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FOCUSING ON THE TRUE VALUE OF NURSES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

MEDIA RELEASE

11 MAY 2020

The medical fraternity the world over celebrates International Nurses' Day on Tuesday, May 12 this year on a particularly significant year. It comes as little surprise that the World Health Organisations' *Year of the Nurse and Midwife* coincides with the bicentennial of Florence Nightingale's birth. Finally being recognised for their immeasurable contribution to medicine, this year's celebrations centre on the caregivers' contributions towards *nursing our world to health*.

Amid the international COVID-19 outbreak, we have seen the pivotal role that nurses play in our respective communities. In a nature similar to that of their founding mother Florence Nightingale, we have seen how nurses continue to work diligently around the world to care for the sick and dying as they flood into hospitals and clinics; whenever and wherever they are needed. They have been an endless source of support and healing in health systems which would otherwise buckle in their absence under the current pressure.

Nurses comprise the biggest healthcare profession in the world. Similarly, they make us the backbone of the South African National Blood Service. Since the inception of our organisation, they have been vital in bridging the gap between donors and recipients. With them, lays the beginning and the end of the journey of blood. They carry the stories of the noble donors whom they bleed and those of the appreciative recipients to whom they breathe life. Our nurses have helped to write and rewrite the stories of many families and for that, we salute them this International Nurses Day.

The looming nursing shortages pose a real danger to the healthcare systems in our country. As primary caregivers to many South Africans, they are central to the attainment of our country's development goals through the World Health Organisation's Universal Health Coverage goal and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages.

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Toll free 0800 11 9031

Board of Directors: Executives: J Louw (CEO), J Thomson (Medical Director), Non Executives: G Simelane (Chairman), F Burn, W Gumede, P Knox, G Leong, V Moodley, P Mhethwa, A Ramalho, R Theunissen,
Company Secretary: M Luthuli

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Universal Blood Type



Donates to Everyone

Receives from 



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In support of our nurses and others around the world, we are all called on to show nursing associations the reverence and support that they deserve. We are all challenged to take on their advocacy and lobbying initiatives like our own because it is by their strength that healthcare systems continue to stand.

To nurses – through the profession that you have chosen and by continuing to stand on the frontlines to the fight against sickness and disease – we wish you all a happy International Nurses Day!

– ENDS –

About the SANBS

The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) is an independent non-profit organisation, and one of the leaders in the discipline of blood transfusion. SANBS operates in eight out of nine provinces in South Africa (with the exception of the Western Cape, which is serviced by the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service). It also provides crucial support to countries in the SADC region.

SANBS supplies over one million blood products annually and is rated among the top blood services in the world. This pedigree comes, as a result of world-class testing and collection protocols which ensure that the blood which is transfused is always of top quality.

The blood is processed into its constituent components; red blood cells, plasma and platelets therefore in principle a single blood donation can save a minimum of three lives.

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