



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES WEEK

The Florence Nightingales & Mary Seacoles of Uganda Exhibition

*Showcase of the Nurse and Midwife leaders
(the 'Florence Nightingales & Mary Seacoles) of Uganda
05 - 12 MAY 2020*

RATIONALE: WHY A UGANDAN EXHIBITION?

The Lady with the Lamp and Mother Seacole denied the quid pro quo and paved a way to improve care for the patients/soldiers. The Nurse and Midwife leaders featured in this exhibition have been selected specifically because they also have done the same. They challenged the system then and changed the fraternity - they have played a huge role in what nursing in Uganda is today. For the last 40 years and more, these leaders have defied the odds to achieve milestones that have catapulted nursing to where it is now in our country, Uganda.

We would therefore like to celebrate these Ugandan nurse leaders who have excelled in various categories. For instance those under Education negotiated for higher education in nursing. They designed a curriculum for the first degree program for nurses in Uganda.

These Nurse leaders - our Florence Nightingales and Mary Seacoles, have done tremendous work and through these categories, we would like to celebrate them and showcase their achievements in Uganda and Internationally.

1. We are very optimistic that this Exhibition is an activity that will elevate Ugandan Nurse Leaders and their legacy.
2. It is a unique project to Uganda and we would call upon the rest of the World to follow. It is for us a once in a lifetime opportunity.

HISTORY OF NURSING

A black and white portrait of Florence Nightingale, showing her from the chest up. She is wearing a dark dress with a white lace collar and a white lace headpiece. Her hair is dark and pulled back. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

Florence Nightingale, also known as the "Lady with the Lamp," was an English social reformer and statistician, and the founder of modern nursing. Born on May 12, 1820, in Italy, Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers.

She gave nursing a favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture. In 1860, Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first secular nursing school in the world, and is now part of King's College London. In recognition of her pioneering work in nursing, the Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses, and the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve, were named in her honour. The annual International Nurses Day is also celebrated on her birthday.



Her social reforms included improving health care for all sections of British society, advocating for better hunger relief in India, helping to abolish prostitution laws that were harsh for women, and expanding the acceptable forms of female participation in the workforce. Nightingale was a prodigious and versatile writer. She wrote *Notes on Nursing* (1859). The book served as the cornerstone of the curriculum at the Nightingale School and other nursing schools.

On 21 October 1854, Nightingale and thirty eight female volunteer nurses that she had trained (including her Aunt Mai Smith), and fifteen Catholic nuns were sent (under the authorization of Sidney Herbert) to the Ottoman Empire which is modern-day Turkey. They were deployed about 295 nautical miles (546 km; 339 miles) across the Black Sea from Balaklava in the Crimea, where the main British camp was based.

The Lady with a lamp



Nightingale arrived early in November 1854 at Selimiye Barracks in Scutari (modern-day Üsküdar in Istanbul). Her team found that poor care for wounded soldiers was being delivered by overworked medical staff in the face of official indifference. Medicines were in short supply, hygiene was being neglected, and mass infections were common, many of them fatal. There was no equipment to process food for the patients. She sent a plea to *The Times* requesting the English government to intervene and improve the conditions of the facilities. The British Government commissioned Isambard Kingdom Brunel to design a prefabricated hospital that could be built in England and shipped to the Dardanelles. Stephen Paget in the *Dictionary of National Biography* asserted that Nightingale reduced the death rate from forty two percent to two percent.

Nightingale implemented handwashing and other hygiene practices in the war hospital in which she worked. Death rates were reduced drastically, but she never claimed credit for helping to reduce the death rate. Nightingale's signal achievement was the introduction of trained nurses into the workhouse system in Britain from the 1860s onwards. This meant that sick paupers were no longer being cared for by other, able-bodied paupers, but by properly trained nursing staff.

Nightingale's work served as an inspiration for nurses in the American Civil War. The Union government approached her for advice in organising field medicine. Her ideas inspired the volunteer body of the United States Sanitary Commission. This year 2020 we celebrate her life and mark her bicentennial. It has been marked as the year of the Nurse and Midwife by the World Health Organisation WHO and International Council Of Nursing ICN.

Mary Seacole



Mary Jane Seacole, born Mary Jane Grant, was a British-Jamaican business woman and nurse who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War. Born on November 23, 1805, in Kingston.

Her father was a Scottish soldier, and her mother was a Jamaican woman and "doctress" skilled in traditional medicine who provided care for disabled persons at her boarding house. Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother, who kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers. Although technically 'free', being of mixed race, Mary and her family had few civil rights - they could not vote, hold public office or enter the professions. Seacole was an inveterate traveler, and before her marriage, she visited other parts of the Caribbean, including Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas, as well as Central America and Britain.

On these trips she complemented her knowledge of traditional medicine with European conventional medicine. In 1836, Mary married Edwin Seacole but the marriage was short-lived as he died in 1844. After her husband's death, she gained further nursing experience during a cholera epidemic in Panama, and, after returning to Jamaica, she cared for yellow fever victims, many of whom were British soldiers.

