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SANBS backs #MandelaDay: The ability to save lives runs through your veins

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) is showing its full support of the #MandelaDay 2019 efforts by reminding donors of the life-saving resource that they all have running through their veins.

There are five ways in which people can take part in #MandelaDay activities namely, service and volunteerism, shelter and infrastructure, food security as well as education and literacy.

Donating blood is one example of how South Africans can demonstrate solidarity with each other and follow in the footsteps of the late Nelson Mandela – the stalwart in whose honour this day is commemorated.

SANBS spokesperson, Ms Silungile Mlambo says: "The former statesman really epitomised the great value of giving selflessly to those in need. We are proud to be able to use this occasion to remind our fellow South Africans of the importance of giving blood to ensure that those with various serious – and often life-threatening – medical conditions get the lifesaving transfusions they need."

Blood transfusions are a crucial aspect in the treatment of various health conditions such as blood-related diseases and for managing severe haemorrhage during birth, trauma and major surgery. To meet the daily demand for these patients in the eight provinces that SANBS serves, 3500 units must be collected through blood drives and donation centres.

"We recognise that individuals have their chosen acts of generosity and donating blood might not feature at the top of everyone's list but we encourage people to reach out to us and learn more about what we do. This may also aid them in finding other ways through which they can support our endeavours to provide people with an adequate and safe blood supply," says Ms Mlambo.

SANBS will be running blood drives around the country to commemorate #MandelaDay but donors are advised to honour their regular donation times which occur at 56-day intervals.

For more information on how to become a blood donor and to find your nearest donor centre, email customerservice@sanbs.org.za, call us on 0800 11 9031 or visit www.sanbs.org.za

Ends

Universal Blood Type:



sanbs.org.za
Toll free 0800 11 9031

Donates toEveryone

Receives from

Board of Directors: Executives: J Louw (CEO), J Thomson (Medical Director) **Non-Executives:** G Simelane (Chairman), R Brand, W Gumede, P Knox, M Malebye, V Moodley, A Ramalho, R Theunissen,
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