



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

**Zambia determined to eliminate malaria, Govt tells UN meeting**

**UNITED NATIONS, Monday, October 28, 2013** – Zambia is determined to eliminate malaria, the government has assured.

According to Ministry of Health deputy director for Disease Surveillance Control and Research, Dr Maximillian Bweupe, Malaria remains a major public health concern in Zambia, particularly among children under the age of five years and pregnant women.

He said Zambia records over four million cases of malaria per year.

Dr Bweupe said this when he addressed the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly discussions on the period 2001-2010: *“Decade to roll back malaria in developing countries particularly in Africa.”*

He told the 193-UN member states that Zambia has made remarkable reductions in malaria incidence.

He said the Government had embarked on an ambitious agenda to eliminate malaria, through the use of surveillance, assured availability of commodities and integrated prevention and treatment interventions within the communities.

*“In 2012, about 72 per cent of Zambian households had at least one mosquito net and in the last two years, all districts have been included in residual spraying,”* Dr Bweupe said.

He added: *“About 74 per cent of households either have an Insecticide Treated Net or have being sprayed in the past year. About 72 per cent of pregnant women received at least two doses of intermittent preventive treatment during their last pregnancy.”*

Dr Bweupe said Government's efforts had resulted in reductions in malaria incidence and fatalities by about 65 per cent.

However, Dr Bweupe said lack of resources hampered the programmes aimed at eliminating malaria.

"I wish to echo the concerns on the shortfall in Global fund for malaria, TB and HIV. Increased sustained predictable funding to the global fund will assure availability of malaria control commodities and consolidate as well as prevent reversal of gains made," said Dr Bweupe. "Zambia's goal is to eliminate malaria, and this will be achieved by including enhanced surveillance in all key interventions."

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**Issued by:**

**CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA (Mr.)**

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**Captions:**

Ministry of Health Deputy Director for Disease Surveillance Control and Research Dr Maximilian Bweupe (right) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officer Charity Zulu-Mkanda (centre) at the United Nations, Friday, 25-October-2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