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TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2009
EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: NO NEED TO PANIC- THERE IS NO MALARIA MOSQUITOES IN DURBAN

The Department of Health would like to assure the public that there is no outbreak of malaria in Durban. In spite of the seven malaria cases listed at private hospitals in the area, there are no malaria-carrying mosquitoes in this city of KwaZulu-Natal.

Six of the seven malaria cases listed in the Durban area are of people who have travel history to places that are known to have malaria-carrying mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are found mostly in Umkhanyakude District in KZN and Mozambique.

The only non-travelling case is a Mount Edgecombe resident who does not travel to malaria-prone areas. The Department has discovered that the neighbour of the patient travels by bakkie to Mozambique on weekly basis. Hence it is suspected that a malaria-carrying mosquito may have got into the bakkie and travelled all the way to this patient.

Six of the patients are reported to have been treated and discharged from hospitals. Only one case that was suspected of a cerebral malaria infection is still at the hospital.

People in Durban should not panic as there are no malaria-carrying mosquitoes in their area. The Department officials have been dispatched to Mount Edgecombe to spray the area.

Ends

Issued by:
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