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- Sport
- Entertainment
- Features
- Weather

SA sees 'dramatic reduction in malaria cases'



September 18, 2007, 16:30

Health minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, says cooperation between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique has led to a 90% reduction in new malaria infections in the three countries.

Tshabalala-Msimang says this has been achieved through the use of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), an agent that kills the malaria-carrying mosquitoes. She was speaking at one of the commissions of the People's Assembly in Bizana, which was discussing the health situation in the country.

Tshabalala-Msimang says the use of DDT has seen a drastic reduction in malaria infections

She says the reduction was achieved because of the countries' refusal to listen to those who preached against the use of DDT.

"... They wanted to tell us that we mustn't use DDT for indoor residual spraying because it destroys vegetables and... fauna and we just said, 'Look in Europe they conquered malaria because they used DDT'... The Italians told us that, 'Don't listen to what they are saying, we conquered malaria because we just killed the mosquitoes' (sic)," said Tshabalala-Msimang.



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