

Water and Development Alliance (WADA) Launch
Tuesday, January 17th, 2009
Chimoio
Chargé d'Affaires Todd C. Chapman

- Mauricio Vieira, Governador da Província de Manica
- Agostinho Raiva, Director Provincial das Obras Públicas e Habitação de Manica
- Raul Conde Adriano, Presidente do Conselho Municipal da Cidade de Chimoio
- Representative from Coca-Cola SABCO
- Members of the press corps,
- Citizens of Chimoio,

Good morning. It is always a pleasure to be in Chimoio, one of the most beautiful regions of Mozambique. It is here, with the greenery and lushness that surrounds us, where we become keenly aware of the impact that clean and fresh water has on all of our lives. According to global scientists, water may be the most precious resource we have, and indeed, in much of the world, having access to potable water still remains not a given, but a luxury.

Today we pledge to 35,000 residents of Chimoio, that it will no longer be a luxury for you but rather a reality. With the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant and the construction of a transportation system to connect the treatment facility to the municipal water system, residents of Chimoio will have a consistent supply of clean running water for themselves and their families and also 12 schools, a hospital, and a health facility. That is our pledge to you.

This project involves many partners, of which we are only one. I would like to thank all of the partners in this effort but especially want to underscore how satisfied I am that the U.S. government in Mozambique is collaborating with a U.S.-based company to combine technical knowledge with funding in order to find innovative and sustainable solutions for the well-being of the people of this country. Together we are responding to a changing global environment, increasing our effectiveness and bringing sustainability to our projects so that the benefits, and the expertise, remain here with you.

The U.S. government shares Mozambique's vision of an end to absolute poverty of its people; we are your partners on this journey. Mozambique is one of our leading partner nations in the world, and our assistance has reached unprecedented levels in recent years. However, we are aware that we cannot achieve goals alone – beyond working with the government and other partner nations in Mozambique, joining forces with the private sector on areas of mutual interest is a smart and practical way forward. I congratulate the Mozambican government for also embracing this model of innovation.

I look forward to returning to Chimoio later to visit you all again, to see your schools, hospital and health facility and your families that will have benefited from this project. Thank you for having me here today.