		
Investment facilitated / mobilised		
Enterprises supported / scaled		
Revenue / productivity / exports		
People trained / capability strengthened		
Youth / women / community outcomes		
Policies / institutional decisions influenced		
Systems / processes / governance improved		
Research / knowledge translated into practice		
Other material outcome		

Section H - Sustainability and wider value

In no more than 250 words, explain how the results will continue, how the work has been institutionalised or funded, and whether it can be replicated, scaled or inform practice elsewhere.

Sustainability / institutionalisation / replication - maximum 250 words

Section I - Ethics, governance and public value

In no more than 200 words, describe how the nominee demonstrated integrity, accountability, professional standards, inclusion, collaboration and public value in delivering the work.

Ethics, governance and public value - maximum 200 words

Section J - Key supporting evidence

List the 3-5 strongest items submitted with this Stage 1 nomination. Shortlisted finalists may be asked for additional evidence.

No.	Evidence item	What claim it supports
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Section K - Independent referee

The referee should be able to speak independently and from direct knowledge about the credibility and significance of the nominee's achievements. The Secretariat may contact the referee directly. A referee with

a material conflict must disclose it. The endorsement may be completed below or submitted separately by the referee to awards@ifedi.org, clearly identifying the nominee and category.

Field	Information
Name	
Organisation	
Position / title	
Email	
Telephone	
Relationship to nominee	
Any relationship or potential conflict relevant to the awards process	

Referee endorsement - maximum 150 words: Please state, from your own knowledge, why the nominee's achievements and impact are credible and exceptional.

Referee endorsement

Referee signature	Date

Section L - Disclosure, declaration and nominee consent

Please disclose any material relationship that could reasonably be perceived as relevant to the awards process, including governance, employment, advisory, financial, sponsorship, partnership, professional or institutional relationships involving the nominee/nominator and IfEDI Africa, ACOEDI, the Awards Council, Awards Secretariat or known adjudicators. Disclosure does not automatically disqualify a nomination; it enables appropriate recusal and independent handling.

Relationship / conflict disclosure

- I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that supporting evidence may be independently verified and that additional information may be requested.
- I have disclosed any material relationship or potential conflict of which I am aware that could reasonably be perceived as relevant to the awards process.
- I understand that persons with a material conflict are required to recuse themselves from screening, scoring, verification, moderation and deliberation on the affected nomination.
- I understand that submission does not guarantee shortlisting or selection and that an award may be withheld where the required standard is not achieved.
- I understand that material misrepresentation may result in disqualification or withdrawal of recognition.
- For a third-party nomination, I understand that nominee consent must be obtained before finalist confirmation, verification and public announcement.

Nominator name	Date
Signature	
Nominee consent - required before finalist confirmation	Date
Nominee signature	

Confidentiality and evidence handling

Submitted information and evidence will be used for eligibility screening, adjudication, verification and awards administration. Access should be limited to authorised persons with a legitimate role in the process. Confidential or commercially sensitive information will not be published without appropriate permission.

Stage 1 submission checklist

- ☐ Completed nomination form.
- ☐ 3-5 key supporting evidence items or accessible references/links.
- ☐ One independent referee endorsement.
- ☐ Signed declaration and relationship/conflict disclosure.
- ☐ Submitted by 15 October 2026, 23:59 SAST.

SUBMIT TO

awards@ifedi.org | info@ifedi.org
www.ifedi.org | +27 (0) 87 551 0639 | +27 (0) 65 924 3925

Official use only

Field	Official record
Nomination reference number	
Date received	
Eligibility check ☐ Eligible ☐ Incomplete ☐ Additional information required	
Assigned category	
Conflict and recusal check completed ☐ Yes ☐ No	
First-round adjudicator allocation	
Shortlisting outcome	
Finalist consent received ☐ Yes ☐ No	