

## **Speech by KZN Health MEC, Neliswa Nkonyeni on the occasion of the Malaria Day at eMboza, Umkhanyakude District**

20 November 2007

Programme Director  
MEC for Agriculture and Conservation, Mtholephi Mthimkhulu  
Mhlabuyalingana Mayor  
District Health and Agriculture officials  
All protocol observed

We are very grateful for the support that we are getting from the KwaZulu Natal department of Agriculture under the leadership of MEC Mtholephi Mthimkhulu.

We have long stated that without food security our health care institutions will remain under strain as more and more people are going to get sick. The partnership with the Department of Agriculture will go a long way in alleviating the plight of those vulnerable.

Our mission today is to raise awareness about the dangers of malaria under the theme of:

### **“Innovative malaria control through research and dynamic policy”**

We are saying we are do our part in instituting and supporting research but at the same time we are appealing to our people to work hand in hand with our **Surveillance officers as well as the home based care givers** in reporting people who manifest these symptoms:

- Severe vomiting or diarrhea

- Dehydration and or very pale mouth/ tongue
- Respiratory distress
- Decreased urine output
- Jaundice
- Decreased level of consciousness (sleepiness) or extreme weakness,
- Shock ( cold moist skin, low blood pressure, collapse)
- Convulsions ( fits and uncontrollable body movements)

If we support each other in this venture we are certain achieve and surpass the goals set in Abuja that called on all of us to 'Roll Back Malaria, particularly the halving of its mortality and morbidity by 2010.

Today we invited journalists from all media houses so that they can join us in raising more awareness about this problem.

We know that great strides have been made to rid this province and the country as a whole of this malaria problem. It must be remembered that between 1995 and 2000 there was a dramatic in malaria morbidity and mortality in this province.

It was not until March of 2000 that we saw remarkable improvement especially after the reintroduction of DDT that was found to be very effective especially in mud, reed and wood erected homesteads.

As a result of this, our province now speaks of sustained high cure rates, decreased malaria transmission areas as well as decreased anti-malarial resistance strands.

The effectiveness of our measures is demonstrated by statistics gleaned from the areas that have always been troublesome, namely:

- Umkhanyakude
- Uthungulu, kanye ne

- Zululand

In 2007 starting from January to the month of October, our province had only these reported cases:

DISTRICT	SUB-MUN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma	Ju n	Ju l	Aug	Se pt	Oct.
<b>UMKHANYA-KUDE</b>	<i>Jozini</i>	12	4	4	1	5	1	1	1	0	3
	<i>Umhlabuyalingana</i>	25	14	10	4	12	3	3	8	10	8
	<i>Hlabisa</i>	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6
	<i>St. Lucia</i>	2	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>ZULULAND</b>	<i>Abaqulusi</i>	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
	<i>Usuthu</i>	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	1	0	3
<b>UTHUNGULU</b>	<i>Mbonambi</i>	4	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
	<i>Umhlathuze</i>	13	3	5	7	8	7	3	2	3	3
	<i>Umlalazi</i>	3	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0
<b>ILEMBE</b>	<i>Kwa-Dukuza</i>	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

We appeal once more for partnership in working towards the eradication of this malady. Communities must assist in making sure that those taking medication adhere to the stipulated norms. Remember:

**MALARIA CAN KILL!**