

AFRICA SOCIETY FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION (AfSBT)

ECOWAS REGION

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN, ECOWAS REGION, TO THE JUNE, 2018 AfSBT BOARD MEETING

INTRODUCTION

The ECOWAS Region of AfSBT consists of members from Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Majority of members however, come from only two or three of these countries. Our mission is therefore to raise awareness that will increase are membership generally, but particularly from countries with few or no members, within the next one year. Having constituted the Regional Executive Committee, we hope to organise a successful Regional Conference in Ghana later in the year.

CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since the meeting of August, 2017 at Sun City, South Africa, it has been possible to constitute the ECOWAS Regional Executive Committee made up of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mavis Okyere, Dr. Salam Sawadogo of Burkina Fasso as Secretary, Sheilla Tottey from Ghana. We have had discussions via electronic mails and hope to have a formal face-to-face meeting in Arusha. We also decided to co-opt the Immediate Past Chairman Justina Ansah on the Committee.

ECOWAS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Following permission for the Region to hold a conference on the same year as the Congress, we had initially slated the Regional Conference for February, 2018. But when it was appearing as if preparation for ECOWAS Conference would conflict with our members ability to attend the Congress, a decision was taken to postpone the Regional Conference till November, 2018 in order to benefit from institutions that have promised funding for the year 2018. The ECOWAS Conference Website will hopefully start running immediately after the Congress in Arusha. The ISBT has place the information on the Conference on its Website.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our members with inactive membership are being encouraged to renew their membership by paying their dues. It is also hope the publicity for, and the actual hosting of the conference will lead to members' awareness and increase activity.

REQUEST FOR ADVOCACY VISIT TO NIGERIA

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population of 180 million people, requiring an estimated 1.8 million donor blood every year. A lot of energy had been expended by the Nigerian Society for Haematology and Blood Transfusion and Safe Blood for Africa Foundation, which has now discontinued its operations. These efforts have led to the establishment of the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS). Yet, Nigeria remains a country with one of the least developed blood transfusion systems, with no form of accreditation. A Bill for the setup and operation of National Blood Commission has been approved by the Federal Executive Council to be passed to the National Assembly as Executive Bill. This is why I believe that a high level advocacy and partnership by AfSBT might be the trigger required to encourage our country to accord the much needed priority to the development of the Service to an Agency or Commission with appropriate power and means to raise awareness and build a formidable system. I plead for a favourable consideration of this proposal in spite of existing constraint on the Society.

I thank you.

Signed.

Philip O. Olatunji,

Chairman, AfSBT ECOWAS Region