

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES



MEDIA RELEASE

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SADC MALARIA DAY

Countries under the SADC region have over the years been waging an ongoing battle to contain and control the spread of Malaria. The battle against Malaria has now been intensified and as a SADC country, South Africa is no exception when it comes to the disease. Since January this year 21 people have died of Malaria in the province. Statistics in Africa are grim and indicate an urgent need to halt the spread of Malaria. Current statistics reveal that between 1.5 and 2.7 million deaths in Africa are due to Malaria each year. One in 20 children is killed by Malaria before the age of five.

The province of KwaZulu-Natal is set on eradicating Malaria. There has been a significant decrease in malaria cases as a result of the re-introduction of DDT to kill mosquitos.

Other anti-malaria initiatives, which include the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative, have proved to be a resounding success. Eradicating Malaria will also help boost the tourism industry thus creating jobs and economic growth.

The department has a vision of declaring the province Malaria free by the year 2007.

Those living in Malaria infected areas are urged to use mosquito repellents, bednets and wear protective clothing. It is strongly advised to get a vaccine before visiting a Malaria

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high-risk area or country. Compliance to treatment and medication is equally important. The Provincial Department of Health continues to work in conjunction with all other stakeholders and the community to create and raise awareness about Malaria.

Tomorrow the department will be commemorating SADC Malaria Day at:

Venue: Entokozweni CP School Grounds, Jozini
Time: 09H00

ENDS.

For more information please contact Mr Jotham Mthembu on 073 435 1425/ (035) 572 1021 or Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943/ (033) 395 2731