

National Blood Bank Receives ISO Certificate

Written by Kesete Ghebrehiwet

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Numerous accomplishments in various domains have enabled Eritrea to achieve international acclaim. Of the many tasks carried out to provide equal access to essential social services, quality health service stands out in particular. Eritrea has thus far been certified by accreditation bodies for its accomplishments, especially in the health sector, where remarkable reductions in malaria, polio as well as communicable disease transmissions are case in point. In keeping with this pace, Eritrea has now become the third African country to win the international certificate for quality blood transfusion management.

Many lives may have been endangered due to lack of blood donations and as well due to lack of secure blood transfusion. Many lives have been, however, saved owing to the commitment of National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) which have been engaged in providing efficient blood banking system.

Set up in 1999 as a center, the NBTS has not only been a blood supply center to many hospitals through out the country, but has also been working to meet international standards of blood transfusion management system through the implementation of ISO 9001:2008.

ISO stands for International Organization of Standardizations in various domains. In the ISO 9001:2008, for instance, while 9001 stands for the changes or number of revisions of the overall series of quality management system standards, 2008 is the year of publication issued for quality management standards.

Working in accordance with the internationally accepted management systems enables the NBTS run its activities effectively to the level of utmost excellence.

Eritrea has now met the international standards of blood management system and gained international recognition to be certified by South African Accreditation body known as South African Bureau of Standards, SABS.

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