



EBOLA AND SOUTH AFRICA

KNOW THE FACTS



THERE IS NO EBOLA IN SOUTH AFRICA

- South Africa has not had a single reported case of Ebola.
- By way of comparison, the USA, Spain, and England have had more confirmed Ebola cases than South Africa.

THE RISK OF IT SPREADING HERE IS LOW

- South Africa is far from the current outbreak in West Africa, where the disease is in any event predominantly located in remote, rural areas.
- Countries neighbouring the epicentre of the disease have helped to prevent its further spread
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal have all been declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organisation.
- South Africans do not participate in activities that have helped spread the disease elsewhere such as the ceremonial washing of the deceased and the eating of exotic bush meats such as bats.

EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA ARE CLOSER TO THE OUTBREAK THAN SOUTH AFRICA

- The Ebola outbreak is at its closest located ± 5000 kilometres from South Africa.
- By way of comparison, Spain, Italy, France, England and Brazil are closer to the outbreak than South Africa.

EBOLA IS NOT AS CONTAGIOUS AS YOU THINK

- Ebola is not air, water or food borne (excepting bats).
- Only symptomatic patients are contagious.
- Ebola can only be transmitted between mucous membranes or broken skin and the bodily fluids of a symptomatic patient (i.e. you can sit next to a person with Ebola and not contract the disease).

SOUTH AFRICA IS VERY PREPARED IN THE EVENT THE DISEASE SPREADS HERE

- Surveillance of the disease has been strengthened at all ports of entry including the use of thermal scanners.
- The National Health Laboratory Service and National Institute of Communicable Diseases have intensified laboratory surveillance measures.
- All provinces in the country have trained outbreak response teams.
- Eleven hospitals have been designated to manage Ebola cases.
- A hundred nurses from the South African Military Health Service have been trained in special isolation techniques.
- Aero-medical evacuation teams are on standby to fetch Ebola patients using transport isolator and intensive care equipment.



EBOLA IN AFRICA

A PERSPECTIVE IN PICTURES



Distance to Ebola Outbreak Area

