

# The Medicine Man Times

November/December 2010

Newsletter for the novel by Christian John Makgala



Christian John Makgala (right) posing with Ambassador Stephen J Nolan of the United States at the US Embassy in Gaborone.

Since the appearance of **THE DIXIE MEDICINE MAN** a few months ago readers throughout the world have taken to it quite enthusiastically. The novel has been very well received by readers some of whom have even posted wonderful and humbling comments as shown below. So popular has been the novel that the author will soon start researching for the second one in response to popular demand.

**THE DIXIE MEDICINE MAN** is playing some role in Botswana's effort of diversifying the economy away from overdependence on diamonds by promoting tourism and other sectors. Well prepared flyers of the novel were given to visitors at the Middfest Festival held in Middletown, Ohio, from 26 September to 03 October 2010. This year the Middfest Festival focused on Botswana's history, culture, democracy, tourism and economy generally. The National Strategy Office (NSO) of the Office of the President in Botswana and Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA) assisted a great deal in this regard. The novel will be launched in Botswana sometime in December 2010 or January 2011. The novel will appear in numerous other festivals and book shows in various countries.

The book is available on Amazon.com and other online booksellers

# WHAT THE NOVEL READERS SAY:

'I enjoyed it thoroughly. In many ways it was like reading a social history of Botswana, when ATMs and mobile phones arrived on the scene and how ordinary people reacted to certain political and other events. I liked the way that you brought contemporary things into a somewhat historical novel – vuvuzelas, a black president in the US, MmaRamotswe and so on. Are you planning another one?'

----- Professor Gratchen Bauer, University of Delaware, USA

'It is funny and kidnaps the reader directly into a village right in the middle of Botswana... The book is written very thrillingly. The characters are partly drolly and at the same time very present. The reader soon feels he himself is participating in the middle of this society, a charming and lovely one indeed. I recommend this book very warmly.'

---Ursula Biermann, SWR – TV and 3 SAT –TV, Freiburg, Germany

'In Mexico we have the expression "TE LLEVA DE LA MANO" which means "It takes you easily". Without being in Africa ever, the book is so descriptive that I feel I am actually there. Congratulations John, I can see that you love your hometown very much. Every one of us should be like you and speak nicely of their own country.'

---Imelda Gonzalez Posada, Campero y Monroy SC, Mexico City, Mexico

'I finally got a chance to read it on the plane... brilliant!!!! The characters were very textured, and you really developed the story. I'll be recommending it around.'

---John A Siko, Vice Consul, US Consulate, Cape Town, South Africa

'I found it fascinating as an account of contemporary Botswana and the blending of old and new. Richard Werbner's comment that at last somebody had moved beyond Bessie Head seems very appropriate.'

---Professor John Iliffe, St. John's College, Cambridge University, England

'I'm enjoying the ironic humor.'

---Professor Jeanne Marie Penvenne, Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts

'I've read the novel and I really enjoyed it, top work my man! Is there another in the pipeline?'

--- Dr David John Stewart, University of Reading, England



*"TE LLEVA DE LA MANO" ("It takes you easily"), say Imelda Gonzalez Posada and her husband Mauricio Santillan, the novel's big fans in Mexico City, Mexico.*