



## PRESS RELEASE

### Dr. Themba L. Moeti Appointed Managing Director of ACHAP

Gaborone, Botswana, August 30, 2006 -- The Board of Directors of the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Themba L. Moeti as the new ACHAP Managing Director. Dr. Moeti joins ACHAP from the Ministry of Health, where he has been Deputy Permanent Secretary for Support Services.

Dr. Moeti brings two decades of diverse technical experience to his new position at ACHAP. He holds an M.B.B.S. degree from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, University of London, and a Masters degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has worked as Head of the Epidemiology Disease Control Unit in the Botswana Ministry of Health, where he headed the TB, malaria and disease surveillance programs. Dr. Moeti was then promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Health Services responsible for three large technical departments in the Ministry of Health dealing with HIV and AIDS and other health matters.

"The depth and breadth of his experience in program management and policy aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support make Dr. Moeti well-qualified for his new responsibilities as Managing Director," said Board Chair Dr. Luke Nkinsi of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "We are pleased to welcome him to ACHAP."

"I am delighted that ACHAP has chosen a professional of Dr. Themba Moeti's calibre as their new Managing Director," said Mr. B. C. Molomo, National Coordinator, National AIDS Coordinating Agency. "I have worked closely with him on HIV/AIDS matters and look forward to continuing our collaboration now that he is moving to ACHAP."

Dr. Moeti replaces Mrs. Tsetsele Fantan, who has taken up a new role as Senior Advisor to the ACHAP Board. "On behalf of the ACHAP Board, I thank Mrs. Fantan for her hard work and dedication as ACHAP Executive Director, in particular her efforts to strengthen partnership with the Government of Botswana," said Dr. Nkinsi. "We look forward to continuing to work with her in her new advisory role."

Dr. Moeti will take up his new position as Managing Director of ACHAP on November 1, 2006. In the interim, Mr. Leonard R. G. Manthe is serving as Acting Managing Director.

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Notes to editors:

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

ACHAP has four strategic priorities: (1) prevention; (2) HIV counseling & testing and post-test services; (3) antiretroviral treatment; and (4) advocacy and mobilization of communities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

ACHAP is committed to building organizational and human resource capacities in support of these strategic priorities at the central and district levels.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Merck Company Foundation have each dedicated US\$ 56.5 million towards the project. Merck & Co., Inc. is also donating two antiretroviral medicines, STOCRIN (Efavirenz) and CRIXIVAN (Indinavir sulfate) for appropriate treatment programmes developed by the Government of Botswana for the duration of the initiative.

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