



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2007

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Innovative malaria control through research and dynamic policy" - Malaria Day 2007

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is hosting a **Malaria Day** event which takes place on Tuesday, **20th November 2007**, and will focus on teaching people about the dangers of malaria and how it can be controlled through research and dynamic policy. The Honorable MEC for Health, Ms NP Nkonyeni will be addressing the issues around this disease that is killing nations.

Malaria, one of the world's most common and serious tropical diseases, causes at least one million deaths every year, the majority of which occur in the most resource-poor countries. More than half of the world's population is at risk of acquiring malaria, and the proportion increases each year because of overburdened health systems, drug and insecticide resistance and climate change.

Overall, Malaria accounts for 10% of Africa's disease burden, and it is estimated that malaria costs the continent more than \$12 billion annually. Young children and pregnant women are at the highest risk of malaria infection and mortality because, during the first two years of life children have not yet developed sufficient immune systems, and pregnancy causes women to have reduced immunity to infections including malaria.

Journalists and Reporters are invited to attend the event to mark the Malaria Day to take place as follows;

Date : 20 November 2007
Time : 09H00
**Venue : eMboza School Grounds,
Umkhanyakude District**

Those interested to travel with the Department are urged indicate their interest with **Sibonelo Msomi at 083 980 7481**; so that necessary arrangements are made.

ISSUED BY:

Mr. Leon Mbangwa

Departmental Spokesperson on 083 459 8695

uMnyango Wezempi . Departement van Gesondheid

Fighting Disease, Fighting Poverty, Giving Hope