

Saving Lives Through Voluntary Blood Donation



OAG staff members during a voluntary blood donation session at The Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia.

The Office of the Auditor-General, through its Employee Wellness section, participated in a blood donation effort with The Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia to promote saving lives through blood donation. Blood is vital to life and for many people, blood donors are their lifeline. Currently, only 0.8% of our population donates blood, but 1 in 3 people will need blood in their lifetime. OAG staff members took part in this 45-minute also highly regarded as an indispensable component of health care.

According to the Namibian Blood Transfusion Service, NamBTS donated blood is divided into blood products, which are issued to patients according to their specific needs. The main blood products are red cell concentrates; platelet concentrates and fresh frozen plasma. That is why one donation can potentially save three lives.

NamBTS statistics show that currently, only 0.8% of our population donates blood, but 1 in 3 people will need blood in their lifetime. There is also no known substitute for blood and it cannot be replicated due to its complexity. Although lost blood volume can be temporarily replaced by synthetic solutions in trauma situations, these do not contain the necessary constituents to sustain the patient. Donor's blood can (and often does) mean the difference between life and death. This initiative is an ongoing public-private- partnership and will continue on a quarterly basis every year.