

# DAILY TIMES

*Reporting On the Heart and Mind*

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## US health secretary visits Muhimbili

By Felister Peter

**THE United States health and human services secretary, Mr. Tommy Thompson, has praised Tanzania and the Abbott Fund for their initiative to improve health services at the Muhimbili National Hospital.**

The US secretary made a tour of the hospital yesterday. He saw the comprehensive health care management and infrastructure improvements that had been undertaken through a public-private partnership between the government and the Abbott Fund since 2000.

Abbott and Tanzania have worked together to fight HIV/Aids since 2000, when Abbott's step forward program was launched to assist orphans and vulnerable children affected with the HIV/Aids. To-date Abbott has invested more than US dollars 16 million in improving health services in developing countries, including Tanzania.

Under the program, a modern three-storey building will be constructed for outpatients at the MNH. The building will house 26 patients' examination rooms, a pharmacy and a training facility for health care professionals. More than 500 patients will be attended on each day, when the building opens during the first half of 2005.

Renovations and equipping the hospital laboratory with state-of-the-art will result in increased speed and capacity of testing for HIV/Aids, hepatitis, cholesterol and many other diseases.