2024 RSANGERY 2nd Edition | July - Dec 2024

Durses And Midwives Display Every Solution Display Solution Dis

NMCZ, SOLIDAMED Launch Decentralised Training Guidlines

NMCZ Records 2 Percent Pass Rate Increase In May/june Examinations

Health Minister Displeased Professionalism Important In With Over Enrolment In The Health Sector, Nursing Schools

Nkulukusa

Plus much more...

An NMCZ news publication providing regulatory information, current affairs and development in the healthcare sector

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Complaints Flow Chart

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

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Message from the **Registrar & CEO**

he Nursing and Midwifery Council

of Zambia places great importance on the need for professional behaviour amongst its practitioners, it is against this background that professional practice is part of the training of nurses and midwives. Professional behaviour encompasses a range of values, qualities and actions that ensure quality patient care and the maintenance of the integrity of nurses and midwives.

Some of the ethical values which we would want our nurses and midwives to embrace include the following but not limited to:

Ethical Practice: adherence to ethical guidelines, maintaining patient confidentiality, and obtaining informed consent.
 Compassion and Empathy: showing understanding and sensitivity to

the needs and feelings of patients and their families.

3. Competence: maintaining and updating skills and knowledge through ongoing education and training.

4. Professional appearance: dressing appropriately according to healthcare settings, while maintaining a neat and clean appearance.

5. Respect: treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or beliefs.

6. Advocacy: acting in the best interest of patients, ensuring their needs and rights are prioritized.

Embodying these behaviours upholds the reputation of our profession and will ensure we return the respect and glory that the nursing profession is supposed to have.

Pleasant Reading!!!

Beauty Siansende Zimba Registrar and C.E.O



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Editorial

elcome to the second edition of the Nurses and Midwives Newsletter, after successfully publishing our first edition in July of 2024, we bring you this edition that covers the Councils operations for the period July to December 2024.

This edition covers the awarding of a nurse and midwife for their excellent provision of service to the public, while we are alive to the fact that the nursing and midwifery profession has seen a lot of attack from the general public, we acknowledge that there are more noble nurses out there and these awards are testament of the same.

Also inside this issue is a story about over enrolment in nursing schools, the Minister of Health speaking during the Tutors and Nurse Leaders' Workshop in Livingstone advised nursing schools to uphold the NMCZ standard of only having 50 nursing students per intake. We also feature a story on the 2 percent pass rate increase in the May/June examination and the official opening of Serenje School of Nursing which is a community project in Serenje District of Central Province.

We conclude the edition with an introduction of our new members of staff and a photo focus to sum up the period.

Enjoy reading

Mailesi Banda Editor



Investment in health is key to attaining a healthy and productive population"

Mr. Hakainde Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia





A Glance at NMCZ

he Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia is a statutory body established in 1970 under the Nurses and Midwives Act No.55 of 1970 with an express mandate to regulate nursing and midwifery education and practice. This Act was repealed and replaced by the Nurses and Midwives Act No.31 of 1997 which redefined the functions of the council and expanded the scope of practice for Nurses and Midwives.

OUR MANDATE

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia is a statutory body mandated to regulate the education, training and practice of Nurses and Midwives.



VISION

"A world class regulator of nursing and midwifery education, training and practice"

MISSION

"To regulate education, training and practice of nurses and midwives to ensure safe nursing and midwifery care to the public"





NMCZ, SOLIDAMED LAUNCH DECENTRALISED TRAINING GUIDELINES

HERE is a significant challenge of qualified professionals, in rural areas, and an urgent need for enhanced training programs is paramount, says Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia Vice Board Chairperson, Bob Sakahilu.

Dr. Sikahilu said NMCZ prioritizes addressing the challenges by focusing on the healthcare needs of rural populations through decentralized training initiatives aimed at retaining healthcare workers in underserved areas. He was speaking during the launch of the Decentralised Nurse Midwifery Training Implementation Guidelines by SolidaMed.

"We advocate for policies that support our professions while emphasizing their critical role within our healthcare system. Quality assurance remains paramount; thus, we conduct regular assessments of training institutions to ensure compliance with national standards, "he said.

He explained that the factors driving professionals away from rural settings included inadequate facilities, limited resources, lack of professional development opportunities, as well as socio-economic challenges adding that to combat this crisis effectively, there was need to advocate for targeted training programs that equip healthcare workers with skills relevant to rural health needs while encouraging local enrolment through community-based initiatives.

