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### NSSF Drive to bridge January Blood Shortage in hospitals

**KAMPALA; January 13, 2020:** Ugandans have been urged to join the NSSF National Blood Donation Drive taking place across the country to prevent a shortage during the school holidays.

“Uganda’s healthcare system, uses about 1,500 units of bloods daily, but we as the Uganda Blood Transfusion Services can collect only on average 1,250 units daily of the required blood. The problem of shortage can become critical especially during December and January when learning institutions are closed,” said Dr. Dorothy Kyeyune, the Executive Director of the UBTS at the Ministry of Health.

The Annual NSSF Blood Donation Drive takes place this week, starting Monday January 13th 2020 to Friday January 17th January 2020 at various locations across the country.

Addressing the media at Workers House in Kampala, NSSF Managing Director Richard Byarugaba said the annual drive is in response to an appeal from our partners to collect more blood to prevent shortages that normally hit the country in January.

“Given that blood is unique and cannot be manufactured, it therefore means that regular donations by unpaid blood donors remains the only source of sufficient, quality and safe blood. Our campaign is aimed at recruiting voluntary, unpaid blood donors across the country,” he said.

Donation centres in Kampala have been set up at City Square, Clock Tower, Mukwano Arcade, Sekaziga House, Goods Shade, Bwaise Roundabout, Workers House Lobby, William Street, Kibuye Roundabout and Nateete at Samona Building.

In Mukono, the centre is located at Sombe Supermarket and in Entebbe, at Kitooro town. Other centres are located in major towns countrywide. These include Hoima (Katikara Market), Masaka (Kirumba TC and Katwe TC), Jinja (Central Market), Mbarara (Independence Park Grounds) and Gulu (Gulu Main Market).

In Lira the drive will take place at Alebtong Ajuri Market, Fort Portal at Mpanga Market, Bududa at Bududa Corner and in Nebbi at Pentagon Grounds.

Byarugaba said that for sustainability purposes, the NSSF Blood Donation campaign also aims at promoting a blood donation culture amongst Ugandans, thus enabling Uganda to meet the health sector’s safe blood requirements.

According to the World Health Organisation, the recommended blood collection rate is 10 whole blood units per 1,000 inhabitants.

The campaign launch also saw some blood transfusion beneficiaries recount how their lives were saved because safe blood was available in hospitals at the time of need.

Anne Ssempijja and Evelyn Awor both narrated how they developed complications during child birth and were saved by a blood transfusion at a critical moment they needed blood.

“No one can tell if I would be alive today had I not received blood in such an hour of need,” Ssempijja said.

**ENDS**

## **ABOUT NSSF**

*The National Social Security Fund Uganda is a multi-trillion Fund mandated by Government through the NSSF Act, Cap 222 (Laws of Uganda) to provide social security services to employees in the private sector.*

*NSSF is the most profitable, trustworthy, efficient, secure, innovative and dynamic social security provider that guarantees safety, security and a competitive return on members' savings, delivering an annual return of investment of over 2% above the 10-year inflation average.*

*The Fund manages assets worth over UGX 11.5 trillion invested in Fixed Income, Equities and Real Estate assets within the East Africa region. As the largest Fund in East Africa by value, we have the ambitious goal of growing our Assets Under Management to 20 trillion by 2025.*

*Since 2012, the Fund is regulated by the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority while Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is responsible for policy oversight.*

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