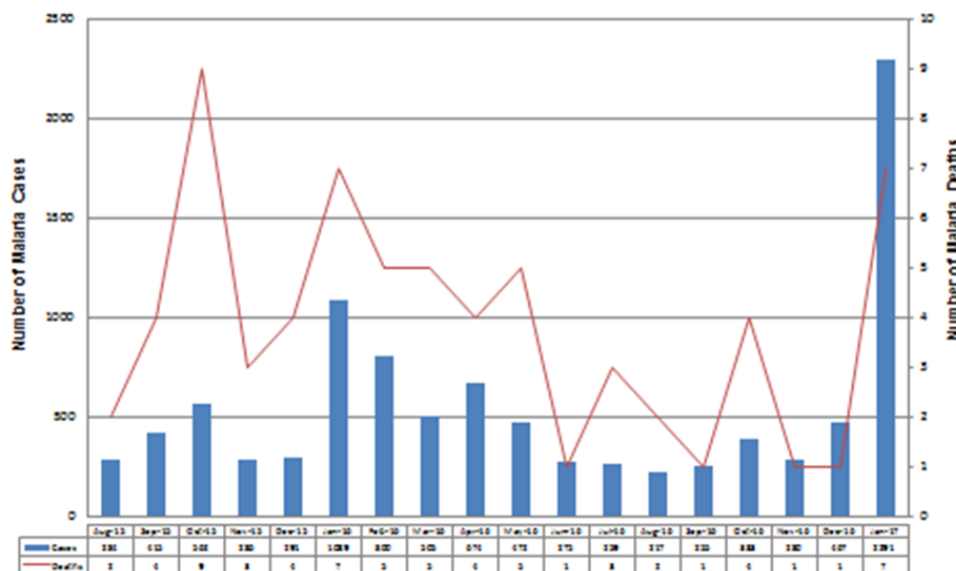


**b Malaria**

Malaria in South Africa is highly seasonal. Incidence is highest in the summer months during which malaria vector mosquito populations proliferate owing to increased rainfall and higher temperatures. Local transmission primarily occurs in the low-altitude border regions of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, while significant numbers of imported cases are reported from non-endemic areas, particularly Gauteng Province. There was a four-fold increase in notified cases in January 2017 compared to December 2016 (Figure 4, courtesy of the Malaria Directorate, NDoH). Although this trend is expected at this time of year, it is of particular concern that the number of cases acquired locally in January 2017 (n=927) is seven times higher than those recorded in January 2016 (n=131). The areas most affected by

increased local transmission were the Vhembe and Mopani districts of Limpopo and the Bushbuckridge district of Mpumalanga. Interestingly, no local malaria cases were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal during January 2017. Unfortunately, seven malaria fatalities were recorded during January 2017. Malaria incidence in South Africa may increase further during the coming months owing to the alleviation of drought conditions and increased summer rainfall.

**Source:** Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections, NICD-NHLS; (johnf@nicd.ac.za)



**Figure 4.** Malaria cases and deaths, all provinces, South Africa, August 2015-January 2017

