

3rd SA Nurses' Conference: A resounding success

By Sibongiseni Delihlazo



The three-day 3rd SA Nurses' Conference proved to be a great success as nursing practitioners from all corners of the profession converged and exchanged valuable information on how to take nursing forward on educations, regulation, and practice.

The line-up of speakers did not disappoint as they kept the audience glued on the screens on the conference venue in what has become a valuable conference for the nursing profession. From the registration, to exhibition stalls, workshops and plenary session in the main hall, the more than 800 nurses interacted with enthusiasm on holistic healthcare provision.

Some of the speakers at the conference included the country's number accounting officer on health, Health Minister Dr Aaron

Motsoaledi, who delivered a more than hour and a half on NHI and the state of readiness of some of the pilot districts.

Executive Mayor of The City of Ekurhuleni, Councillor Mondli Gungubele; Chief Nursing Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya; Registrar and CEO at the South African Nursing Council (SANC), Thandi Manganye; DENOSA President, Simon Hlungwani, Council for Higher Education's Dr Naidoo were some of the presenters on the first day of the conference.

On second day, Head at the School of Public Health at Wits, Professor Laetitia Rispel, and Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, were the key main speakers on the second day at plenary.

The last day was addressed by Head of Nursing Science at University of Pretoria, Professor Mavis Mulaudzi; Chairperson for Commission on Gender Equality, Mfanozelwe Shozi, and Traditional healer, Dr Conrad Tsiane all made presentations at plenary on the last day.

City of Ekurhuleni striving to digitize medical records of patients

Delivering his welcoming message to delegates in the city, Executive Mayor Mondli Gungubele briefed nurses that over 80 percent of patients affected by TB in the City were on the



medication programme, and that the city was putting measures in place to implement the provincial government's undertaking to digitize patients' medical information so that they are easily retrievable in every health facility they visit, so that health practitioners could easily treat patients with appropriate medication.

Gungubele emphasized his long-standing belief that for health institutions to be run more effectively, nurses must be at the helm for the training they receive is society-centred.

NIMART hailed for life expectancy increase

DENOSA President, Simon Hlungwani, hailed the role of nurses in the increase in the country's life expectancy among South Africans to 62 years. Hlungwani also emphasized the support of NHI as the only vehicle to deliver quality healthcare to every South African regardless of their socio-economic standing. He urged nurses to comment on the NHI White Paper before it closes on 31 March 2016.

Making sense of the Nursing Strategy

Chief Nursing Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya, also credited NIMART for curbing one of the burden of diseases by 75 percent through CHCs. She mentioned a strong move on national nursing education policy and support for nursing colleges in their quest to offer new nursing qualifications. She added that clinical education is to be strengthened through preceptorship programmes and that there will be emphasis on capacity building for all academic personnel.



Status on moving nursing education to Department of Higher Education and Training

Dr K Naidoo gave an update on the process of moving nursing education to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). She said role clarification is being looked into as Education is a national competency housed under DHET in accordance with National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act 67, 2008, and that nursing is no exception but nursing education institutions also have to meet SANC professional requirements. She urged that articulation process for legacy programme be accelerated and as it was important that it be aligned with Higher Education Qualifications sub-Framework.

Update on what has been done by South African Nursing Council (SANC)

Registrar and CEO, Thandi Manganye, updated the conference on what SANC has achieved and it is in the process. According to her, SANC has adopted a facilitative developmental approach in reaching to nurses and nursing profession. She announced that SANC is working on improved turn-around time at SANC offices, and that the Council is embarking on a feasibility study for establishing provincial offices. With the new qualification imminent, SANC is conducting a survey to all nurses via SMS on the choice of the distinguishing devices. She announced the extension of deadline for 2016 annual fee payment to 30 April 2016.

Creating a quality revolution in health and the role of nurses

Head of the School of Public Health at Wits, Professor Laetitia Rispel, delivered a key presentation on the rendition of quality health and the role of nurses. Summarily, she emphasized the following roles for nurses:

- Clinical competence and scope of practice (code of ethics and pledge of service);
- Understanding and teaching members of the ground on Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its objectives;
- Behaviour change by promoting it and recognizing it, as well as discouraging and penalizing bad behaviour.
- "Do not underestimate the collective power of nurses to improve population health outcomes and health systems performance," she cautioned.

On National Health Insurance (NHI) by Health Minister

Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (middle) making his entry at the 3rd SA Nurses' Conference in Birchwood Hotel in Benoni flanked by DENOSA President, Simon Hlungwani (left) and Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya

Minister highlighted the following in his presentation on NHI:

There will be a workshop on NHI whitepaper in May 2016 for DENOSA whereby comments, inputs will be entertained by Minister of Health u



Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (middle) making his entry at the 3rd SA Nurses' Conference in Birchwood Hotel in Benoni flanked by DENOSA President, Simon Hlungwani (left) and Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya

Historical context of health care financing dating back in 1928 whereby a Commission on Old age Pension and NHI; the 1943 African Claims that proposed equal treatment in the scheme of Social Security; and the Freedom Charter as adopted by the Congress of the People, 1955;

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: VISION FOR HEALTH 2030 (where NHI will play a key role)

- Life expectancy to increase to 70 years for both men and females
- Generation of under 20 HIV free u Infant mortality rate less than 20 deaths per thousand live births
- Under five's mortality rate of less than thirty per thousand live births
- Significant shift in equity, efficiency, effectiveness and quality of health care provision
- Strong preventative health care
- The risk posed by the social determinants of diseases and adverse ecological factors to be reduced significantly

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) OF THE UNITED NATIONS

u Goal 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and promote wellbeing for all ages u Goal 3.8 Achieve Universal Health Coverage including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



Photo Gallery

