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# AFRICAN HEALTH LEADERS

Making Change and Claiming the Future



OMASWA & CRISP

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Most accounts of health and healthcare in Africa are written by foreigners. *African Health Leaders: Making Change and Claiming the Future* redresses the balance. Written by Africans who have themselves led improvements in their own countries, the book discusses the creativity, innovation and leadership that has been involved tackling everything from HIV/AIDs, to maternal and child mortality, and neglected tropical diseases. It celebrates their achievements and shows how, over three generations, African health leaders are creating a distinctively African vision of health and health systems.

The book reveals how African Health Leaders are claiming the future—in Africa, but also by sharing their insights and knowledge globally and contributing fully to improving health throughout the world. It illustrates how African leadership can enable foreign agencies and individuals working in Africa to avoid all those misunderstandings and misinterpretations of culture and context which lead to wasted efforts and frustrated hopes.

*African Health Leaders* challenges Africans to do more for themselves; build on success; tackle weak governance and low expectations, and claim the future. It sets out what Africa needs from the rest of the world in the spirit of global solidarity—not primarily aid, but investment, collaboration, and co-development. It concludes with a vision based on three foundations: an understanding that ‘health is made at home’; the determination to offer access to health care to everyone; and an insistence on quality.

‘As Africans we must celebrate improvements in health and the people who have made them happen, but we must also claim our own future for ourselves. Written by Africans, this book is essential reading for African health leaders who want to build on our own traditions and experience. It is also a vital orientation for partners who want to know how they can best support our efforts in a spirit of global solidarity.’

Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

‘This book helps set the scene for the changes we will see in the future as new health leaders from low and middle income countries begin to shape the future of health and health care globally. It is both a celebration and an anticipation of the future.’

Dr Tim Evans, Head of Health, Nutrition and Population, The World Bank.

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EDITED BY FRANCIS OMASWA & NIGEL CRISP