



World Blood Donor Day

Local Theme: Every Drop Counts: Give Blood Today



Precious Gift of Life

By EVANS ONGWAE

Ask anyone who has received blood transfusion and they will tell you that that precious gift, probably from a donor unknown to them, saved their life. Simply, donating a pint of blood equals giving the gift of life to someone and it is the millions of people who donate this life-giving liquid that World Blood Donor Day being marked today seeks to appreciate. These are very special people who provide the foundation of a safe blood supply, available to all patients requiring transfusion.

In Kenya, celebrations to mark the day will be held in Mombasa and hundreds of wananchi are expected to take this opportunity to donate blood and help save the lives of fellow citizens. In so doing, they will be responding to the theme, *Every*

Drop Counts: Give Blood Today.

Worldwide, millions of people owe their lives to people they will never meet – people who donate their blood freely and without any reward. However, the overwhelming majority of the world's population does not have access to safe blood. Over 80 million units of blood are donated every year, but only 38 per cent are collected in developing countries where 82 per cent of the global population lives.

In addition, many countries remain dependent on donation by the families or friends of patients who require blood and, in some countries, blood donors still receive payment. Yet evidence from around the world demonstrates that voluntary unpaid donors are the foundation of a safe blood supply because they are least likely to transmit potentially life-

threatening infections, such as HIV and hepatitis viruses, to the recipients of their blood. It is to these unsung heroes that World Blood Donor Day is dedicated.

While it is hoped that **World Blood Donor Day** will create wider awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation and encourage more people to become regular blood donors, the purpose is not to attract a big influx of new donors on June 14. Rather, it is designed to celebrate and thank those individuals who voluntarily donate their blood without any reward, except the knowledge that they have helped to save lives.

It is hoped that a new generation of blood donors will follow their example, providing the safest blood possible for use wherever and whenever it is needed to save life. There will also be emphasis on successful youth peer education and promotion programmes that attract large numbers of young voluntary non-remunerated blood donors who pledge not only to donate blood regularly, but also to adopt safe, healthy lifestyles to protect their own health.



The chairman of Safaricom Foundation, Mr. Les Baillie, donates blood during the launch of Safaricom Blood for Life campaign at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi.

Driver: Glen Edmund

With Nissan Hardbody, all added accessories are included in the price.

Model	J05 4x2 Single Cab Petrol	J45 4x2 Single Cab Diesel	J61 4x4 Single Cab Diesel	J64 4x4 Double Cab Diesel	J65 4x4 Double Cab Diesel
Deposit Kshs	89,700	95,700	123,000	151,500	199,500
Monthly repayment Kshs (48 months)	36,429	38,866	49,953	61,528	81,022

* Offer subject to credit approval. Interest rates are subject to change.

HARDBODY

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NISSAN

Minister's Message

Blood transfusion is recognized all over the world, as a means and sometimes the only way of managing patients lacking one or more of the blood components. It forms an important component of health care delivery system.

The National Blood Transfusion Service therefore, recognizes its responsibility to provide adequate and safe blood to meet the country's needs. The demand for blood has steadily risen while the supply has not matched this demand. An increasing patient population and the expanding health care delivery system has occasioned this demand. The advent of the HIV/Aids epidemic has led to a decrease in the number of voluntary donors and an increase in the number of units of blood discarded for being infected by any of the blood transmitted infections. Due to the consequences of the HIV/Aids epidemic the Ministry of Health has made blood safety a public health priority in Kenya.

Blood transfusions in Kenya are often used for the;

- Management of anaemia associated with malaria especially in children.
- Management of anaemia in pregnancy.
- Management of loss of blood due to trauma, road traffic accidents, and

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DID YOU KNOW that today is World Blood Donor Day.
Play your part in the global celebrations.