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Press Release

Get Up and Go

Highlighting Artistic Excellence for an HIV-Free Generation

Featuring Toni Blackman, U.S. Hip-Hop Musician and Poet along with Leading Musicians
from Botswana

The United States Embassy in Botswana will sponsor a two-week series of live musical performances throughout Botswana from November 15 – December 1, demonstrating the power of hip-hop music to convey a positive message of behavior change to youth aimed at reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS.

The *Get Up and Go* tour will challenge youth to take control of their lives and to address those behaviors that drive the HIV epidemic. The final performance will take place in Palapye, where the Government of Botswana will commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1.

The *Get Up and Go* tour will feature Toni Blackman, U.S. hip-hop musician, poet, and activist, along with the leading hip-hop artists from Botswana, including Kast, Scar, Zeus, Billy Slugz, Chub Heightz, Cibil Nyte, Enigma, Spurt, Touch, and Tref. The artists will blend their unique musical styles and abilities with a message of empowerment and behavior change that will touch the youth of Botswana, particularly with regard to changing sexual habits and attitudes toward multiple concurrent partners.

The tour will also mark the launch of a hip-hop DVD by these local stars that includes original music with lyrics that promote positive behavior change.

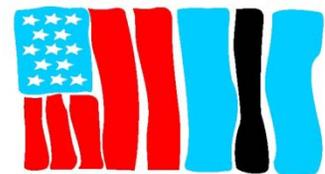
In addition to participating with Botswana artists in the music tour, Toni Blackman will also conduct outreach activities in schools and other venues, sharing a motivational message of youth and girls' empowerment that will coincide with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

One of the highest priorities for the U.S. Embassy in Botswana is to promote positive role models and behavior change for young people. This is especially true as the U.S. stands shoulder to shoulder with the Government and people of Botswana in our combined effort to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS.

The United States is a strong partner with Botswana as the country works to meet the challenge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The U.S. has made “smart investments” in Botswana, with over \$386 million invested since 2005 to support the national response by government and civil society in providing treatment, care and support services to those in need.

ROAD SHOW DATES AND VENUES

Venue	Date
Gaborone	November 15 th 2010
Jwaneng	November 17 th 2010
Kang	November 19 th 2010
Ghanzi	November 20 th 2010
Shakawe	November 22 nd 2010
Gumare	November 24 th 2010
Maun	November 26 th 2010
Palapye	November 29 th 2010



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