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Department:
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MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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SA to host SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV/AIDS

Durban: South Africa will host the Joint Meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV/AIDS in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, from 9 to 13 November 2026. Convened at a pivotal time for the region's health and development agenda, the meeting will enable Ministers to deepen cooperation, strengthen health security, and agree on practical measures to address growing public-health challenges.

Under South Africa's SADC Chairship, discussions will focus on turning regional commitments into concrete action across the following priority areas:

- **Regional health security and emergency preparedness:** Strengthening collective preparedness, early warning systems, disease surveillance, information sharing and coordinated cross-border responses to public health emergencies. Particular attention will be given to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for stronger regional readiness to detect, contain and respond to emerging infectious disease threats.
- **Climate change, El Niño and health system resilience:** Strengthening regional preparedness and coordinated responses to climate-related health threats, including the anticipated 2026–27 El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to intensify food insecurity, malnutrition, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate-sensitive diseases. Ministers will consider strengthening early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, nutrition interventions and cross-border coordination to protect vulnerable populations and ensure continuity of essential health services.
- **Regional pharmaceutical manufacturing and health sovereignty:** Advancing local and regional production of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and other essential health commodities. Ministers will consider how to build a more integrated regional manufacturing ecosystem, strengthen technology transfer and create sustainable markets that reduce dependence on external suppliers and improve access to affordable, quality-assured health products.
- **Pooled procurement and collective purchasing power:** Advancing the establishment and operationalisation of the SADC Pharmaceutical Pooled Procurement Services (SPPS). The objective is to leverage the region's collective purchasing power, improve affordability, strengthen supply security and create more predictable demand for regional manufacturers.
- **Sustainable health financing and the future of the regional health response:** Deliberating on strategies to protect essential health programmes amid declining development assistance, constrained fiscal space and increasing domestic financing pressures. This includes advancing the regional health financing agenda and protecting the sustainability of HIV/AIDS programmes, prevention services and access to new prevention technologies.

- **HIV/AIDS, malaria and the region's disease burden:** Reviewing progress towards HIV epidemic control and the 95-95-95 targets, strengthening access to prevention, treatment and care, and accelerating malaria control and elimination through cross-border surveillance, vector control and equitable access to essential commodities.
- **Building resilient and equitable health systems:** Strengthening regional cooperation on sexual and reproductive health and rights, nutrition, communicable diseases, and the capacity of health systems to withstand climate-related shocks and other emerging threats.

The week-long meeting will culminate in the commemoration of SADC Malaria Day on Friday, 13 November. The commemoration will highlight the ongoing burden of malaria in the region and reinforce the importance of sustained cooperation, prevention, surveillance and coordinated interventions towards malaria elimination. South Africa's hosting of the meeting underscores its commitment to advancing regional solidarity and collective responsibility in addressing shared health challenges.

The SADC comprises 16 member states: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Meeting details are as follows:

Date: Monday,09 - Friday,13 November 2026

Venue: Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban - KZN

Time: 8h00

Media accreditation Link : https://mrs.gcis.gov.za/?q=SA-to-host-SADC-Ministers-of-Health-HIV-AIDS

Members of the media are invited to cover the meeting. Accredited media will have access to the official opening, selected sessions and media engagements with political principals and technicals experts.

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