

**Aliko Dangote Acceptance Speech**  
**Malaria No More International Honors**  
**New York City**  
**Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

*Editor's note: Mr. Dangote was unable to attend the event. His remarks were read, as presented, by Zouera Youssoufou, CEO of the Dangote Foundation.*

First of all, I want to thank my friend Ray Chambers and Malaria No More for this award. I am honored and grateful for all you do for Nigeria and the world.

I also want to congratulate Admiral Tim Ziemer for his well-deserved recognition. I know that Nigeria is the biggest country for PMI investment, and we're grateful for the US government's continued commitment to the fight against malaria.

As the Malaria Ambassador for Nigeria, my commitment to the eradication of Malaria is total, and I am happy to play my part in reducing the damage that this disease is causing to our people's health and to our economy.

Malaria accounts for as many as 150,000 deaths every year in Nigeria, mostly among women and children. I myself have had malaria several times, and have lost dear family members to the disease. It is a personal issue for me.

Additionally, the Nigerian economy loses an estimated US\$1 billion each year due to malaria-related absenteeism and treatment costs. In addition to direct costs to business – which as a business man I feel personally – and the economy, it indirectly damages the economy through the deterioration of human capital, the loss in saving, investments and tax revenues. This is clearly too high of a cost to society and to the economy.

Over the last ten years, the Government of Nigeria and partners have committed over 1.3 billion USD to ensure that malaria is brought under control. Although these efforts have led to significant reduction of malaria prevalence of 35% among children under 5 since 2010, much more needs to be done.

The private sector can play an important role in mobilizing domestic resources, capabilities, and innovation and advocacy platforms to catalyze progress in achieving Nigeria's malaria pre-elimination agenda. This is why this past November, together with the Nigerian Minister of Health, I launched the private sector engagement strategy to help Nigeria fight malaria.

I am also the Founding Patron and Co-Funder of the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PHN), which is focused on mobilizing the private sector, across one coordinated platform, to leverage private sector capabilities, advocacy, innovation and resources to complement government efforts in advancing health outcomes. My friend Bill Gates and other prominent business leaders in Nigeria and other companies have joined me in support of PHN.

In addition to the private sector, we of course need the Nigerian government to play an expanded role, both as a funder of its own malaria control and as a lead implementer, providing the Nigerian people the life-saving tools they need to protect themselves. To win this fight, we need to put our money where our malaria is.

We also need continued leadership from donors, especially the US and UK governments.

Earlier this year, I was honored to join Ray Chambers, Bill Gates, Peter Chernin, and fellow African Leaders like Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

of Liberia and former President Kikwete of Tanzania as an inaugural member of the End Malaria Council. This innovative group of government and business leaders can work alongside Malaria No More and other partners to ensure malaria remains a top global priority, to mobilize resources, and to steward new innovations that will make the end of malaria possible.

I will continue to use my voice to bring attention to the fight against Malaria, and as the Malaria Ambassador for Nigeria, I intend to lead by example. I am committed to using my own conglomerate, the Dangote Group of companies, as an example of what companies in Nigeria should be doing - this includes malaria education for my 26,000 staff at all of our business locations, distribution of prevention tools and supplies to our workers in the factories and in the fields.

I will continue to use my voice to urge every individual, groups, conglomerates, and communities to join the fight by taking concrete actions to prevent the big threat caused by malaria to safeguard our future and that of our children yet to be born.

Thank you again for this honor.