Edendale Hospital (EDH) successfully hosted the Nurses Day Celebration on 11 May 2012 at the Nurses Home Hall. The main aim was to acknowledge the effort and dedication of the nurses.

The theme for the day was “Closing the gap; from evidence to action”

It was a pleasure to see all the nurses well dressed in their white uniforms attending this marvelous event held in the hospital.

The ceremony was opened with a prayer by the Honourable Rev. B.A Mkhize. The programme was directed by the ever inspiring Mrs R.S Shezi. The Edendale Hospital CEO Mrs ZSI Ndwandwe was also among the guests attending the ceremony and welcomed and acknowledged all guests present. Words of wisdom appreciation for the nurse’s efforts on behalf of Edendale community were shared by the Chairperson of the Hospital Board, Mr ML Sikhakhane.

Rev M Moleko in her key note address began her speech by saying “. 12th May 2012 marks the 192 birthday of the nursing icon Florence Nightingale who, as we are all aware, was born in Florence –Italy, on 12th May 1820.She began her nursing career in 1850. Florence regarded nursing as a high calling, a lifelong commitment to patient care.” She was known as “A woman of strength and innovation, one of the greatest pioneers of nursing profession”

Coming closer to home, we honour and remember another nursing icon –Cecilia Makiwane, the first African woman, to qualify as a general nurse, for her contribution to nursing in the Eastern Cape.Despite her poor background, she was determined to care for the sick even though nursing salaries at the time were very low. She viewed nursing as a calling.

We fondly remembered Beatrice Msimang (later married to Rev Walter Gcabrashe of Edendale-Pietermaritzburg) the first African nurse with a “Double Qualified (General and midwifery qualifications) qualification”–She set the pace for Kwazulu Natal.

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uMnyango Wezempilo. Departement van Gesondheid

_Fighting Disease, Fighting Poverty, Giving Hope_
We saluted Mama Albertina Sisulu and we will continue to remember her contribution to nursing during her 43 years of service.

The nurses of KwaZulu-Natal proudly remember the academic and professional achievements of some of their nursing icons-Professor Philda Nzimande and Grace Mashaba who were among the first nursing educators to obtain doctoral degrees in Nursing, Professor Philda Nzimande was a first black nurse to becoming the first African National president of DENOSA.

In conclusion Rev Moleko quoted Nurse Fehlani Mahlangu “Let us all learn something from our nursing heroes, be more caring, to our patients. Let us come together, old and new, to share our experience and come up with ways to improve our profession and change some of the negative perceptions of the communities we serve”. (Nursing Update-May 2009)

Let us put into practice our Nursing Update Slogan “NURSES UNITED IN PURSUING SERVICE EXCELLENCE”

Above Left: Rev MM Moleko – delivering her key note address

Above Right: The programme director Mrs R.S Shezi singing during the memorable ceremony of the Edendale Hospital International Nurses day.

Above left: Edendale nurses well dressed in their white uniforms.

Above Right: The guests table from left: Rev M Moleko, Mrs ZSI Ndwandwe CEO Edendale Hospital, Mrs NC Majola- Edendale Nursing College Principal, Mrs M
Monaheng retired Edendale Hospital Matron & College Former Principal and Mrs NE Mhlongo – member of the EDH board.

Above: Miss SB Ntuli – stating the purpose of the day

Article and photos by Samke Mncube, Edendale Hospital PRO