



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Media Statement

To All Media

09 November 2021

LIMPOPO HEALTH MEC DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA URGES PEOPLE TO REMAIN ON ALERT AS THE PROVINCE EXPERIENCE THE RESURGENCE OF MALARIA CASES

Limpopo Health MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba has call upon Limpopo citizens to remain alert as the province experience resurgence of malaria cases. Since the beginning of Malaria season, the province has so far recorded 406 malaria cases with 2 unfortunate deaths. Even though is still lower than last financial year, it still remains a cause for concern because it's a clear indication that we have not yet achieved our ambition of Zero Malaria infection.

Some parts of Limpopo Province are known Malaria endemic area, and as such the Department has put in place 42 malaria teams to strategic places throughout the province to control the disease towards the ultimate elimination of malaria. The Department has just launched and dispatched the malaria control team on a door to door campaign to test and treat as well as distributing flyers on malaria as a way to step up the fight against malaria. Vhembe and Mopani District are the most affected districts when it comes to malaria cases with Sekhukhune District following suit to be a malaria hot-spot.

The Department has over the past 15 years made considerable progress in reducing the evidence of malaria in the province. In 2020/2021, 3461 malaria cases and 19 deaths were recorded.

During the current 2021/2022, 406 malaria cases have been reported, with 2 unfortunate deaths in the province. The District breakdown of Malaria cases and deaths are as follows: Vhembe District, 196 cases and 1 death case, Mopani District, 184 cases and 1 death case, Waterberg District, 10 cases no death, Capricorn District, 10 cases, no death, and Sekhukhune District, 6 cases, no death. These deaths are as a result of a delay in patients seeking health care, presenting with complicated symptoms.

"As we approach the rainy season, we continue to urge all malaria prone communities to stay vigilant and immediately report any malaria related case to the nearest clinic or Primary Health Centre. We have so far trained surveillance teams consisting of Environmental Health Practitioners (EHS) and spray operators who will be on the ground testing and treating malaria to increase the malaria programmer's ability to reach most malaria infected individuals and significantly decrease the malaria parasite reservoir in Limpopo. While the incidence of malaria has declined to lower levels, malaria remains a fatal disease if remained undiagnosed and untreated.

Malaria is preventable, Malaria is curable and Malaria kills. Let's make malaria fight our responsibility. Zero Malaria infection starts with me" said MEC Ramathuba.

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Issued by Limpopo Department of HEALTH

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