

KZN Health MEC gives the most precious Christmas gift by donating blood

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has given the most precious Christmas gift in the form of a pint of blood, which he donated at the South African National Blood Service (SANBS)'s blood donor centre at Mega City in Umlazi today.

Although the shortage of blood has not reached critical proportions yet, it is anticipated that demand will increase over the December and January holidays. This is due to the fact that there may be a higher number of injuries from accidents during this period; yet the SANBS's biggest and most regular sources for blood - schools and factories – are currently closed.



Early Christmas gift... Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo donates blood at the SANBS's donor centre at Mega City in Umlazi, while clinic supervisor Ntombifuthi Cele looks on.

Explaining his decision to donate blood Dr Dhlomo, who is a universal O-blood type donor, said: "During this time many people are buying gifts for their loved ones. I just thought it would be symbolic for me to give a gift of life. This blood I'm donating will assist someone who's either delivering a baby, or a cancer patient, or someone who may be in an accident."

Dr Dhlomo called on other South Africans to do the same.

"I would like to encourage South Africans to spend 10-15 minutes of their lives at any of the blood banks, to give the gift of life. By so doing, you are able to give life to someone else in need, who may otherwise not be able to survive. When you donate blood today, you yourself may need it the following day. You may never know," he said.

Dr Dhlomo will continue to spread the Festive Season cheer when he welcomes Christmas new-born babies and hands out gifts to their mothers at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital tomorrow.

ENDS

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