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SANBS Urges South Africans to Donate Blood Ahead of the Festive Season

Johannesburg, 29 November 2023 – The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) needs blood donations as blood stock levels decrease, posing a severe risk to patients in need.

Since the implementation of the new digital donor questionnaire, aimed at streamlining the donor registration process, on the 7th of November 2023, SANBS has seen a steady decline in blood donations, with blood stocks currently sitting at only 1,8 days' supply, pushing the available blood to critically low levels across the country. This blood shortage may affect the lives of numerous individuals reliant on blood transfusions. The technical issues experienced with the implementation have since been resolved, and donors can look forward to an enhanced donor experience.

The strain on the blood supply impacts patients relying on blood transfusion and undermines the preparedness to handle unforeseen emergencies, creating an alarming ripple effect at healthcare facilities.

"We are facing a critical shortage of blood and urgently call upon all South Africans to band together to get through this challenging period. The demand for blood remains constant, yet our current supply falls short of meeting this ongoing need. As we approach December, our donations are expected to decline due to the closures of workplaces and schools/ tertiary. Should this decline continue, our ability to meet the needs of patients will be severely negatively impacted," said Thandi Mosupye, SANBS Senior Manager for Marketing, Communication, and Brand

Donating blood is a safe process that takes only 30 minutes. SANBS urges all eligible and healthy individuals to visit their nearest donation site and contribute to this life-saving cause.

Every donation matters and holds the power to save lives, and each contribution is a lifeline to someone desperately in need.

To donate blood on the new system for the first time, a copy of your Identity document must be presented; you must be between the ages of 16 and 75, weigh more than 50kg and be in good health.

If you meet these requirements, find your nearest donation site by visiting the Donor Centre [map](#) on the SANBS website or contact 0800 11 9031 or follow SANBS on its official social media platforms: Twitter (@theSANBS); Facebook (@SANBS) and Instagram (@thesanbs).

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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 (except for the Western Cape, where the Western Cape Blood Service operates). 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 from world-class testing and collection protocols that ensure that the blood transfused is always top-quality.

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Company Secretary: A Manduna
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Universal Blood Type



Donates to Everyone

Receives from