



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists  
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### **Health Deputy Minister to deliver opening address at Global Forum of Malaria-Eliminating Countries**

**Cape Town:** The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo will, on Tuesday, 24 January deliver an official opening address at the 4th Annual Global Forum of Malaria-Eliminating Countries in Cape Town. The Forum is convened by the World Health Organization through a special initiative called E-2025, for 26 countries including South Africa, and territories with potential to eliminate malaria by the year 2025.

This three-day gathering will be held under the theme: **“Accelerate elimination to achieve Global Technical Strategy milestones”** which serves as clarion call for malaria burden countries to scale up their efforts to attain zero indigenous cases of malaria within the 2025 timeline.

The event will create an opportune platform for over hundred delegates from countries participating in the E-2025 initiative, mainly the donors, experts, academics and administrators to share experiences and lessons learned on implementation and impact of malaria elimination strategies and activities, particularly in accelerating elimination.

Malaria is a life-threatening, but preventable and curable disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. According to the World Malaria Report, there were 247 million cases of malaria in 2021 and the estimated number of malaria deaths stood at 619 000 in the same period.

Over the two peak years of the pandemic (2020–2021), COVID-related disruptions led to about 13 million more malaria cases and 63 000 more malaria deaths.

In 2022, the World Health Organization singled out four African countries (Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Republic of Tanzania and Niger) which accounted for just over half of all malaria deaths worldwide.

### **Members of the media are invited to attend the event scheduled as follows:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023  
**Venue:** Cape Town International Convention Center, Western Cape  
**Times:** 8h30 – 18h00

**For more information and media enquiries, please contact:**

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