



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAMIBIA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 12TH INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION (AFSBT) CONGRESS, CEMENTING LEADERSHIP IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION EXCELLENCE AND STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S BLOOD TRANSFUSION LANDSCAPE

Windhoek, Namibia: 1 April 2026 – Namibia proudly hosted the 12th International congress of the African Society for Blood Transfusion in Windhoek from 23-26 March 2026, under the theme: **“Innovative Connections: Enhancing the Blood Transfusion Ecosystems.”** Attended by more than 350 delegates, from the world over, this marked a significant milestone in advancing safe and sustainable blood transfusion practices across the African continent.

The congress was officially opened by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Her Honorable, Dr Esperance Luvindao, who emphasized on the critical role of safe blood transfusion services in strengthening health care systems and saving lives. In her keynote address, the Minister commended Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS) for its unwavering commitment to ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply, and highlighted Namibia's progress in aligning with international standards.

The exhibitors included Abbott, National Biomedical Institute, Roche, Terumo, Wego Medical, GVS Transfusion Medicine, Haier Biomedical, Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS), Ilex South Africa, Beckman Coulter, Delcon, Demophorius, Fresenius Kabi, GPI France, GVS, Hemocue, Inqaba Biotech, MM Arican Technology, National Bioproducts Institute, Obsidian Health, SABMR, The Scientific Group, Vertice Transfusion, Werfen, Yashraj Biotechnology Ltd, TianHe Pharmaceutical and Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine.

The prestigious congress brought together leading experts, policymakers, researchers and healthcare professionals from across Africa and beyond to engage in critical discussions on improving blood safety, availability and transfusion services.

As the host, Blood Transfusion Services of Namibia (NamBTS) demonstrated exceptional leadership and organizational excellence, reinforcing Namibia's growing reputation as a dedicated leader in blood safety innovation and service delivery.

Key themes explored during the congress included:

- Namibia's First Bone Marrow Transplant: Clinical Lessons and Transfusion Implications
- Strengthening national blood systems
- AfSBT standards and accreditation: Improving Blood Quality in Africa
- Informed Consent, Autonomy, and Cultural Realities in Blood Donation and Transfusion
- Recognition & Rewards: What Really Motivates Repeat Donors in Namibia
- Advancing the implementation of Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)

Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS) and the African Society for Blood Transfusion played a central role in shaping these discussions, showcasing Namibia's progress in maintaining high standards of blood safety, efficient service delivery and community engagement.

Through its successful hosting of this international event, NamBTS highlighted its commitment to adopting global best practices, its investment in modern technologies and skilled employees and its dedication to ensuring a safe and sufficient blood supply for all Namibians.

The outcomes of the 12th International African Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) congress are expected to have a lasting impact on Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS) by strengthening partnerships with international stakeholders, enhanced technical expertise within NamBTS and improved public awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation.

As the congress ended, Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS) stands to continue playing an important role in advancing blood transfusion services across Africa. NamBTS extends its gratitude to all delegates, exhibitors, stakeholders and sponsors whose contribution made the congress a resounding success. The next congress will take place in Kigali, Rwanda in 2028.

Zita Tobin, Manager: Marketing and Donor Relations said "Hosting the 12th AfSBT International Congress in Namibia marks a defining moment for Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia. It not only reflects our commitment to excellence in blood safety and availability but also positions Namibia as a key contributor to advancing blood transfusions across Africa. The knowledge shared, corporate partnerships formed and technical innovations explored during this congress will have a lasting impact on our services and ultimately, on the lives of the patients who depend on safe blood every day."

For more information please contact NamBTS on pro@bts.com.na or 083 378 7000. For media enquiries, please contact Frieda Vatileni-Asino, Education Officer at +264 83 378 7056 or educationofficer@bts.com.na

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