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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Former President of Botswana Festus Gontebanye Mogae -Winner of the  
2008 Ibrahim Prize For Achievement in African Leadership- to be Featured  
Speaker in the 2009 Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series**

The Africa Society of The National Summit on Africa in partnership with Boston University will host the former President of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Mogae as the second lecturer for the 2009 *Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series*.

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

6:30 reception

7:00 Lecture

Embassy of the Republic of Ghana  
3512 International Drive, NW  
Washington, D.C. 2009

President Mogae, winner of the 2008 Ibrahim Prize for achievement in African leadership, will speak on **“Democratic Governance and the Future of Africa.”** Mogae served as the elected President of Botswana from 1998 to 2008. Prior to that he was the country’s Vice President from 1992 – 2008.

Mr. Mogae holds degrees in economics from Oxford and the University of Sussex. He has held posts in Botswana’s central bank, The World Bank and the IMF. He also served his country as Minister of Finance.

As President and earlier as Minister of Finance of Botswana, Mr. Mogae oversaw such developments as the establishment of a fund for future generations as well as the licensing of diamond cutters and polishers which allows Botswana to retain a larger share of the profit from its diamond resources.

At London's City Hall on 20 October 2008, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed the African leader: "President Mogae's outstanding leadership has ensured Botswana's continued stability and prosperity in the face of an HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatened the future of his country and people." The awards panel also noted that Mogae’s economic management produced "remarkable growth," stymied inflation, attracted investment and allowed him to pursue diversification away from diamonds, while simultaneously using tax revenue to fund investment infrastructure, health and education. All this, while maintaining a "tough stance against corruption."

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Now in its seventh year, the *Ambassador Andrew Young Lecture Series* features distinguished speakers whose work has influenced and advanced awareness of U.S.-Africa relations. Named in honor of the former Chairman of The Africa Society Board, the Series was launched in 2002 and continues to hold at African embassies on a rotational basis.