



INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY NEWSLETTER

June, 2023



A UNIQUE, DIFFERENT, EXHILARATING & HEART WARMING DAY

Unique, different, exhilarating and heart warming is the best description for the 2023 International Nurses' Day (IND) Commemoration. NONM president, Shouts Simeza, said this is the best IND celebration he has ever witnessed. Many who attended said so too. If you were there, you would even tell it yourself; your own heart would be warmed in response to the music by the Health Education Unit Band and other activities of the day and you wouldn't resist standing up and gracefully moving your leg a little bit. >>to page 2

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Off-loading relief items at the Camp



Food stuffs, Fabric, Masks, etc, offloaded.



Special items such as shoes were also provided to nurses/midwives affected by the cyclone

On one side of the camp, outreach health services (mobile clinics) were in progress as the commemorations continued. Thus the people dwelling at the camp and nearby villages had an opportunity to access medical check-ups for cancer, BP, Diabetes, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and other services right at their doorstep. A crowning activity of the day was handing over food, clothes, masks and buckets worth millions of Kwachas to the brothers and sisters affected by cyclone Freddy. Their joy could not be hidden. The camp was Katuma, T/A Nogwe, the district Mulanje.

Apparently, the main objective of the event was met. According to Simeza the celebrations were moved from Mzuzu to Mulanje to cheer up people who were affected by cyclone Freddy early this year.

He said: "Being a day of celebration we recalled that our colleagues, our brethren here in Mulanje like other parts of the southern region, went into misery because of the cyclone Freddy impact. So, we said let's celebrate with them in their camps, so we chose this site to come and celebrate and cheer them up. normally, we would have been in Blantyre, we would have been in Mzuzu, Karonga, you know, elsewhere."

Weighing in on the theme for the day, *Our Nurses. Our Future.*, Simeza indicated that it is a strong theme that is very meaningful all over the world.

He said: "When we are talking about this theme, the literal meaning is that Malawi will not grow in the health sector without nurses. So, nurses cannot be left behind. We have Universal Health Coverage (UHC), 2030. So, if we don't have nurses>>

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doing what they are supposed to do, being motivated, being supported, we won't achieve Universal Health Coverage."

Minister of Health, Khumbize Kandondo Chiponda, who was the guest of honour at the event hailed nurses and midwives for the important and selfless work which they are doing in the country.

She said: "I'm always very grateful because I've always been saying that nurses and midwives are the backbone of the health sector; nurses are doing so much more. We are so proud of them for the work that they are doing. It's not a very easy work. You are aware that we have been through Cholera for the last 12 months, now the

numbers are going down but that success is because of the work which our nurses and midwives have been doing."

"In terms of maternal death the numbers are getting much much better meaning more women are able to deliver and the child is also alive and this is because of the work of midwives as well," she added.

Chiponda also said that the government is aware that there is a high vacancy rate in the ministry of health but was quick to say that recruitment is ongoing. She also lamented that at times recruitment processes have not been following proper procedures.

She said: "Unfortunately, sometimes recruitment hasn't been as procedural, we are still looking at recruitment processes, we are in talks with the associations, but also the nurses' council as well which is responsible for the professional conduct of nurses and midwives."

Chiponda also expressed gratitude to partners from the private sector, such as UNICEF, World Health Organisation and World Bank, who have helped the government to recruit nurses and midwives.

THAT COULD NOT BE WITHOUT PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONS OF GOODWILL

NONM therefore wishes to recognize the persons and organisations below for the various contributions and sacrifices which they made for the event to be a success

	ORGANISATION/INDIVIDUAL		
1	Hon. Khumbize Kandondo Chiponda	15	Ekwendeni Mission Hospital
2	Seed Global Health	16	Upenyu Private Clinic
3	Nali Company LTD	17	Ekwendeni College of Health Sc.
4	Thirsty Juice Company - City Super Market	18	Mzuzu Health Centre
5	Speed Courier and Logistics	19	Karonga DHO
6	Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust (MLW)	20	NONM North Zone Office
7	Nowergian Nurses Organisation (NNO)	21	Holy Family College
8	Deayang Luke NONM Branch	22	Mlare Health Centre
9	St John of God	23	Zomba Central Hospital
10	Mumbwe Medical Centre	24	Child Legacy Hospital
11	Mzuzu Central Hospital	25	Katete Hospital
12	NONM members	26	Matiki Health Centre
13	Febbie Magawa	27	KCH NONM Branch
14	Smith Chipapa		

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MOMENTS CAPTURED ON CAMERA



Primary school pupils were gifted money to help them purchase learning materials to encourage them study more and become nurses/midwives



Moving about making sure everything is running smoothly; Accountant (left), North Zone Chairperson (centre), & Project Coordinator.



