



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
20th June, 2018**

SPEECH (REPORT) OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Protocols

We are pleased to report that AfSBT has continued to carry out activities as per its mandate despite meagre funding in the past year. A lot has been achieved and the following will highlight some of the milestones achieved:

Governance

AfSBT Board was strengthened by appointment of new members from the Maghreb and ECOWAS regions. Both old and new Board members underwent training on 'Being a Director' and also training on Risk Management in order to get a better understanding of roles and responsibilities of Directors. Board Committees of AfSBT: Human Resources and Remuneration and the Audit and Risk grew from strength to strength and helped strengthen the governance of your Society. During the period under review, all Board Policy documents were reviewed and updated.



A new Brand Manual was developed and new logo introduced. The rebranding of the AfSBT was completed late August 2017 with the formal approval of the Brand by the Board. Management has since implemented the new Brand and the new logo is in use.

Implementing the Step Wise Accreditation Programme (SWAP)

The AfSBT Step-Wise Accreditation Programme (SWAP) continues to grow with a number of countries requesting to be trained and assessed. However, due to limited funding, AfSBT failed to reach out to all countries that requested assessments/training. Many countries are at different stages in applying for the accreditation process.

A new Version of the AfSBT Standards was launched after extensive consultations with all stakeholders. The new Version became effective 1st April, 2018. This means all facilities now have to comply with this Version of the Standards.

A total of eleven assessments were performed during the year. Two formal, four progress and five baseline assessments were carried out. Training on the AfSBT Standards was carried out in conjunction with the baseline assessments.

A team of Assessors and Educators were trained during this period and these are the ones that are working with AfSBT in carrying out assessments in different countries. Total number of Assessors is 18 while we have 24 Educators.



The Educator as Assessor Manual was finalized.

AfsBT has been providing Technical Assistance to Tanzania National Blood Transfusion Service for the past year and this is ongoing.

Advocacy

In trying to market AfsBT and its activities, a number of advocacy meetings were held with high-level blood service staff and government officials in five Francophone countries and all have since joined the Accreditation Programme. The President and MD attended the strategic planning meeting of the Africa-CDC and as a result the AfsBT was put on the permanent list of partners of the new entity.

A separate meeting was also held with the head of Social Services in the Africa Union to solicit their support for the accreditation programme. The AU asked AfsBT to work closely with the WHO-Afro office as the accreditation programme is a technical programme which fits very well with the WHO mandate. The Managing Director, Communications Manager and President also attended a WHO Meeting in Vic Falls in September 2017.



Meanwhile, AfsBT is participating in international projects to improve blood safety such as WHO Achilles Project and Paul Erlich Institute PEI. Both projects are aimed at improving production of Plasma for fractionation in facilities that are bound by requirements of national regulatory authority.

AfsBT Committees

Programme Committees continued to meet during the period in review e.g.

- AfsBT Accreditation Committee meeting held to review outcome of accreditation/ certification assessments
- AfsBT Standards Committee met, reviewed and approved the new AfsBT Standards
- AfsBT Education Committee met twice to review and work on projects
- A newly AfsBT Transfusion-Associated Infections Committee was established and members were appointed
- Another new AfsBT Transfusion Medicine and Science Committee was established and members appointed
- AfsBT Research and Ethics Committee was further strengthened
- AfsBT IT Working Group established and members appointed
- AfsBT Editorial Committee has been established



AfSBT Collaboration Centre – Kigali, Rwanda

Management proposed the creation of a “Collaboration Centre” in each of the AfSBT regions. The status will be awarded to facilities that attain Step 3 Accreditation provided they meet other criteria agreed upon. Following the achievement of the Rwanda Blood Transfusion service in acquiring Step 3 Accreditation, management recommended to the Board the awarding of the Collaborating Centre status to Rwanda RBTC. An MoU was signed between the AfSBT and the Rwanda Ministry of Health. The formal launching ceremony was held on the 10th February 2017.

The AfSBT Collaboration Centre in Kigali Rwanda, has hosted numerous meetings. These include, staff meetings, training of Assessors and Educators, etc.

Membership

Retaining old members and recruitment of new members of the Society continues to be a challenge. Without membership we cease to exist as a Society. Although the board and management have been working on various strategies to help membership recruitment and retention, I urge you all to take this as a responsibility for all of us. We need our national blood services to take this challenge at national level to promote membership and related activities.



At the meeting of the board held in August 2017, the Board approved the free Associate membership of Blood Transfusion Services in Africa in line with the objectives of the current Strategic Plan. This has been implemented in order to increase the membership of AfSBT to 3000 in the next 2 years. It is hoped that this action will help attract new members and the retention of current members as the BTSs will in turn have responsibility for promoting AfSBT programmes.

Insert closing remarks

I wish you on behalf of the board and management a successful congress.

Report by the President, AfSBT