



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## SPEECH

### REMARKS BY GAUTENG MEC FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, MS. NOMANTU NKOMO-RALEHOKO, MALARIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN ORANGE FARM EXTENSION 3, JOHANNESBURG DISTRICT

FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2024

Programme Director, Mr Yamkela Dlunge;  
Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero;  
MMC for Health and Social Development, Cllr Ennie Makhafola  
Local Councillor, Cllr Jeanette Ramafikeng;  
Johannesburg District Health Services, Ms Mogeru Morewane;  
Officials from the City of Johannesburg and the Gauteng Department of Health; Various partners;  
Most importantly the Orange Farm community;  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Molweni! Sanibonani! Dumelang! Good morning to you all.

It is a pleasure to join you today as we commemorate the SADC Malaria Day, an occasion that highlights our collective commitment to fighting Malaria within our province and across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes. In South Africa, Malaria is primarily found in the low-lying border regions of northern KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo provinces. However, in recent years, our province has reported an increase in Malaria cases, with more than 1 300 cases and 16 deaths recorded in 2023 alone. This rise is concerning, especially for a non-endemic province like ours.

SADC Malaria Week, observed annually during the first week of November, with SADC Malaria Day on the 6th, serves as a vital platform to raise awareness about Malaria prevention, treatment, and control. Although we are commemorating it today, our commitment remains solid. This week emphasises the importance of educating you, our communities about Malaria, particularly as we approach the festive season, a time when travel between endemic and non-endemic regions increases the risk of Malaria transmission.



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Malaria does not recognise borders; therefore, our fight against it must be a united effort. The SADC Malaria Elimination Framework aims to eliminate Malaria in the region by 2030. This ambitious goal requires collaboration among all member states, including South Africa. Countries such as Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have regions with high Malaria risk. By working together, sharing resources, and implementing coordinated strategies, we can achieve a Malaria-free SADC region.

As the festive season approaches, many of our residents will travel to Malaria-endemic areas within the SADC region. We urge all travelers to take proactive measures to protect themselves and their loved ones. Our department operates travel clinics across all districts, including Johannesburg. In Johannesburg District, our travel clinics are located at:

- Alexandra Community Health Centre
- Hillbrow Community Health Centre
- Lenasia South Hospital
- Meadowlands Community Health Centre
- Zola Community Health Centre

We encourage you to visit these clinics for advice on Malaria prophylaxis and other travel-related health services before embarking on your journeys.

For those expecting visitors from Malaria-endemic countries during the festive season, it is crucial to remain vigilant. Be aware of the common symptoms of Malaria, which include fever and chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue, nausea and vomiting, and sweating. If anyone in your household exhibits these symptoms, especially after travel, seek medical attention quickly. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to preventing severe illness and saving lives.

The increase in Malaria cases in Gauteng is a cause for concern. As a non-endemic province, we must intensify our efforts to prevent further transmission. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases reminds us that mosquitoes are more than just pests. They are the world's most dangerous flies, highlighting the importance of our collective vigilance and action.



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I am happy that the City of Johannesburg led by the Executive Mayor has joined us in the fight to realise a Malaria-free district and province. This is important because the fight to eliminate Malaria from our region requires all of us to work together and local government is an important role player in this regard.

Bahlali, as we stand together today, let us reaffirm our commitment to eliminating Malaria from our province and our region. By raising awareness, taking preventive measures, and working collaboratively with our SADC partners, we can achieve a Malaria-free future. Remember, Malaria is preventable and treatable. Let us all play our part in this crucial fight.

Thank you.