

HUMANITARIAN CHRONICLES



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **BRCS Hosts BCM Instructors' Forum**
- **One Step Closer To No New HIV/AIDS Infections With Dreams**
- **Tlamelong Welcomes Its Trainees**
- **NBTS And BRCS Partners In A Blood Donation Drive**
- **Taking Services To Inalegolo Settlement**



BRCS Hosts BCM Instructors' Forum

Botswana Red Cross Society hosted the annual Botswana Chambers of Mine (BCM) meeting on the 19th- 23rd of February. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss first aid in the mining sector, the competitions, and reviewing the first aid book used during trainings.

Welcoming the BCM First Aid Instructors, Mrs. Tshepo Dixon highlighted the crucial role of the BRCS in providing first aid training and selling first aid kits to the mining sector. The National Society's mandate of protecting life and health is achieved through equipping miners with necessary skills and knowledge to respond to workplace emergencies. Mrs. Dixon further emphasized that the goal is to empower miners to create safer and more secure working environments.

At the meeting, Mr. Benjamin Moni, the chairman of the Instructor Forum highlighted the planned improvements to the first aid competitions. He suggested the addition of another judge by the BRCS to ensure unbiased and accurate results. He concluded by mentioning that the BCM is committed to making the competitions more efficient and effective.



One Step Closer To No New HIV/AIDS Infections With Dreams

There has been an increase in new HIV/AIDS infections among young people in Botswana. Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre in collaboration with DREAMS, held a workshop to educate the new students on how to prevent these new infections. Prevention is better than cure after all!

The workshop featured multiple speakers who shared their expertise in their various fields. Rethabile Mosiami from DREAMS spoke extensively about the organization's program and its focus on supporting vulnerable girls aged 10-24 who have experienced abuse, are pregnant or have children, or sexually active. The program provides these girls with resources and support to help them make healthy and informed choices about their lives.



Some of the speakers at the workshop were from Tebelopele and Bummhi, organizations that offer and promote HIV testing, and advocate for individuals to know their status. They also spoke about the introduction of self-testing kits that allow people to test for HIV in the comfort of their own homes. One of the hot topics that was discussed was PrEP, a pill that can be taken to prevent HIV infection. The workshop provided a forum for open and honest discussion about HIV prevention and testing.

The final speaker at the workshop was Thebe Otladisa, who presented on the correct use and disposal of condoms. The students were engaged and actively participated in the demonstration, learning how to use and dispose of condoms properly. This was a valuable opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience and knowledge about safe sexual practices.



NBTS And BRCS Partners In A Blood Donation Drive

The BRCS Kang Office and the National Blood Transfusion Services collaborated on a blood donation drive in Kang and the surrounding areas. The drive was a joint effort with District Health Management Team, the local Bogosi, the Village Development Committee, and schools. This collaboration was an important step to reach the NBTS yearly target of 45 000 units of blood.

The main objective of the blood donation drive was to recruit safe blood donors and to educate the public about the importance of blood donation. Botswana has been experiencing a shortage of blood in blood banks, making the drive an essential initiative. The BRCS volunteers played a key role in mobilizing the community to the part in the drive and blood donation. Through this initiative, the BRCS is working to ensure that those in the need have access to lifesaving.

The NBTS set a target of 20 donors per event, and the outcome was more than they expected. Batswana came in large number, and the team successfully surpassed their goal. The total number of people who donated blood over the six-day period was remarkable 240. This is a huge achievement for the BRCS, the NBTS, and the other stakeholders as its highlights the generosity and compassion of Batswana.



Taking Services To Inalegolo Settlement

The BRCS Kang Office and the National Blood Transfusion Services collaborated on a blood donation drive in Kang and the surrounding areas. The drive was a joint effort with District Health Management Team, the local Bogosi, the Village Development Committee, and schools. This collaboration was an important step to reach the NBTS yearly target of 45 000 units of blood.

The main objective of the blood donation drive was to recruit safe blood donors and to educate the public about the importance of blood donation. Botswana has been experiencing a shortage of blood in blood banks, making the drive an essential initiative. The BRCS volunteers played a key role in mobilizing the community to the part in the drive and blood donation. Through this initiative, the BRCS is working to ensure that those in the need have access to lifesaving.

The NBTS set a target of 20 donors per event, and the outcome was more than they expected. Batswana came in large number, and the team successfully surpassed their goal. The total number of people who donated blood over the six-day period was remarkable 240. This is a huge achievement for the BRCS, the NBTS, and the other stakeholders as its highlights the generosity and compassion of Batswana.



Tlamelong Welcomes Its Trainees

Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre recently welcomed its class of 2026 students since its founding in 1974. The 2024 intake consist of 39 students from various parts of Botswana, aged 18-35. The students are expected to graduate in two years with certificated in either textile and dressmaking or horticulture from Madirelo Center for Vocational Education.

During the orientation, multiple speakers were present to inspire and encourage the students on their educational journey. Among the speakers was a representative from Kgotla Kgolo ya Batlokwa, Kgosi Bogatsu, who share with the students how they should feel at home and make most of their time in Tlokweng. The goal was to help the students feel at comfortable and supported in their new environment. Ms. Simon from Tlokweng Main Clinic was one of the speakers, she provided advice on sexual reproductive health and family planning. She emphasized that students should feel comfortable coming to her with health-related questions or concerns they may have.

Representing the Botswana Police Service, Ms. Moatswi from the CID shared information on common offences and crimes that students may encounter, either as perpetrators or victims. She urged the students to avoid committing any crime, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. This was to help the students understand the consequences of criminal activity and make responsible decisions.

Lastly Mma Morwadi Podile, who has a personal connection to Tlamelong, shared the history of the Centre and why it is such a special place for her. She emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication to successfully complete the two-year course. A student representative, Simon expressed his gratitude to the speakers and trainers for taking the time to provide such informative and valuable session. He promised that the students would work hard and give their best effort to make their families and the Center proud.

