

SPEECH

BY

**H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, CGH,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KENYA
DEFENCE FORCES AND NEW CHAIR OF ALMA**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**MEETING ON AFRICA MALARIA ALLIANCE
(ALMA)**

ON

9TH MARCH, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. As the incoming Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, I am pleased that I am assuming this leadership role for an organisation that has a **strong legacy** and is on the **frontline** in **advocacy, accountability, action** and **resource mobilization,** to combat this terrible disease.

2. With accelerated action and new models to deal with the disease, we can meet the bold and ambitious targets set in the **Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030.**

3. I want to congratulate the outgoing Chair, His Majesty **King Mswati III of the Kingdom of **Eswatini**, for his **unparalleled leadership.** During his time at the helm, His Majesty kept malaria high on the political and development agenda.**

4. By the end of 2019, 12 countries had launched the African Union's "**Zero Malaria Starts With Me**" campaign that the King established with distinction.

5. His Majesty established an "**End Malaria Fund**" in the Kingdom of **Eswatini**, presented two annual **Africa Malaria Progress Reports** to the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government, and played an active role in advocating for the full **Replenishment of the Global Fund to End AIDS, TB and Malaria.**

6. However, while significant progress has been made, Africa continues to bear the malaria burden: **93%** of global cases (213 million) and **94%** of global deaths (380 thousand) are on the continent.

7. Accelerated Action is, therefore, needed, particularly, in the ten **high-burden** AU Member States that account for **67%** of global malaria cases and **62%** of deaths. These are **Nigeria, DRC, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Angola and Tanzania.**

8. To defeat Malaria we need to ensure that we:

- **Increase engagement of women, children and youth;**
- **Mobilise sufficient funding including from the domestic public and private sector, and address the threat of stagnation of donor funding so as to ensure we fill the current financing gap of around US\$2.5 -3 billion, annually;**

- **Address climate change,** which is impacting mosquito breeding sites and leading to increased epidemics;
- **Increase the use of data and technology** to drive impact and change;
- **Address insecticide resistance and the threat of drug resistance,** which is leading to increased costs of new commodities;

- **And lastly,** increase the local manufacturing of malaria commodities in Africa; currently local manufacturing capacity is very limited due to lack of active ingredients from the continent, weak procurement and trade policies, and lack of harmonized regulatory regime.

9. As the incoming ALMA Chair, in order to maximise impact and accelerate malaria elimination in **Africa**, I will focus on the following key priorities:

- **I** will work with the **Regional Economic Communities** to engage **Heads of State and Government**, to address key challenges and provide solutions. This will include the use of **innovation and technology** to introduce sub-regional scorecards for review and action by Heads of State and Government, share lessons learned and best practices and use Awards for Excellence at Sub Regional level, to recognize good performance.

- To address the resource gap, I will strive to establish at least **15 national End Malaria Councils** and **Funds**, to boost high level, multi-sectoral engagement and advocacy, and enhanced domestic resource mobilisation, including from the private sector. **End Malaria Councils** and **End Malaria Funds** are important country-owned mechanisms to enhance country level prioritization of malaria.

10. We also need to create an **ALMA Youth Advisory Group**, working with existing **youth leaders** from the various youth structures in Africa, to champion political and resource commitments, to promote innovation, research and development as well as create a cadre of malaria advocates and champions.

11. We also need to **support African Union Member States** to enhance **digitisation** and the use of **real time malaria data**, at various levels.

12. This will enhance the sharing and transparency of the country malaria scorecards for accountability and action; and promote Africa-led malaria research and development, leveraging on existing African research institutes. The aim of this strategy is to ensure that all citizens in all spheres of life and at all levels are aware of their malaria situation and are empowered to act.

13. In closing my remarks, I urge all of us to heed to our Clarion call: **“Zero Malaria Starts with Me”**.

I thank you.

.....0000000.....0000000.....