“Ndione kuti mukudya zotani” - Minister of Health feasts on the food she found prepared at the camp

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Nurses/Midwives pose for a photo before the official start of the event



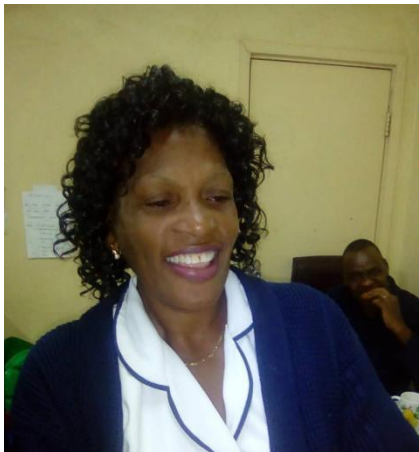
Central West Zone chairperson explaining to Chiponda about one of the mobile health clinics set up at the camp



There's a lot of work that happened in the background to organise and sort items

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NURSES SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE DAY



“This year's nurses' day was really just special & colourful compared with previous years because this year we went to cheer up our friends affected by Cyclone Freddy. The cyclone was very heartbreaking, very disastrous. I am very thankful to everyone who took part organising that this day should be commemorated at the camp. I also thank all nurses and everyone who took part to contribute relief items. May God bless bless you all abundantly.”

- Kambuzi, Mzuzu Central Hospital

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“On this day nurses showcased what they do in their day to day work; loving and caring. On this day, they were really angels reaching out to hopeless people with relief items and health and social services.”

Ken Kaonga - Nurse - Thyolo DHO

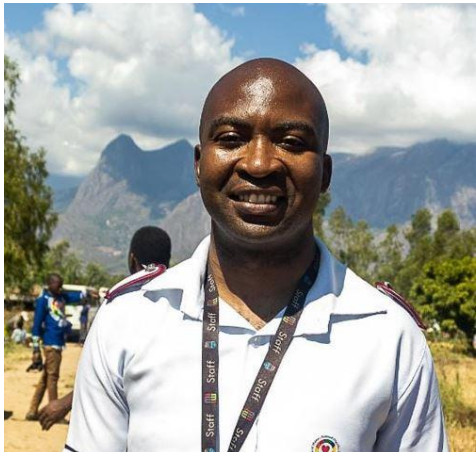
Ken Kaonga - Nurse - Thyolo DHO
 with relief items and health and social services.



“2023 IND was so special because it brought to light how Nurses could be caught up in a similar situation like anyone else without anyone noticing. Cyclone Freddy affected everyone including Nurses and the event showed our true professional values such as Caring, Compassion and Empathy.”

Ndaona Mitole - Nurse - Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust

Trust
 Ndaona Mitole - Nurse - Malawi Liverpool Wellcome
 Caring, Compassion and Empathy.



Vote of Thanks

NONM would like to extend its vote of thanks to The Honourable Minister of Health, Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, MP, for gracing this event, the Secretary for Health, Dr. Samson Mndolo, Director of Administration, Mr. Ben M'bwana, The Deputy Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services in Malawi, Mrs Lucy Mkutumula, Deputy Vice Chancellor of KUHeS, associate Professor, Belinda Gombachika, and all the representatives from the Ministry of Health.

NONM also appreciates the perfect coordination displayed during this event; NONM is grateful to the Mulanje District Council, The DHSS, DMO and DNMO who were on the ground coordinating activities; Mulanje Mission Hospital for the support towards mobile clinics.

Furthermore, NONM extends its thanks to all members of the Main Organizing Committee from Kamuzu Central Hospital, Nurses and Midwives Council of Malawi and KuHes.

NONM is further grateful to all the DHSSs, DNMOs and College and University Principals for your logistical support to all the nurses who came to this event.

JOIN NONM
ENJOY THE BENEFITS

- . Legal representation
- . Capacity building
- . Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- . Best nurse awards
- . Funeral Insurance cover
- . Solidarity with likeminded organisations
- . Collective bargaining (lobbying & advocacy)
- . Leadership grooming & networking
- . Care of carers initiatives

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