

National Basketball Association Cares and ACHAP Dinner
for the Basketball Court

Master of Ceremonies,

*The Guest of Honor Minister of Health – Hon Professor Sheila Dinotshe
Tlou*

Minister of Education - Hon. Rre Jacob Nkate

Minister of Labor and Home Affairs - Hon. Major General Moeng Pheto

Permanent Secretaries – here present

National AIDS Coordinator – Mr. Chris Batho Molomo

ACHAP Managing Director Elect – Dr. Themba L. Moeti

Her Excellency US Ambassador to Botswana – Ms Katherine Canavan

Executive Director of Botswana National Youth Council - Mr. Falcon

Sedimo

Members of NBA Cares

Dikembe Mutombo

Jerome Williams

Chris Duhon

Other Representatives of the NBA – here present

Members of the Media - here present

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

*It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to this evening
dinner organized to mark the official handover of the Basketball
Court to the Botswana National Youth Council.*

The basketball court was built through a collaborative effort of the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships, Botswana National Youth Council and National Basketball Association Cares.

I am indeed gratified to have witnessed yet another example of the role and importance of partnerships in the construction of a basketball court for the youth of this country.

*Ladies and Gentlemen: **ACHAP** is a country-led, public-private development partnership between The Government of Botswana, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and The Merck Company Foundation dedicated to supporting and enhancing Botswana's national response to HIV/AIDS until 2009*

Since the Youth in Botswana are a recognized 'vulnerable group' in the HIV epidemic, it is therefore important to target them in our prevention efforts.

The presence of the members of the NBA Cares with us signifies the importance of using strategies that can keep the youth out of risky behaviors. Through the NBA Cares initiative, the league players and coaches will act as role models for the youth in Botswana.

I believe that through the BNYC, the Basketball Court that was handed over this morning will be used for keeping the youth out of alcohol and other risky behaviors. Hence the basketball Court handed over this morning is an HIV prevention strategy for the youth.

I am certain that with the leadership of my friend Mr. Falcon Sedimo with his partnership with NBA Cares, we are likely to see boys and girls forming their own regional basketball leagues in this country.

The handover of the basketball court this morning formed a landmark in our collaboration with the NBA Cares, and we hope it will continue to grow from strength to strength

WELCOME HONORED GUESTS!!!!