

# REPORT: DENOSA'S 5<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT CONGRESS

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The Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> National Student Movement conference at the Bundu Lodge in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, from 4 to 6 August 2017. The theme of the congress was “Consolidating student nurses’ power to advance transformation of nursing education”. Nkululeko Mapaila, the National Secretary, alluded to the role of education in shaping society. The main aim and objective of DENOSA are to organise and unite all nurses in practice, in training, and in working towards achieving a reasonable healthcare system in South Africa. The congress was attended by 150 people; a total of 138 were voting delegates from the nine provinces of South Africa, four observers were from the Free State, and eight were guests.

The congress was officially opened by Khulani Silabi, the Mpumalanga Provincial Chairperson, and he wished all attendants a successful congress. The guests from various

organisations and political structures gave their messages of support. The guests included Lwandi Majiza from the South African Students Congress (SASCO), Mluleki Dlelanga from the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA), Ntombi Majali from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Matumelo Motaung from the South African National Students Association (SANSA), and Letlhogonolo Maphatsoe from Public Service International (PSI).

During the political report, Tshepo Monoketsi, the former National Chairperson of the student movement said that “despite the greatly increased autonomy and assertiveness of the profession, power relations within the health sector remain substantially unchanged.” In his keynote address, Simon Hlungwani, the President of DENOSA, touched on the important aspects that affect both the learner movement and the mother body within the health sector. During the secretariat report, the focus was on nursing education, the Higher Education Amendment Act, state power, illicit financial flows, and triple challenges, among others.

The national elections were held, with six positions open for nominations in eight provinces, leaving two positions to be contested for. The 2017/2018 Committee for the National Student Movement was elected and the names of the delegates are as follows: Thabiso Molusi (National Chairperson), Khulani Silabi (First Deputy Chairperson), Mziwoxolo Qotoyi (Second Deputy Chairperson), Yomelela Mngqabashe (National Secretary), Katlego Diatshwana (Deputy Secretary), and Lebogang Makoana (National Organiser). The delegates sat for commission before the social activity, but unfortunately owing to time constraints, the reports for commission were not presented to the house. It was decided that these reports will be sent to the newly elected National Committee via email.

The organisation gives rise to the young lions with the capacity to achieve quality nursing education and better working conditions for both present and future nurses. The struggle continues.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, we thank the mother body DENOSA for organising such an informative and incisive congress for the Student Movement. Secondly, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the DENOSA Student Movement for making this congress possible, thus uniting us all as future leaders of the healthcare system. Special thanks to the management of the School of Nursing Sciences of the North-West University (Mafikeng campus) for granting us the opportunity to attend the congress. We also want to thank all the people who contributed directly and indirectly to making the congress a success. Lastly, we thank Dr Leepile Sehularo for his expert input in compiling this report.