

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**To:** Editors & Health Journalists

**Issued by:** Department of Health

**Date:** Tuesday, 03 February 2026

### **Department to host Cervical Cancer Elimination Stakeholder Engagement**

**Pretoria:** The Department will on Wednesday, 04 February convene a multi-stakeholder engagement on cervical cancer elimination to present and clarify the Strategic and Implementation Framework for Cervical Cancer Elimination in South Africa to ensure a shared understanding of goals and priorities, strengthen alignment and collaboration across key stakeholders, programmes, and sectors to support coordinated implementation. This event will also create a platform to build commitment and allow stakeholders to have a sense of ownership and participate actively in the implementation.

South Africa remains committed to meet the targets of the global strategy on cervical cancer elimination as the public health challenge by the year 2030. The strategy which is led by the World Health Organization calls for countries to accelerate actions on cervical cancer elimination to ensure that, at least 90% of girls are fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by age 15 years, and screen 70% of women with a high-performance test by the age of 35 years and later when they turn 45 years old.

The strategy also advocates for cancer treatment for at least 90% of women diagnosed with this preventable, yet deadly disease. Cervical cancer remains one of the most pressing global health challenges, ranking as the fourth most common cancer among women and one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Its burden is disproportionately high within low- and middle-income countries, wherein limited access to preventive healthcare services exacerbates its impact.

In response, the Department of Health has developed the *Elimination of Cervical Cancer in South Africa: Strategic and Implementation Framework 2026 – 2030*, aimed at guiding national efforts in prevention, early detection, treatment, and care. The Department in partnership with various stakeholders continues to make positive progress with efforts to prevent cervical cancer through various interventions, including the successful rollout of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign in schools. These have been largely attributed to a high level of political commitment by Ministries of Health and Basic Education, supported by dedicated funding from the National Treasury.

Some of the stakeholders scheduled to attend and participate in the discussions to strengthen the country's cervical cancer elimination strategy include experts and leaders from the World Health Organization, Trade Union Federations (such as COSATU, SAFTU, FEDUSA, NACTU), Business Unity South Africa, South African National AIDS Council Women's Sector, Cancer Alliance, people living with cancer and other government departments. Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi will deliver a keynote address.

**Member of the media are invited to attend the event scheduled as follows:**

**Venue:** Emperors Palace, Kempton Park

**Date:** Wednesday, 04 February 2026

**Time:** 09h00

**For more information and media enquiries, please contact:**

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