



MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT MEETING OF SADC MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIV AND AIDS TO BE HELD IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA ON THE 8th NOVEMBER 2018

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers responsible for Health and for HIV and AIDS will meet in Windhoek, Namibia at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration Management on the **8th November 2018** to review public health issues aimed at contributing to the attainment of improved quality of life of the people in the Region and community in general.

The Ministers are expected to provide a collective oversight on the implementation of the regional health agenda as guided by the SADC Protocol on Health, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the SADC Health Policy. The meeting will also consider progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the world leaders in September 2015.

Among other issues, the following will be discussed;

- The Implementation of the regional Nutrition Work plan and status of nutrition using the most recent data with a focus on the World Health Assembly targets for improving maternal, infant and child nutrition.
- The Roadmap for the Development of a Regional Food Fortification Monitoring Framework and capacity building of the Member States.
- Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonotic Diseases especially the outbreak of Ebola in May 2018 in Equator Province, in the north western part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Elimination of Measles in the SADC Region and its occurrence which results in high morbidity and mortality especially during measles epidemics.

- Malaria Control and Elimination through continued efforts to rollout Articulate Treatment for severe malaria; to ensure regular Artemisinin drug efficacy monitoring to prevent a drug resistant malaria outbreak and strengthen vector.
- End to the Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic which continues to be a major contributor to the burden of diseases in SADC region.
- Progress update on the HIV AND AIDS on the implementation of HIV and AIDS interventions as well as the report of the Implementation of the SADC HIV and AIDS Cross Border Initiative (CBI).
- The implementation of the SADC Pooled Procurement Services which will improve “sustainable availability and access to affordable, quality, safe and efficacious essential medicines.

The Joint Meeting of SADC Senior Officials of Health and Officials Responsible for HIV and AIDS will convene on the 5th – 6th to review and prepare documents for Ministers.

On Friday 9th November 2018, the SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS will take part in the Commemoration of the SADC Malaria Day to be held in Kayengona Village, Kavango East Region where the Minister will conduct Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests at a local clinic, household indoor residual spraying, interact share information and create awareness on malaria. The SADC Malaria Day will highlight the plight of malaria among communities at risk and to advocate for support from key decision makers and stakeholders for malaria control efforts in the region. This year’s theme for SADC Malaria Day is “**Strong Cross border collaboration is key to Malaria Elimination**” and the slogan is “**SADC Unite to End Malaria**”.

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