

Secretary for Health supports and participates in blood donation drive at Central Government Offices (with photos)

The Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, and the Under Secretary for Health, Dr Libby Lee, put their support for saving lives through blood donation into practical action by participating in the blood donation drive being held by the Hong Kong Red Cross at the Central Government Offices (CGO) today (June 12). They appealed to members of the public to donate blood to help patients in need of blood transfusions regain a new lease of life.

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) is providing mobile blood donation services at the CGO today and tomorrow, offering convenience for government personnel to donate blood.

Professor Lo said, "The Government has been committed to promoting the important message of giving blood to save lives and fostering the spirit of mutual assistance and love within our community. Over the past year, various government departments have organised numerous blood donation drives, showcasing the Government's support for saving lives through blood donation. In particular, the blood donation drive at the CGO today and tomorrow is a major annual event. The Government will remain fully committed to supporting this meaningful event in the future."

There is no substitute for blood, and its shelf life is limited. The BTS needs to collect 650 units of blood daily to provide sufficient blood for clinical transfusions for patients in need of timely rescue in all hospitals across the city. Therefore, voluntary and selfless donation of blood by citizens regularly is of particular importance in ensuring a stable and sufficient blood supply in the blood inventories.

Professor Lo continued, "This Saturday (June 14) will be World Blood Donor Day designated by the World Health Organization. Every year on this particular day, appreciation is sent from all over the world to blood donors for their act of selfless giving. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the citizens who have persisted in donating blood over time. Your selfless contributions have enabled countless patients to overcome their illnesses and regain their health. I would also like to call on more members of the public to act now and join the ranks of regular blood donors in saving lives. Your passionate support may be the key to saving others' lives. A single unit of whole blood donated each time can save three or more patients, bringing endless hope to their families."

To facilitate blood donation by members of the public, in addition to establishing blood donor centres across the city, the BTS also arranges

mobile blood donation vehicles and mobile blood donation teams to visit various communities. Members of the public may make appointments via the "HK Blood" mobile application, the BTS website www.ha.org.hk/rcbts, or call the donor centres in advance to reduce waiting times.

