

MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists
Issued by: Department of Health
Date: Monday, 28 September 2026

Department of Health commemorates World Environmental Health Day

Durban: Deputy Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla will lead the World Environmental Health Day commemorative event on Tuesday, 29 September.

The event forms part of the country's participation in the global annual campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of environmental health challenges and encourage action to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of all living beings, including humans.

Environmental health is fundamental to public health, human well-being and sustainable development. As societies continue to change in response to urbanisation, climate change, industrial expansion and evolving lifestyles, it is essential that strategies for protecting the environments in which people live, work and thrive also evolve.

The 2026 World Environmental Health Day will be commemorated under the theme "***Standing with Science to Protect Communities***", which emphasize that public health decisions and environmental regulations must be grounded in reliable scientific data instead of guesswork.

The theme is closely aligned with the World Health Organization's emphasis on science-based decision-making. It also underscores the vital role of environmental health professionals as applied public health scientists who translate research and evidence into policy, regulation and practical measures that protect communities.

The two-day event will bring together government leaders, academics, scientists, environmental health professionals and other stakeholders.

Members of the media are invited as follows:

Date: 29 – 30 September 2026
Venue: The Capital, Zimbali, outside Durban, KwaZulu Natal Province
Time: 09h00

For RSVP please contact: Tlou Tlhako: tlou.tlhako@health.gov.za

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

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