

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The United States Continues Support for Botswana's Response to HIV/AIDS with New Funding for Tebelopele**

The United States Embassy is pleased to announce new project funding of BWP 31.6 million for Tebelopele and its work in providing voluntary testing and counseling services. As part of the U.S. Government's partnership with the Government and the people of Botswana in responding to HIV/AIDS, the United States has provided over BWP 2.6 billion since 2001 through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services in Botswana.

HIV testing and counseling is the cornerstone of the HIV prevention response, and enables persons both to know their HIV status and access appropriate services. To support this effort, the United States has provided funding support of more than BWP 130 million to the Tebelopele Voluntary Testing and Counseling Centers since 2004. Together, the U.S. Government and Tebelopele have enjoyed a strong and successful partnership, testing over 600,000 individuals for HIV, and providing high quality risk reduction counseling and referrals.

The budget environment is increasingly difficult but we are pleased to confirm the United States' continued commitment to supporting the provision of HIV testing and counseling services in Botswana. The new project funding for Tebelopele is an element of that commitment and we look forward to a continued strong working relationship with Tebelopele and other HIV service providers. The first installment of the new project funding, BWP 16.6 million, is provided in the initial award, and BWP 15.3 million will follow when funds are available.

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