

Blood shortage contained – med

By Lisa Nsaba

Blood scarcity in the country has eased since the commencement of a countrywide donation drive in response to a call by the health ministry.

The blood shortage had forced hospitals to suspend major operations and reschedule others, putting many patients' lives at risk.

"The Military Police came out to participate in this exercise after a call from the Ministry of Health and the army leadership," Brig. Sabiiti Muzeei, the newly-appointed deputy Inspector General of Police, who led the exercise at Makindye Barracks, said.

Many soldiers participated in the donation exercise which commenced yesterday.

Sabiiti, who is the outgoing commander of the Military Police, donated blood, saying it was a noble cause. He said soldiers voluntarily participated in the exercise after they were approached by their leaders. Sabiiti declined to discuss his new appointment, saying he would only do so when he assumes the office.

"They (soldiers) know that this is done to save lives, so when we requested them to donate, they responded well," he said, adding that blood



Brig. Sabiiti Muzeei chatting with a health worker during the blood donation exercise. Photo by Godfrey Kimono

was needed by everyone and there was no factory that manufactured it.

Sabiiti encouraged the public to join the blood donation drive and asked the media to

sensitise the public about it because some people did not know the advantages of doing so.

"We are donating to save lives. When one donates blood,

the body will produce more. It would be selfish not to donate blood," Sabiiti stated.

Shamirah Asha Agip, a phlebotomist at Uganda Blood Transfusion Services (UBTS),

said the shortage was not as bad as it was when they made the appeal.

Agip encouraged people to continue donating blood to reach the target of over

Shamirah Asha Agip, a phlebotomist at Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, encouraged Ugandans to continue donating blood to reach the target of over 300,000 units per year.

THE TARGET

300,000 units per year, said they expected more than 200 units of blood from the Military Police.

"In the past few days, we managed to collect about 100 units of blood. This is a good cause and there is no harm in donating," she said. Because of the ongoing shortage, some patients have been unable to receive blood unlike the situation before, she added.

Agip encouraged the soldiers to donate blood, saying it was good for them or their loved ones in case they need it. She said people who had donated were able to receive blood quicker than those who had never done so.

FY LINDA staff denies paying Katesi money

Youth MPs attack Diu