"Incentives such as financial bonuses or housing support can help retain health workers in these regions while recognizing their dedication is crucial for motivation. Strong policies prioritizing health workforce distribution are necessary alongside collaboration between government entities, NGOs, and local organizations to create sustainable solutions for our health workforce challenge," he said. He added that the decentralised training model represented a pioneering approach that aimed bringing healthcare education closer to underserved communities thereby reducing travel barriers while tailoring training content to address specific local health challenges.

Dr. Sakahilu commended SolidaMed for being instrumental in promoting the model through partnering with local institutions ensuring alignment with national standards while focusing on local priorities.

And, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Beauty Siansende Zimba said there is need to reflect on the vital role that nursing and midwifery plays in the healthcare system.

Mrs. Zimba said the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia has been at the forefront ensuring that healthcare practitioners are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge aimed at providing high-quality care to the community.

"We stand united in our commitment to enhancing nursing and midwifery education through innovative approaches such as decentralized training models. This initiative aims not only to improve accessibility but also to tailor education to meet the unique needs of our rural populations," she said

Meanwhile, SolidaMed Country Director, John Tierney appealed to nurse educators to be proactive in the sharing of knowledge in order to positively impact the profession adding that documenting knowledge is important as it allows more people to utilise it.

"Capturing knowledge is important because it allows people to use the information over a period of time hence the launch of this document is of great importance to SolidaMed," he said.



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NURSES AND MIDWIVES DROP THE INJECTION FOR SOME GLAM



T was a night of glam and splendor as nurses and midwives around the country dropped the injection for the folk and knife and dined away at the 2024 Annual Nurses and Midwives Gala held at Lusaka's Pamodzi hotel.

The night which was characterized by dance and drink as a Zambian party would have, saw these professionals dance and socialise in an effort to rejuvenate and achieve the provision of quality health care to the people.

Clad in different attires that added colour to the event, that

started with low soothing music and later rejuvenated to the high pitch sounds that encouraged the swinging of waists, heads and legs as the sounds could not be ignored even by the most discouraged person.

The Guest of Honour, Ministry of Health Director Nursing Services, Daphne Shamambo said the event was meant to celebrate the role nurses and midwives play in the provision of health care.

Mrs. Shamambo said it was time to reflect on the critical roles that each one of the practitioners played in advancing



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care to the nation especially while the world is facing environmental and health challenges due to climate change.

"As nurses and midwives, we do not only offer compassionate and respective care but are there to protect the environment and offer community education on the health impacts that lead to climate change," she said.

Mrs. Shamambo said the Government places great importance on the welfare of nurses and midwives adding that the Ministry of Health was in the process of procuring uniforms for nurses and midwives.

"I wish to report that government is procuring uniforms for nurses and midwives, and we have seen tremendous improvements in the number of senior positions introduced in the structure for both nurses and midwives,".



"This year we have gained four Chief Nursing Officer positions and we have seen the coming in of Clinical Midwife being added to the structure and for us this is important, she added.

During the same gala, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia awarded a Nurse and Midwife for their exceptional service to the profession.

Speaking when she presented the awards, Council Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Beauty Zimba said hard work will always be acknowledged.

She said the Council had decided to honour the two because of their exceptional service and compassionate which led to many lives being saved.



The awarded were Rhoda Amafumba a renowned midwife, who has served the country and even does so in her retirement.

She has over 40 years experience in midwifery and nursing and Betty Njunji who is serving as Senior Nursing Officer at Ndola Teaching Hospital.

Mrs. Njunji was discovered through Facebook by the Hospital Public Relations Unit that shared a post about how on the morning of November 7th, 2024, a tragic accident at Kafulafuta involving three vehicles left 53 people injured, 26 of whom were rushed to Ndola Teaching Hospital (NTH) in a flurry of activity. As ambulances arrived one after another, each carrying patients in critical condition, the hospital's emergency team scrambled to provide immediate care.

Among the chaos and urgency, one story stood out—a tale of compassion, dedication, and selfless care that would not go unnoticed.

Matron Betty Njuju, a Senior Nursing Officer at NTH, was one of the many professionals on the frontlines that fateful day.

As ambulances poured into the emergency bay, her attention was drawn to a tiny, one-year-old girl who arrived in the midst of the mayhem.

The child, who was crying uncontrollably, was distressed, calling for her mother—who had been injured in the same accident.

