

American Embassy supports the End Malaria – Blue Ribbon Campaign in Botswana.

The Student Leaders Against Malaria (SLAM) partnership and End Malaria – Blue Ribbon campaigns led by Mr. Tommie Hamaluba, a computer technology teacher from the Gaborone Senior Secondary School (GSS) in Gaborone, Botswana and teacher Mr. Bill Meyers, from the Alexander Dawson School in Lafayette, Colorado, USA grow with the support of the Malaria Foundation International (MFI), the Botswana Ministry of Health, and the American Embassy. A Malaria Education Workshop held at the GSS kicked off this year's SLAM campaign in Botswana to End Malaria.



Atlanta, GA, August 9, 2008 --(PR.com)—Two of the Malaria Foundation International's pioneering developers of the Student Leaders Against Malaria (SLAM) and End Malaria – Blue Ribbon (EM-BR) campaigns have kicked off their annual Malaria Education Campaign in Botswana at the Gaborone Senior Secondary School (GSS). They have established a strong friendship and partnership between their schools and among their students over the past few years. This year, thanks to the American Embassy, they were joined by Dr. Mary Galinski, founder and president of the Malaria Foundation International (MFI; www.malaria.org). Dr. Galinski is also a professor of infectious diseases and global health at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, USA.

The campaign started with a Malaria Education Workshop at GSS involving 47 students from Mr. Hamaluba's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) club at GSS, 2 teachers and five students from other local schools, and 5 students engaged in the SLAM club started by Mr. Meyers at the Alexander Dawson School in Colorado, USA. Mr. Hamaluba and Mr. Meyers met through the Environment Online (ENO) programme (<http://eno.joensuu.fi>), and they are supporting the involvement of other teachers and students from this network in the MFI's initiatives to End Malaria.

"Our common aim is to educate and train students to become active leaders in the world's fight against malaria," said Mr. Hamaluba. "The global SLAM partnership and EM-BR campaigns provide the means to get this job done." "Gaborone is fortunate to be free of malaria, but we are educating and encouraging students here to become global citizens," added Mr. Meyers. Next week we will be delivering long-lasting insecticide treated bednets in the northern regions of Botswana, where malaria persists, and passing on educational messages about malaria to help protect the community."

More information on the group's first EM-BR campaign in 2007 can be found at www.malaria.org, along with other SLAM and EM-BR activities from Cote d' Ivoire, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Southern Sudan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Teachers, students and community leaders from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia have recently also become engaged in the SLAM and EM-BR network. To become involved, future interested leaders can write to MFI@malaria.org.

The global SLAM network is focused on education and the development of national and international partnerships and friendships among teachers and students of all ages.

For further updated information, please visit www.malaria.org and the student's blog at <http://ads-gss.blogspot.com>

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Photos and captions to follow



Mr. Thabo Magama, 17 year old student, is recognized by Mr. Hamaluba for his exemplary leadership role, along with many others in the workshop.



Mr. Max Mophuting, Headmaster, Gaborone Senior Secondary School, opens the Malaria Education Workshop with words of wisdom and encouragement, as Mistress of Ceremonies Ms. Tebogo Obatleng also welcomes the student body and special guests from the American Embassy, Ministry of Health, and the United States.



Students listen intently to a series of lectures and discussions on prevention methods, treatment, and research relating to malaria.



Mr. Hamaluba demonstrates how to hang a bednet as speaker Ms. Lorato Regoeng, the National Malaria Coordinator from the Ministry of Health, looks on with approval.



Mr. Bill Meyers expresses his thanks and appreciation to all of the Student Leaders Against Malaria (SLAM) members at the workshop and shares inspirational messages regarding their heroic efforts to educate people about the lifesaving measures that can help to prevent malaria.

Mr. Meyers also shows a powerpoint presentation prepared by his students in the USA (see [link](#))



Mr Hamaluba challenges the students



Mr Hamaluba and Dr. Galinski commit to the continuation of their partnership and agree to expand the SLAM and EM-BR campaigns together.

Dr. Galinski addressed the workshop regarding the history and expansion of these MFI campaigns, and also lectured about the malaria parasite and disease from a scientific perspective.



Ms. Tebogo Obatleng, 17 year old student from Botswana GSS is congratulated upon completing the workshop and receives her Award Certificate



Kate, 17 year old student from the USA, is congratulated upon completing the workshop and receives her Award Certificate



Mr. Thabo Magama, student from Botswana GSS, is congratulated upon completing the workshop and receives his Award Certificate



Buck, 13 year old student from the USA, is congratulated upon completing the workshop and receives his Award Certificate



After all Award Certificates were individually distributed, all students proudly displayed their Award Certificates and celebrated their accomplishments.

Then, everyone started to plan for the next step of the campaign, a 10 hour bus drive to reach out to the people in the Lesoma village, Chobe District, where malaria remains a significant problem for the people of Botswana.



Ms. Isabellah Tsheko, 18 year old student from Botswana GSS, gives special thanks to Mr. Meyers for his support of the SLAM and EM-BR programs together.