

**Todd Amani, USAID-Mozambique Director**  
**Hand-over of Sports Gear to Ministry of Defense**  
**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm**  
**Maputo**

His Excellency the Minister of Defense, Mr. Filipe Nyussi,

Distinguished members of the Mozambican Armed Forces,

Members of the media,

Good afternoon.

I am here today to represent the U.S. Mission and our Defense Attaché's office in another constructive, and might I add, festive, step in our military-to-military relations. This event comes only one month after the visit of the USS Robert G. Bradley, a frigate that docked in Mozambique for 10 days as part of the Africa Partnership Station, or APS, program. Two months earlier, we hosted the Deputy to the Commander for the U.S. Africa Command, Ambassador Mary Yates, in order to help inaugurate along with you, Minister Nyussi, the Integrated Center for Treatment and Care at Maputo's Military Hospital. We are staying busy with important events and activities, some of them true milestones in our relationship – and so first and foremost, I want to thank you for that cooperation and thank all of our military colleagues, American and Mozambican, who have helped put these cooperative events together.

I do not need to repeat that 25 million people have died from AIDS and that 33 million people are currently living with HIV around the world, over one million right here in Mozambique. Despite the best efforts of the Government of Mozambique's and all of its partners, including the U.S. government, preventing the spread of the virus remains a challenge.

We are constantly looking for new innovative ways to get out the message, to encourage healthy behavior, to inform about testing and to influence behavior change. Through our Department of Defense's HIV/AIDS prevention programs, with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, we work directly on awareness and prevention issues with the Mozambican Armed Forces.

Today we are happy to provide training suits, medical kits, caps, and soccer balls to Club Matchedje. I would like to thank our PEPFAR partner, Population Services International, or PSI, for helping implement this project and for their innovative and eye-catching designs of the uniforms; it is great to see so many of the players out in their new uniforms today.

I understand that at soccer matches, PSI sets up testing and counseling tents to seize the important opportunity of the population coming out to see the game. I give my congratulations to the military soccer players for taking the leadership and initiative in helping to combat this disease. Literally, by wearing these jerseys, by inspiring fans, or yourselves, to get tested at the PSI booths, you could be saving lives. I have said it before, and I would like to repeat it today: Despite all of support from the U.S. government, it is the people of Mozambique who are the real leaders in the fight against HIV and AIDS. People like you.

And before closing, I would like to present a special jersey to you, Mr. Minister. My colleagues had it specially designed. (present jersey; applause).

Thank you very much.

