



# African Development Foundation

**NEWS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

**CONTACT: Bryan Callahan**  
(202) 673-3916  
[bcallahan@adf.gov](mailto:bcallahan@adf.gov)  
[www.adf.gov](http://www.adf.gov)

## **Ephraim Batambuze, Jack Leslie Named to African Development Foundation Board**

***Illinois Cardiologist and Former Political Refugee Will Be First Africa-Born Board Member; Weber Shandwick Chair Is A Recognized Foreign Relations Expert, Chair of USA for UNHCR***

WASHINGTON – January 22, 2004 –President George W. Bush has appointed Dr. Ephraim Batambuze and Mr. Jack Leslie to the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation (ADF), following their confirmation by the U.S. Senate. The two join ADF’s leadership as the Foundation implements new strategic initiatives to expand trade and investment opportunities between Africa and the United States and to provide African communities with resources to prevent HIV/AIDS and mitigate its social and economic impact.

Dr. Batambuze lives in Bloomington, Ill., and has worked as a practicing cardiologist for more than two decades. He is currently a partner with Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants, the state’s largest heart care program. Born in eastern Uganda in 1942, Dr. Batambuze attended King’s College, Budo, and studied medicine at Makerere University.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Batambuze came to Chicago at the invitation of renowned cardiovascular disease expert Dr. Jeremiah Stamler to complete a residency in internal medicine. Rising political violence under the military regime of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin prevented him from returning home, and he received political asylum. Dr. Batambuze is now a U.S. citizen and an active member of several community-based organizations and charities in Bloomington. He has also been a frequent public lecturer on the human rights abuses of the Amin regime and the challenges that Africa faces in building democracy and freedom of opportunity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As ADF’s first Africa-born Board member, Dr. Batambuze is eager to play a role as a cultural ambassador for African development. “When people talk about the need for community-based, grassroots development, I know exactly what they mean,” Batambuze said. “I grew up with no running water, no sanitation, no shoes to walk to school. I personally experienced the challenge of rising out of poverty, and I believe that I can communicate with both Africans and Americans about the realities of that challenge.”

– More –

Dr. Batambuze is also eager to help ADF implement new programs to prevent HIV/AIDS and manage its impact at the community level. “I have lost brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, to HIV/AIDS, and I want to help ADF spread the message about the need for comprehensive efforts that address the social and economic causes of the epidemic in an effective way.”

Mr. Leslie is chairman of Weber Shandwick, one of the world’s leading public relations agencies and a division of The Interpublic Group of Companies.

He is also recognized and frequently consulted expert on foreign affairs. In October 2001, Mr. Leslie testified before the House International Relations Committee about U.S. public diplomacy in the aftermath of September 11, and he is an active member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Leslie serves as chairman of USA for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (USA for UNHCR), and he has participated in UNHCR missions to Afghanistan (1998), Kosovo (1999) and Tanzania (2001).

After graduating from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in 1976, Mr. Leslie served for several years as a senior advisor to Senator Edward Kennedy and a chief strategist for dozens of nationwide and local campaigns in the United States, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

From his experience with UNHCR, he has become a strong advocate for strengthening aid to socially and economically marginalized communities through the application of targeted development programs. He also intends to contribute his international business experience to help ADF with its efforts to build sustainable trade and investment links between African producers and American consumers.

“I’m extremely pleased to join the efforts of such a respected organization, particularly at a time when the political, social, economic and environmental health of Africa is finally gaining more of the spotlight,” Mr. Leslie said.

ADF President Nathaniel Fields praised the appointments of Batambuze and Leslie and commended the President and the Senate for their selections. “Dr. Batambuze and Mr. Leslie bring expertise, experience and enthusiasm that will help ADF advance its new initiatives and strengthen ties between Americans and the peoples of Africa. I am thrilled to have them join the Foundation’s leadership,” Fields said.

*The African Development Foundation (ADF), a U.S. government agency established by the United States Congress in 1980, is the only federal agency working solely at the grassroots level in Africa to alleviate poverty and promote broad-based sustainable development. Over the last 20 years, ADF has funded more than 1,500 community-based projects, with 250 projects currently receiving support. ADF supports programs around trade and investment, small and medium enterprise development, HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, and community grassroots empowerment. In 2004, the Foundation will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of its community-based grant program. To learn more about ADF and its initiatives, go to [www.adf.gov](http://www.adf.gov).*

###