The child was in a state of fear and confusion, unable to understand the chaos around her.

Amid the emergency response, Matron Njuju didn't hesitate. She immediately took the child into her arms, providing comfort and a sense of security in a moment of unimaginable turmoil.

The little one's cries echoed in the busy halls of the hospital, but Matron Njuju's soothing voice and caring embrace brought a sense of calm amidst the frenzy.

While the emergency team worked swiftly to receive and treat the many casualties, Matron Njuju's focus remained on the child, ensuring she felt safe and loved, even during the crisis.

In the hours that followed, the identity of the mother remained unknown. The child's frantic cries for her mother only added to the urgency of the search. Despite the overwhelming responsibility of caring for multiple critically injured patients, Matron Njuju never wavered in her care for the little girl.



She patiently held her, offering comfort, and reassuring her as best as she could. Her dedication to the child became a beacon of hope and humanity amid the overwhelming wave of injuries flooding the hospital.

It was only after some time that the child's mother was found—injured but alive. The sense of relief that washed over the staff, and especially Matron Njuju, was palpable. It was a moment of quiet victory amid the disaster—a reminder of the profound impact of compassionate care.

Nurse Betty Njuju's actions that day exemplified the very essence of what it means to be a caregiver. Her unwavering dedication to this child, a stranger, in the face of mass casualties and the pressing demands of her role, speaks volumes about her character.

She is not just a nurse; she is a beacon of compassion, a source of comfort for those in their darkest hours.



For her incredible dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment to her patients, Matron Betty Njuju truly deserves to be celebrated as Nurse of the Year.

Her care went far beyond her professional duty it was an act of love and humanity, one that will be remembered by those whose lives she touched, especially that of a young child who will forever carry the memory of a nurse who held her when she needed it most.





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Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia, Luanshya road, Villa Elizabetha, Lusaka, Zambia

Health Minister Displeased With Over Enrolment In Nursing Schools

MINISTER of Health, Elijah Muchima has expressed displeasure at some nursing schools for the over enrolment of students.

The Minister urged, school administrators to limit the number of students enrolled according to the standard set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia in order to avoid compromising the quality of nurses and midwives being trained. Dr. Muchima was speaking when he officially opened the Nurses and Midwives Educators Strategic Meeting, held in Livingstone. "I am displeased with some nursing and midwifery schools that have a tendency of over enrolling students



beyond their capacity to train, this is unacceptable, over-enrolling has the potential to compromise training and education which will lead to the production of incompetent nurses and midwives," he said.

He said the quality of nurses and midwives should not be compromised as they are the backbone of the health sector adding that colleges and universities should ensure they employ competent lecturers.

"I direct that no new programme should commence without adequate structures to support the new programmes, new programmes should only proceed if the school has qualified staff to teach these programmes," he said.

The Minister added that visibility is important in the clinical areas stating that it was important for the tutors to follow up students when operating in clinical areas.

"You have the responsibility to produce a nurse or midwife who is not only knowledgeable but competent and capable of providing quality health care to our people, the attainment of this health service is important and dependant on the availability of professional nurses and midwives that you produce," he said. Meanwhile, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia, Board Chairperson Patricia Mukwato said the Council has continuously developed strategies that are meant to ensure that quality nursing and midwifery education is maintained in Zambia. Prof. Mukwato said this aimed at ensuring that training institutions produce a future nurse that will not only be informed but competent in the delivery of nursing and midwifery care to the public.

She announced that the Council recently undertook a countrywide monitoring of Higher Education



Participants at the Tutors and Nurse Leaders meeting pose for a photo with the Minister of Health, Hon Elijah Muchima



Institutions that offer nursing and midwifery programmes adding that the exercise was meant to ascertain the student tutor ratio and adherence to the set standards in the provision of nursing and midwifery training.

"The Council remains a key player in "The Council remains a key player in the delivery of quality health care for all Zambians regardless of their economic brackets and in order to achieve this milestone we are alive to the fact that a quality nurse or midwife starts with quality training and nurse/midwife educators and trainers are very important partners, "she said.

Prof. Mukwato advised tutors to embrace the use of technology in their execution of duty.

"It would please you to note that the Council conducts examination registration and the registration of newly qualified nurses and midwives online and we have recently introduced online transfer of students from one learning institution to another. "

"This has not only promoted efficiency but also brought about timely delivery of quality services to our practitioners," she said.

