

## JANUARY – MARCH NEWSLETTER

### **MBTS Mounts Exhibition At Springbok Club Rally**

MBTS was invited as a special guest at a Family Fun Drive rally organised by Springbok Club, Malawi Chapter at Cappinero Restaurant in Blantyre. The rally, which attracted people from all walks of life, gave the Service an opportunity to establish new contacts with captains of the industry and CEOs for organisations and companies who are crucial in blood collection drives.

The idea was to give the Service an opportunity to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. However, the promotion ended up to be a full blood collection clinic as nurses were kept on their toes throughout the afternoon as people kept coming one by one to give the ultimate gift – blood donation.

At the end of it all, 20 people had registered to give blood but only 14 could manage to donate.

The rally organiser, Mr Shaun Swaneys, said this was a great start. “You know what was important was to give information to participants and answer questions. I am glad that we had some members who donated blood today!”

The Service appreciates the gesture shown by the Springbok Club and thanks the organisers for the invitation.

### **Malawi Club 25 conducts Tele-research**

In a bid to ensure the effectiveness of ‘Malawi Club 25’, Club National Presidents embarked on a tele-research project reaching out to sample club members views and suggestions from both active and lapse members on how best the club could meaningfully contribute towards donor motivation, education and recruitment drives.

The tele-research involved 1642 club members from within and around Blantyre. A questionnaire was designed to solicit and elicit information from the respondents.

‘It was a very interesting exercise. We received many suggestions and recommendations on how best we can improve operations and the image of Malawi Club 25, said Medger Mkonjo, Club President.

Joyce Nhlane, Malawi Club Co-President felt the tele-research provided room for the much needed two-way communication that brings about instant feedback. “It was great to hear young persons speak their minds, giving us an insight as to how best we could improve our operations and reach out to more youth.”

The research, among other things, revealed that there was need for regular follow-up visits to clubs and diversification of activities to void monotony.

### **MBTS Opens static Clinic at Chichiri Shopping Mall**

In order to ensure adequate and safe supply of blood in all hospitals, MBTS negotiated with Management of Chichiri Shopping Mall to allow the Service to start collecting blood from the Malls Parking area.

MBTS now takes the bus and a team of nurses to collect blood from volunteers at the Shopping Mall. The bus is parked next to the security terminal near Hungry Lion Takeaways.

The clinic at the Shopping Mall is well advertised as there are four sandwich boards with pointers indicating direction of the clinic, the bus which has corporate colours of the service also assists with visibility of the clinic.

People that have visited the clinic have spoken highly of both the idea of establishing a clinic at the Mall and the professional conduct of staff. “This was a great idea, some of us are too busy to come to Galaxy House to donate blood. I, personally find this arrangement very convenient” said one of the regular donors, who, in the first instance wondered why the MBTS bus was parked at the Mall.

The clinic starts at 9 am and closes at 4 pm. The response from potential donors has been both positive and encouraging. “We started on a low note, but as more and more people get used to our being present at the Shopping Mall every Saturday, we are sure the number of units collected will improve,” said a confident MBTS senior nurse.