

quote of the day

EDITORIAL

Donate blood and save lives

On Thursday, we reported about the blood shortage in Uganda (see *Daily Monitor* of January 19, Blood shortage hits health facilities).

According to the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service (UBTS), "the country requires at least 340,000 units of blood annually as recommended by World Health Organisation, yet about 200,000 units are collected."

UBTS further reveals that about one per cent of the people eligible to donate blood are doing so. And this is where part of the problem lies. With all the campaigns carried out by UBTS, corporate companies and other organisations at different times of the year, every year the people who respond to the call to donate blood are very few, causing a shortage of blood in health facilities across the country. So who qualifies to donate blood?

The issue:

Blood shortage.

Our view: Think about how you have contributed to this dire situation by not donating blood yet you are eligible. We cannot keep lamenting about this issue of blood shortage without doing enough about it. Let us play our part, let us donate blood and save lives. For those who have donated blood before, keep up the spirit.

All adults who are in good health are eligible to donate blood. Then why aren't we participating in blood donation yet we are eligible? Why should patients die due to blood shortage yet we are in position to save them by donating blood?

Doctors treating patients who are in need of blood transfusion can only do so much if there is blood in the health centres. All lives matter and each of us should play our part to save lives.

As you read this, think about the lives we have lost due to lack of blood in health centres.

Think about the patients lying helpless and hopelessly in hospitals and yet all they need is blood transfusion to save their lives. Think about the doctors attending to such patients who see them breathe their last yet they know exactly what to do to keep them alive but are unable to do so due to blood shortage.

Think about the agony of relatives who lose their loved ones when doctors could save them with a unit or two of blood. Today it might be a stranger dying due to lack of blood so you might not be bothered, but tomorrow it could be your relative/friend and then you just might be next. It can happen to anyone.

Think about how you have contributed to this dire situation by not donating blood yet you are eligible. We cannot keep lamenting about this issue of blood shortage without doing enough about it.

Let us play our part, let us donate blood and save lives. For those who have donated blood before, keep up the spirit.

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