

The United States Diplomatic Mission to Nigeria

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The Safe Blood for Africa launch Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

May 12, 2005

Ambassador John Campbell Remarks at The Safe Blood for Africa launch Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Your Excellency, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I am honored to join you today for the Abuja demonstration project for the Safe Blood for Africa Foundation. This project is already bringing safe blood to the hospitals of the Federal Capital Territory. Mr. President, this past December on World AIDS Day, we launched the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Nigeria. Just five months later, we are celebrating an important milestone in the fight against AIDS in this country.

We celebrate the work of the Safe Blood for Africa Foundation which, in close collaboration with the Nigerian Ministry of Health, is building a strong national blood transfusion service. This service will bring a safe and more plentiful blood supply for life-saving transfusions within and around the federal capital territory. Eventually, the service will reach citizens of the entire country.

The United States Government is proud to have been instrumental in providing the initial funding to launch the project. In addition, I would like to acknowledge other groups who have joined us in this project, including the Exxon Mobil Corporation, whose training institute is housed in the building behind us.

President Bush has made a major commitment to helping fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. We are pleased that, in Nigeria, those funds from the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief are being used in partnership with contributions by the Federal Ministry of Health and private partners to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases.

In just the past year, this partnership has trained over 250 people, and it is providing technical assistance and rapid test kits to officials in many states. We expect that in the future the reach and the impact of this program will increase to even more states.

Mr. President, we commend you for your continued, strong support for all aspects of the US and Nigerian partnership in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We are confident that your leadership in your own country, as well as in the African Union, will help to reinforce the importance of a safe blood supply in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region. For its part, the United States Government will continue to help bring a safe and adequate blood supply to the people of Nigeria. Together we can make a difference in Nigeria.

Related Resources:

Safe Blood for Africa Foundation - Mission, History, Contact information - [[Download a copy](#)]

[Photos](#)



Ambassador John Campbell delivering a speech



President Obasanjo donating blood at the Blood Transfusion Center



Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, NACA Chairman making remarks



John Chaplin, EXXON Mobil CEO making a speech

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