

Malawi Blood Transfusion Service Commemorates World Blood Donor Day 2007



Malawi Blood Transfusion Service (**MBTS**) will, for the fourth year running, join the international community to commemorate World Blood Donor Day on June 14. To mark the day, MBTS will organise events and activities at Silver Stadium in the Capital City, Lilongwe where representatives of blood donors from across the country will be in attendance. This year, MBTS will highlight how voluntary blood donors play a vital role in saving lives of thousands of mothers and their newborns.

As one element of country-wide efforts to ensure universal access to safe blood, the day itself aims to raise awareness of the need for safe blood, to thank and honour those who donate blood and to encourage current and potential donors to commit to regular voluntary blood donation. The day will also serve as a call to action to government, national health authorities and collaborating partners, to join hands and support blood donor recruitment and blood collection drives.

It is planned that the event will start at 1000 hrs and end at 1500 hrs. The guest of honour will be the Honourable Minister of Health. In addition there will be officials from the Ministry of Health, the EU Delegation, WHO, the Malawi Red Cross Society, the Board of Trustees of the Malawi Blood Transfusion Service and blood donors. There will be speeches by guest of honour, WHO Country Representative to Malawi and MBTS Trust Chairperson; performances by Malawi Club 25 members, local comedians and a local band; there will also be testimonies by blood recipients, recognition of long-term blood donors and organisations that have consistently supported voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.

It is expected that over 1500 blood donors will participate from across the country.

MBTS will take this opportunity to create an awareness of the importance of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and to encourage more people to become regular blood donors and promote the static blood collection centres in Blantyre (the Commercial Capital of Malawi) and in Lilongwe.