Meanwhile, SolidaMed Country Director, John Tierney said they had piloted the decentralised learning model in 10 learning institutions across the country.

Mr. Tierney said they had also recently launched a state-of-the-art skills lab in Kabwe of Central Province.

"A new state of the art kills plus learning centre meant to bring students from different sectors to strengthen their skills, before they work on an actual patient. The centre is second of four centres yet to be opened, "he reported.









PHOTO FOCUS



















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1) Former Ministry of Health Permanent

Secretary for Administration, Professor Chrsitopher Simoonga tours the Councils stand during the Trade Fair.

2) NMCZ Inspectors pose for a photo during nursing and midwifery audits at Luangwa District Hospital

3) NMCZ Member of Staff attending to clients

4), 7),12) Graduation ceremonies for Nurses and Midwives

5) NMCZ, Northern Region Manager, James Mesa and Senior Nurses pose for a photo during the Induction of the Nursing and Midwifery Care Audit Committee at Kitwe Teaching Hospital

6) Participants pose for a group photo during the Preceptorship Training for HIV Nurse Practitioner at Pizzo Lodge in Kabwe
8) Northern Region Members of Staff participate in a tag of war during team building

9) Maurice Chiluya, an unemployed nurse, who resuscitated a baby that was found dumped near Hero's Stadium
10) NMCZ Team pose for a photo during the Agriculture and Commercial Show
11) South-West Regional Office Members of Staff pose for a group photo with the first group of Nurses and Midwives to be registered from the office
13) NMCZ Team in Kabompo for the Zambezi Corridor Environmental one

Zambezi Corriaor Environmen Health 2024; CAPAH Expo



PASS RATE INCREASE for 2024 MAY/JUNE EXAMINATIONS



HE Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia recorded a two (2%) percent pass rate improvement in the May/June 2024 examination as compared to the Nov/December examinations.



Council Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Beauty Zimba said out of a total of Ten Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-two (10,742) candidates that sat for the examination, Five-Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-seven (5,837)



passed representing a pass rate of 54% compared to 52% recorded during the November/December 2023 examination session.

Speaking when she announced the results at a media briefing, Mrs Zimba expressed concern over the number of Higher education institution failing to adhere to set standards.

"I have noted with great concern the increase in the number of higher education institutions not adhering to set standards and guidelines in the provision of nursing and midwifery education and training,".

"I am alive to the fact that quality health care provision starts with training and once, we miss this we compromise the quality of health care being offered to our patients and clients," she said.

Mrs. Zimba however assured the public that the Council is closely monitoring the higher education institutions to ensure that they adhere to the standards of training adding that institutions not adhering to the standards of training will be reprimanded in accordance with the provisions of the law and guidelines.

The Registrar encouraged the newly qualified nurses and midwives to be professional in their practice.

"I encourage you to be professional nurses and midwives who uphold values of our profession, professional behaviour encompasses a range of values, qualities and actions that ensure quality patient care and the maintenance of integrity of nursing and midwifery, she said.





NURSES CHALLENGED TO UPHOLD ETHICS

A spectacle that covered the entire country, filled with smiles and great expectations over what was to follow, clad in white and blue were the nurses and midwives around the country as they participated in the various graduation ceremonies.

hese ceremonies were held in all the 10 provinces as both private and public nursing institutions came together and celebrated the newly qualified nurses.

During the Central Province Graduation Ceremony, the Provincial Minister Mwabashike Nkulukusa advised the graduates to be compassionate nurses that serve the patients with care.

Mr Nkulukusa condemned the trend by health workers who are only using the rural areas to gain employment but later request for transfers to the city.

"I want to think that all the nurses that have graduated today are ready to serve anywhere in the country, because as government we are not



Mr Nkulukusa condemned the trend by health workers who are **only using the rural areas to gain employment** but later request for transfers to the city."



only a government for the city population but also the rural population.

"It has come to our attention that most civil servants are using the rural areas just to gain employment and immediately they are hired they begin to push for transfers leaving the rural population without the much-needed service," he said.

Meanwhile, his Western Province counterpart, Kapelwa Mbangweta said the government is committed at ensuring more health workers are employed adding that the province would also benefit from the interventions to bring health care close to the people.

And, speaking at the various

graduation ceremonies through representatives the Nursing and

Midwifery Council of Zambia Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Beauty Zimba said the council remains resolute in its quest to improve the quality of nursing education, training and practice.

