

HP Inc. & the African Union Commission sign a MoU to collaborate for the development of entrepreneurial skills in Africa

The Memorandum of Understanding sets out that both parties will drive online platforms to support and enhance education in Africa.

JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, September 25, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- HP Inc. in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster entrepreneurial learning in Africa. The aim of the MoU is to further cement the collaboration between these two parties in building entrepreneurial skills across the continent and to leverage HP Foundation's Learning Initiative for Entrepreneurs ([HP LIFE](#)). HP LIFE provides people in the region with access to 32 free, online courses in seven languages to build key business competencies as set out in the [AGENDA 2063](#).

AGENDA 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity.

HP Inc. and the AUC have agreed to exchange information and material on enhancing quality education for learners and entrepreneurs in Africa, organize symposiums and conferences on education and skills development initiatives, leverage the online platform HP LIFE, which is aimed to enroll a million users between 2016 and 2025 and is part of HP's commitment to enable better learning outcomes for 100 million people globally by 2025. The aim of the MoU is to ensure closer collaboration and exchange of information between the parties, in a manner that creates synergies in Youth Skills Development, Academic Exchanges, and Research in Africa.

"HP is driving access to quality education globally to enable anyone and everyone to build skills to compete in the digital economy," said Issam Essadiqi, Interim Managing Director, HP Africa. "Making education more accessible and effective helps people get better jobs, launch small businesses, and create opportunities for their families and communities. HP believes technology can be the great equalizer in education and is using it to enable students to get access to quality education in the classroom and beyond."

The AU Commissioner for Human Resource, Science and Technology H.E Prof. Sarah Anyang

Agbor said, "The partnership with HP will accelerate our education response to Covid-19 and beyond to ensure accessible and continued learning for African youth. The African Union's education agenda, which has a focus on digital learning is well complemented by the opportunities that the work with HP will bring about for African youth. In line with prioritizing distance learning, the partnership will support individuals and institutions of learning to provide the requisite expertise and opportunities."

HP LIFE was first offered through hundreds of local training centers in countries such as Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Uganda, and Kenya, to help people learn the skills to start or grow a business or improve their employment prospects. In 2012, HP LIFE expanded to an online platform. Since 2016, over 116,000 men and women across Africa have already received HP LIFE training. 82% of women who took part in an HP LIFE survey said that participating in the programme had increased their confidence in their future

Today, technology can support new styles of learning. PCs and tools designed for education can offer students flexibility of time, place, and pace of learning, whether in or out of the classroom, or in a blend of environments. HP and the AUC's joint efforts have the potential to uplift access of education and opportunities for career work and economic growth, and this collaboration has the potential to make lifelong learning a reality.

Notes to Editors

It is important to note that HP and Hewlett-Packard separated in 2015 and are no longer one and the same company.

About HP

HP Inc. creates technology that makes life better for everyone, everywhere. Through our product and service portfolio and service portfolio of personal systems, printers and 3D printing solutions, we engineer experiences that amaze. More information about HP Inc. is available at hp.com.

About HP LIFE

HP LIFE provides business and IT skills training free of charge to people all over the world. The online community and 32 self-paced courses are designed to help users develop business and IT skills in their own time and at their own pace. The courses are modular, interactive, and full of information and practical exercises that enable users to grow their business.

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