



Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Eric Goosby to Visit Botswana

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that Ambassador Eric Goosby, Global AIDS Coordinator for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), will visit Botswana March 10 – 12.

Ambassador Goosby will meet with officials of the Government of Botswana and civil society, and visit programs jointly supported by PEPFAR, the Government, and other cooperating partners to observe the progress made in addressing the AIDS epidemic and other health challenges. During this visit, Dr. Goosby will visit the University of Botswana Medical School to discuss progress and further opportunities for improving the human capacity to meet Botswana's health challenges. He will also visit the Central Medical Stores to view the successes to date in improving the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the country's supply chain for health commodities.

U.S. Ambassador to Botswana Stephen Nolan said, "We are extremely pleased to welcome Ambassador Goosby to Botswana. As President Obama's point person for the U.S. Government's global efforts to address HIV/AIDS, I think it is important that Ambassador Goosby see firsthand the successes that Botswana has achieved – many with the support of the United States – because the success stories here may well prove to be models for other countries."

Since 2004, the U.S. Government has invested over BWP 2.4 billion to support Botswana's efforts against HIV and AIDS. During the first phase of PEPFAR, the U.S. assisted the Government to reach more than 80% of its HIV positive citizens with life-saving anti-retroviral drugs and to achieve a 96% success rate in preventing mother-to-child transmission. The strong partnership between PEPFAR and the Government of Botswana has helped develop even stronger public-private cooperation with U.S. foundations such as Merck and Gates, and the renowned public health programs from the universities of Pennsylvania, Baylor, and Harvard.

Ambassador Goosby was confirmed as the United States Global AIDS Coordinator in June 2009. He leads all U.S. Government international HIV/AIDS efforts including implementation of the U.S. PEPFAR program, which includes U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund. With the support of the American people, the U.S. Government has committed approximately \$32 billion to bilateral HIV/AIDS programs, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and bilateral TB programs through 2010.

There will be a press availability with Ambassador Goosby on Friday afternoon, March 11, at the temporary UB School of Medicine site located in Kgogolamoko House at the Bus Rank at 2:30 pm. Members of the press are invited to cover.

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