Mrs. Zimba noted with concern that the professional dress code (uniforms) worn by some practitioners was not a prototype of the prescribed standard in relation to the length, size, design or sometimes the colour.

She said in extreme cases, the nurses and midwives are wearing artificial nails, artificial eyelashes, visible tattoos whilst on duty adding that

some practitioners are even wearing uniforms which are either too short,

too tight-fitting or completely distorting the appearance of a professional nurse or midwife.

"Wearing of wrong uniform does not only constitute professional misconduct, but most importantly can interfere with provision of quality and individualized nursing and midwifery care, and in some cases makes the practitioner to be perceived as culturally incompetent by the clients and the communities they serve," she said.

The Registrar charged that the Council will not tolerate the unprofessional and inappropriate dress code adding that nursing and midwifery leaders should help enforce adherence to the prescribed professional dress code or be held accountable in a professional sense.







"

in extreme cases, the nurses and midwives are wearing artificial nails, artificial eyelashes, visible tattoos whilst on duty. Some practitioners are even wearing uniforms which are either too short, too tight-fitting or completely distorting the appearance of a professional nurse or midwife."





"Professionalism Important In The Health Sector," Nkulukusa

CENTRAL Province Minister, Mwabashike Nkulukusa says professionalism is important in the health sector adding that nurses should always exercise patience in the execution of their duties.

The Minister said it was important for nursing schools to ensure that they produce quality nurses adding that government is currently battling with conflicts between nurses and the general public.

"Nurses are important to the development of each country and an investment in the future but there is need in as much as we are training these nurses to ensure they are equipped with skills that will help them exhibit emotional intelligence in their practice,".

"When we graduate these products, we should ensure it is a full product that we are releasing to the community and am happy that you have assured us that the product coming from here is good," he said.

The Minister added that while it is common knowledge that the community comes with different temperaments, it is important that the health providers control their emotions.

He challenged the nurses to ensure they provide education to the members of the public on some of the services nurses are supposed to do through consistent community engagement.

Mr. Nkulukusa was speaking when he officially opened the Serenje School of Nursing which has been in existence since 2019.

Meanwhile, Serenje School of Nursing Principal Tutor, Beatrice Mubanga said the school recorded an 82 percent pass rate with their first cohort of midwifery students who completed their training in 2022.

"We have achievements recorded since the school was opened, the programme started with a first enrolment of 110 students who completed training in 2022 and we since continued to enroll every year".

"We are training registered midwives and our pass rate have been high with the first group recording an 82 percent pass rate and a 92 percent pass rate for the 2023 intake," she said.

She explained that the college started in April 2019 with preparatory meetings adding that the school is a community project and was fully funded by the community and the council that provided CDF Funding to renovate the old hospital and turned it into the school.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF



MORGAN CHUUNGA

Has Joined the Council as Director-Human Capital and Administration. He holds a Masters in Public Administration from Sun-Yatsen University in China and a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration from the University of Zambia. He has over 15 years work experience having worked for Mwinilunga District Hospital for two years and Public Service Management Division for over 13 years.



LT. COL TILTON HAMAYANDA (Rtd)

Fills up the position of Finance Officer-Revenue. He is a ZICA Chartered Accountant and currently pursuing a Master of Science in Accounting and Finance at the University of Zambia. He has over 20 years work experienced gained from serving the Zambia National service in various positions.



JOSEPH MUTAMBO

Brings on board his expertise as Registration and Licensing Officer, he holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Zambia, a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and a Diploma in nursing. He has over 12 years work experience having had worked for Nkana College of Nursing and Mwami Mission Hospital



CHILELEKO HANTUBA

Joins the Council as Information and Technology Officer, he holds a Bachelors Degree in Information Systems from the Copperbelt University. He has over 7 years work experience having had worked for Copperbelt University, Zurich Consultants and DAPP.



EVARISTO MAFULAUZI

The position of Standards and Education Officer is what Evaristo has gone ahead to fill up at the Council. He holds a Masters Degree in global health from Uppsala University, a Bachelors Degree in Nursing, a diploma in nursing and certificate in midwifery. He has over 20 years work experience having had worked for Mtendere Mission Hospital and Livingstone College of Nursing and Midwifery.





NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

(Nursing and Midwifery Act No. 10 of 2019)

COMPLAINTS AND CASE HANDLING PROCEDURE



