

# IMPROVEMENT OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING THROUGH TEACHING AND LEARNING

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## Introduction and Background

The revolution of the nursing education is in the hands of the South African Nursing Students' Association (SANSA), as it has been supported during the third annual FUNDISA student forum held at the Mafikeng campus of the North-West University (NWU).

For the past three years SANSA has been holding annual symposiums with a goal of improving the image of the nursing profession in general. One of its main aims is to inculcate the spirit of professionalism among nursing students, the future professional nurses and leaders of the healthcare system. The purpose of this event was to bring together the nursing students from various universities to find solutions to the challenges



faced by nursing students in South Africa. The symposium formed another stepping stone to bring nursing students closer to the ideal nursing profession of the twenty-first century, and to build their ideal profession today.

## Presentations

The event took place from 12 to 14 July 2017 at the Mafikeng campus of the NWU. The symposium brought together 14 universities that offer a degree in nursing and two students from a nursing college in the Northern Cape. About 42 students from these universities attended the symposium. Some students were accompanied by university lecturers.

The event comprised a number of activities and presentations as set out below.

Ms Matumelo Motaung, a second-year student at the NWU outlined the significance of remembering the true values that the nursing students present during their training.

Mrs J. Sebaeng presented the theme: Unearthing the improvement of clinical competence in professional nursing through learning and teaching, “demystifying the popular belief among nurses with regard to those who can work, those who can’t teach”, and linked the content with professional socialisation.

The guest speaker, Mrs K. Mahumapelo (the First lady of the North West province), gave a speech based on Roche’s five Cs of caring (Commitment, Competence, Conscience, Confidence, and Compassion) and how they relate to the theme.

The following presentations on nursing specialities were given:

- Primary Healthcare – Mrs Montshioa
- Forensic Nursing Science – Mrs J. Sebaeng
- Operation Room Nursing Science – Ms Lethale
- Trauma and Emergency Care – Mrs Motsilenyane
- Specialist Midwifery – Ms Sithole
- Non-clinical specialties (Nursing Education and Nursing Administration) – Prof. Rakhudu
- Medical and Surgical Nursing Science: Critical Care and Nephrology – Dr Mphuthi
- Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing Science – Prof. Pienaar

The FUNDISA CEO, Dr K. E. Mokoka delineated the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals. During her presentation, Dr Mokoka encouraged the nursing students to have hope in nursing irrespective of the bad publicity.

## Social Activities

The first evening ended with a social event which was held at the Mafikeng Hotel School and which consisted of a grand opening gala dinner of the symposium. The theme of the social event was African indigenous knowledge. Guests were entertained by a live band performance and the School of Nursing Sciences choir.

## Awards

Awards were given to the best performing institutions for SANSA projects, the outgoing SANSA committee and the FUNDISA CEO for sailing the ship selflessly.

## National SANSA Committee Election Meeting

The new committee election meeting started off with a discussion of the elections which were to be conducted in the near future. A number of challenges were discussed and resolutions were proposed, taking into account the responsibilities and objectives of the upcoming committee.

Successful national committee elections took place on the second day (13 July 2017). The School of Nursing Sciences NWU at the Mafikeng Campus had to eliminate the other two positions that they were voted for to reserve the National Chairperson position which was taken by Ms Motaung. Again, the NWU won the first prize for student presentations, the presenter being Mpumelelo Mthembu, a first-year nursing student.

The symposium ended with a productive debate in which all the students engaged. The debate comprised the following topics:

- Do clinical hours determine clinical competence?
- Should euthanasia be legalised?
- Should registered nurses be called sisters?
- Would a stipend for student nurses attract bad nurses?

## Conclusion

Every student who attended the symposium should carry the task to report to their heads of departments, share by word of mouth with friends and colleagues, show them the need to move one step away from the cliché “normal routine” and join the motion towards a better profession. As future nurses, nursing students need to make every second count by being the best agents of change.

Our patients are not a “bed number” and a diagnosis, but human beings who should be given care, dignity and respect not only out of obligation but also out of compassion. At

the end of life, what really matters is to build an ideal nursing profession of the twenty-first century.

## Acknowledgements

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