



Africa making strides in gender equality - NGO

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Dakar, Senegal (PANA) - The African continent has made important strides by applying gender equality within the African Union (AU), the executive director of the NGO, Woman Africa Solidarity (FAS), Bineta Diop, told a news conference here on Friday.

"Since it is our continent's first real breakthrough, it should be brought to the attention of others," she said, taking pride in the fact that this equality only existed in Africa, "a continent reckoned to be plagued by war, poverty and famine."

The challenge facing Africa today was to implement this equality at the grassroots and national levels, she added.

The chair of the Tunisian Mothers' Association (ATM), Saida Agrbi, who is a Tunisian MP, also hailed Africa's headway in gender issues.

"This advancement is getting more and more visible and should be celebrated," she declared, explaining that this the reason why the "Africa Gender Awards" was set up to highlight and reward personalities for their tremendous efforts in including gender issues in economic and political circles.

Senegalese and South African presidents, Abdoulaye Wade and Thabo Mbeki, respectively, will on Monday receive the gender award on the sidelines of the African Forum on Gender meeting opening here on Sunday.

Wade was selected for having proposed the adoption of the gender equality within the AU Commission, and Mbeki for having ensured the AU adopted the decision.

The African Forum on Gender slated for 1-2 May 2005 brings together African and Arab women brainstorm on solutions to issues facing the continent.