

## Taxi strikes add severe pressure on the blood supply in the Western Cape

**Western Cape - 7 August 2023.** The Western Cape Blood Service (WCBS) is appealing to the public to donate blood as the blood supply is under severe pressure. "As we head into day 3 of the ongoing taxi strike, our blood stocks are negatively affected. This is mainly due to staff not being able to get to work and some of our blood donation clinics had to close either earlier, or in their entirety over the last few days and we have therefore not been able to collect the target number of units", says Marike Carli, Public Relations Manager at WCBS.

Currently, there is a critical shortage in the O and B blood groups, with only a 2-day supply left. The A-positive blood stocks are also under pressure as only a 3-day supply remains. WCBS always aims to have a blood stock level of 5 days.

WCBS would like to reiterate that it remains crucial to supply the Western Cape with sufficient, safe blood. The Service, therefore, urges new and regular donors to donate blood as soon as possible. If you are between 16 and 75, weigh 50kg or more, are in good general health, and lead a safe sexual lifestyle, you should be able to donate.

"We would like to reassure the public that we remain fully operational despite the current difficulties. We will be updating any changes such as dates and times to our blood donation clinics on our website and on social media", Carli added.

For more information, please visit [www.wcbs.org.za](http://www.wcbs.org.za), our Facebook page or send a WhatsApp to 060 549 7244.

Do something remarkable, and donate blood.

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**Distributed by the Western Cape Blood Service**  
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