



MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

December 9, 2005

DONALD M. PAYNE  
TENTH DISTRICT  
NEW JERSEY

His Excellency Festus Mogae  
President of the Republic of Botswana  
President's Office  
Private Bag 001  
Gaborone, Botswana

Dear President Mogae:

I commend you for the tremendous efforts you have made towards addressing the challenge of HIV/AIDS in your country over the years. You are certainly a leader on the continent in this and many other respects.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce to you Hoops4Africa, a dynamic HIV/AIDS support NGO based in Washington, DC. Hoops4Africa is a not-for-profit youth-focused organization working in African countries to support and augment HIV/AIDS awareness and behavior-change programs for youth.

Hoops4Africa uses basketball and soccer stars to reinforce messages of positive and healthy living amongst adolescents and young adults in Africa. The organization harnesses the allure of international sports personalities to give African youth vibrant HIV/AIDS spokespeople and credible role models who can build self-esteem and provide them with life-skills to make the right choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

In September of 2005 the organization successfully implemented a HIV/AIDS support intervention in Kenya. With two teams of celebrity basketball players, Hoops4Africa toured various locations in Kenya, engaging over 5,000 youth in lively, candid discussions about HIV/AIDS crafted around exciting sports tournaments and basketball clinics.

Hoops4Africa would like to implement a similar program in Botswana in July, 2006. Their objective is to reach over 200,000 people, including 10,000 young people, in Botswana with the message "Play Safe, Stay Alive". In partnership with the Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC), Hoops4Africa and twenty international basketball and football stars will tour Botswana using sports to support critical awareness and behavior change programs and will motivate the youth to find healthy outlets for their energy and talent.

This is a unique intervention that has the youth of Botswana at heart. Your support of this project would be highly appreciated. Again, I commend you on your tireless efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne

Member of Congress

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