

# HUMANITARIAN CHRONICLES



## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **FNBB Foundation extends a noble gesture to BRCS**
- **Digital Era: BRCS team edified on Data Protection and the Right to Privacy**
- **Stakeholders join forces to host a blood donation drive to save lives**
- **Disaster Risk Management attends a workshop hosted by Botswana climate change network**

## FNBB Foundation extends a noble gesture to BRCS



In a generous act of Corporate Social Responsibility, First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) generously donated stationery, toiletries, toy, and clothing to the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS). The handing over ceremony was attended by Ms. Jennifer Makgabanyana, the FNBB Commercial Director and Mr. Kutlwano Mukokomani, the Secretary General BRCS.

In her remarks, Ms. Makgabanyana stated that the donations were made possible by the staff pf FNB, who are deeply committed to supporting the local communities. She noted that this was in line of FNB "Random act of Kindness" initiative, which encourages employees to perform acts of kindness. This program highlights the bank's positive commitment in making positive impact in the lives of children. Ms. Makgabanyana emphasized that the slogan "How Can We Help You" represents more than just providing excellent banking services, it also means supporting the communities in which FNB operates.

When receiving the gesture, Mr. Mukokomani highlighted the important role of the BRCS in connecting communities across Botswana and emphasized the organization's willingness to partner with corporations like FNB to address humanitarian needs. He concluded his remarks by encouraging FNB employees of the BRCS and contribute their expertise to organization's humanitarian efforts.





## Digital Era: BRCS team edified on Data Protection and the Right to Privacy

The BRCS attended a workshop hosted by MISA Botswana, themed National Digital Rights Advocacy Workshop for Civil Society in Botswana. The workshop was facilitated by Thapelo Ndlovu who emphasized how digital rights and its role in the lives of individuals and society.

The focus of the workshop was on the need for data protection and the right to privacy, considering the growing threats to these fundamental rights. Data and online privacy are increasingly under attack, and vital to take action to safeguard these rights. The workshop explored ways to do so, David Moepeng of Cybersmart Botswana, Patrick Jansen of the Internet Society Botswana Chapter, and legal expert Senwelo Modise of Botlhole legal Group had in depth presentations on the issue.



The speakers discussed the Data Protection Act and its role in protecting personal information. They highlighted the risks of disclosure on different platforms, such as social media and the internet, and the potential consequences of such disclosure. They shared insights on current state of these issues in Botswana and shared possible solutions.

As an organization that handles data daily, the BRCS takes data protection very seriously. It has a responsibility to ensure that information it collects and complies is secure, both from internal and external threats. Civil society organizations were encouraged to disseminate their information in a safe and secure manner, following proper procedures. The importance of collaboration and advocacy for digital rights was stressed, in order to ensure that these rights are protected and respected.





## Stakeholders join forces to host a blood donation drive to save lives

The Botswana Red Cross Society took part in a donation drive at Mochudi that was organized by Ali Motor Spares. The company was joined by the Kgatleng District Council, DHMT, and the National Blood Services. The Manager of Ali Motor Spares, Mohammed Ali stated that the drive was organized in response to a shortage of blood that is experienced by the country.

The BRCS mobilized volunteers to spread the word about the donation and encouraged members of the community to come and donate blood. As volunteers were spreading the word, Tumelo Gare from National Blood Services, called upon the community of Mochudi and Batswana to donate blood and ensure that the blood supplies in hospitals remain adequate. She stated that their target is to collect 45 000 units of blood annually and emphasized on the importance of blood donation for health and well-being of the people of Botswana.

Mr. Sejabodile of the Kgatleng District Health Management Team (DHMT) expressed his gratitude to Ali Motor Spares for organizing the blood drive, stating that it is a valuable contribution to the health and well-being of Batswana. He also extended his thanks to BRCS for being available every time when Batswana need help.







## Disaster Risk Management attends a workshop hosted by Botswana climate change network

The BRCS Disaster Risk Management team attended the Inception Meeting of the Civil Society Working Group on Health and Climate. The workshops' aim was to discuss the role of civil society in addressing the health impacts of climate change and the best ways to act.

Research has shown that there is a correlation between climate change and the exacerbation of health issues. These findings have prompted the Government of Botswana to take action to reduce carbon emissions by 15% by the year of 2050.

The BCCN recognizes the importance of these findings and committed to working with civil societies and NGOs to address these issues.

The BRCS is also committed to taking action to reduce the impact of climate change. Global warming has resulted in a rise in natural disasters and public health emergencies, placing additional strain on healthcare systems and exacerbating existing health conditions. By tackling the root causes of climate change, the BCCN and workshop attendees hopes that more collaborations between them will address this issue.

