

For immediate release

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## Top African economist joins Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government to lead RethinkHIV research consortium

The Chief Economist and Vice President of the African Development Bank, Mthuli Ncube, has taken up a new role as Senior Research Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford.

An expert in finance and sustainable economic development, Ncube will be the School's Principal Investigator for the pioneering research project *RethinkHIV*, a new senior-level academic consortium funded by the RUSH Foundation to support 'disruptive ideas against HIV in sub-Saharan Africa'. *RethinkHIV* brings together for the first time a multidisciplinary team of leading economists and epidemiologists from the Blavatnik School of Government and the Centre for the Study of African Economies, both at Oxford University, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Imperial College, and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Ncube will preside over *RethinkHIV* to evaluate new evidence related to the costs, benefits, effects, fiscal implications, and developmental impacts of HIV interventions in sub-Saharan Africa in order to maximise contributions to the fight against HIV. He brings to the programme exceptional leadership experience and deep knowledge of international finance, developmental economics and African policy-making. His aim will be to identify the most effective domestic and international means of meeting long-term health and development commitments in affected countries.

Speaking about his ambitions for the project, Mthuli Ncube said:

"This unique project, bringing together economists, health scientists and policymakers, has achieved the holy-grail of multidisciplinary research, which is so necessary in driving the agenda for effective policy interventions and thought-leadership on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The RethinkHIV project is a game-changer that will shift thinking on ethical considerations, the extent of the fiscal liabilities associated with the disease, epidemiological projections, sustainable funding strategies and general policy-making dynamics."

Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, who will be working closely with Ncube on the project, added:

"We are delighted to welcome Mthuli Ncube at the Blavatnik School of Government. As the fight against HIV in sub-Saharan Africa intensifies, his extensive experience in African economies will help shape the RethinkHIV research programme into sustainable national and international financing and policy options that we hope will contribute to make tangible progress in tackling the pandemic."

During his five years with the African Development Bank, Ncube oversaw the process of knowledge management within the Bank and with its partners, as well as contributing to its general strategic direction. Prior to his role with the Bank Ncube worked within the academic sector, as Dean and Professor of Finance at Wits Business School, Dean of Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and as a Lecturer in Finance at the London School of Economics (LSE). Ncube also has a background as an investment banker and is Chairman of the Board at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He also formerly chaired the Global Agenda Council on Poverty and Economic Development within the World Economic Forum. Some of Ncube's recent books include, "Quantitative Easing and its Impact on US, UK, Europe and Japan" (with K. Hausken), Springer (2014) and "Monetary Policy and the Economy in South Africa" (with E. Ndou), Palgrave Macmillan (2013)

RUSH Foundation President Marina Galanti welcomed Ncube's appointment:



“The end of AIDS is sadly not in sight. It is imperative, given waning donor interest and competing developmental goals, to constructively 'rethink' the largest humanitarian aid flow in history. RethinkHIV has tasked the best minds in this field to think effectively and creatively to realign short-term donor and government pledges to the long-term needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Ncube's leadership and ability to advocate for sound, innovative policy solutions will be vital to the success of RethinkHIV.”

Ncube officially joined the Blavatnik School of Government on 18 August 2014.

/ Ends.

### Notes to Editors

For further information or to arrange an interview with Mthuli Ncube please contact:

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- RethinkHIV is a consortium of senior researchers from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Imperial College London, Harvard School of Public Health, Centre of the Study of African Economies and Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University. The aim of RethinkHIV is to find ways of creating, optimizing, and sustaining fiscal space for domestic HIV investment, as well as exploring long-term, sustainable national and international financing mechanisms. Funded by the RUSH Foundation. [www.rethinkhiv.com](http://www.rethinkhiv.com)
- The Blavatnik School of Government is a global school pursuing a vision of better government, stronger societies and richer human opportunities across the world. Founded at the University of Oxford in 2010, the School was made possible through a £75 million donation to Oxford by American philanthropists Leonard Blavatnik. The School offers a distinctive global approach to public policy, within a rich, multi/disciplinary curriculum delivered by world-class faculty. Programmes of study include a full time one-year Master of Public Policy, a full-time three-year doctorate in Public policy and a range of short courses on different specialist topics for leaders in government, business and non-profit sectors. [www.bsg.ac.uk](http://www.bsg.ac.uk)
- The RUSH Foundation was founded in 2010 to help breathe new thinking into HIV policy and on-the-ground interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. RUSH aims to stimulate policy debate which generates new perspectives and leads to tangible improvements in government and donor HIV priorities, while also pioneering new on-the-ground approaches. RUSH is a registered charity in the UK. [www.rushfoundation.org](http://www.rushfoundation.org)

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