Mary Seacole



Mary Seacole was in London in 1854 when reports of the lack of necessities and breakdown of nursing care for soldiers in the Crimean War were made public. She approached the War Office, asking to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimea where there was known to be poor medical facilities for wounded soldiers. She was however, denied. Undaunted, Seacole funded her own trip to the Crimea where she established the British Hotel near Balaclava to provide 'a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers'. She also visited the battlefield, sometimes under fire, to nurse the wounded, and became known as 'Mother Seacole'. Her reputation rivalled that of Florence Nightingale.

After the war she returned to England destitute and in ill health and was declared bankrupt. The press highlighted her plight and in July 1857 a benefit festival was organised to raise money for her, attracting thousands of people. Later that year, Seacole published her memoirs, 'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands'.



Mary Seacole is celebrated in portraits, and on the official currency of Jamaica. She is also a founder of Nursing and one of it's earliest practicing members

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALES & MARY SEACOLES OF UGANDA EXHIBITION

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(the 'Florence Nightingales & Mary Seacoles') of Uganda

CATEGORIES TO BE CELEBRATED

- 1. Education** - pioneering in promoting Nursing and Midwifery education in Uganda, Negotiating for higher education for Nurses, Starting the first program of degree at Makerere University, Writing the curricula and managing the programs from the beginning and Lead in Identifying scholarships for Nursing education.
- 2. Clinical practice** - champions for improved Nursing and midwifery clinical practice.
- 3. Leadership** - leaders and advocating for leadership in nursing fraternity
- 4. Research** - The first nursing researchers in Uganda
- 5. High contributors in Nursing and Midwifery** on national level
- 6. Bravery** - Nurse who showed Bravery (smart, intelligence, progressive, courage)

7. Service above self - these nurses paid the ultimate price

8. And a Posthumous Medal of Honour

PROPOSED VENUE FOR EXHIBITION

We have selected the Uganda Museum, because of its:

- (i) Historic National heritage
- (ii) Iconic place
- (iii) Capture National attention
- (iv) Involve public
- (v) Secure location and easily accessible.

PROPOSED DATES FOR THE EXHIBITION

With partnership with Uganda Museum, the exhibition was set to run for the month of May 2020.

However, due to the Corona virus Covid-19 Pandemic, the date has been postponed and the next exhibition dates will be announced later.

Celebrants



2020
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Education

1. Mbabali Specioza
2. Jemimah M Mutabaazi
3. Yedidah Biribonwa Ssempebwa
4. Imelda Babambaki
5. Luyombya - Midwifery Tutor
6. Betty Wafula - Midwifery tutor

Clinical practice

1. Miriam Walusimbi
2. Dora Namirembe
3. Venice Kansiime
4. Beatrice Amuge

Leadership

1. Dr Rose Clarke Nanyonga
2. Elizabeth Byahuka
3. John Wakida
4. Catherine Odeke
5. Helen Mukakalisa
6. David Kyaligonza
7. Selina Rwashana

Diversity

1. David Kyaligonza

Research

1. Dr. Rose Kyalo
2. Dr. Joseph Mwizerwa
3. Dr. Grace Nakate
4. Dr. Patience Muwanguzi

Huge contribution in nursing and midwifery on national level

1. Elizabeth Byahuka
2. Alice Nkagi
3. The Late Sarah Kibuuka RIP
4. The Late Otule RIP
5. Mr kaliramagulu
6. Mr Muwanga
7. Chief nurse Walusimbi
8. Serubwombwe Peter
9. Molly Lematia



Nurses who showed Bravery

1. Elizabeth Byahuka - she single handily advocated for nurses to be able to attend the WHO health assemblies
2. Chota Margaret:- She advocated for the department of nursing at the Ministry of Health

First Nurse Chairperson of UNMC

Joseline Kakande. A nurse. This position was held by Doctors because they thought Nurses could not hold such a high post. She was the first graduate nurse to hold the post.

First Nurse to hold a political post

Hon. Bakoko Bakoru. A nurse who rose to become Minister for gender and social development.

Service above self - these nurses

1. *Ebola survivor (name withheld, await consent)*

Alongside many of her colleagues who passed away, she suffered neglect from her community and family after surviving this deadly epidemic.

2. *Council rep. Juliet Ezaga*

On her way to work, she was Kidnapped by rebels and survived the horror of almost losing her life)

3. *Late Principle of Mengo incharge of midwifery (name withheld, await consent)*

Recognising the extreme difficulty of retirement and leaving the school in jeopardy, she sacrificed and continued working until her untimely death.

4 *And a Posthumous Medal of Honor*

Late Kiboko Petua Obolo - For her Leadership and Advocacy for the nurses. She displayed unity and challenged many policies and worked hard to improve the image of nursing.





Nurses who showed Bravery

Miss Elizabeth Byahuka

"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"

She is a brave, courageous and strong advocate Nurse.

In the 1980; then a young Nurse, she singlehandedly challenged WHO and advocated for Nurses to be able to sit at the World Health summit.

There was no Nurse representation in the World Health summits. She is a former member of the Health Service Commission and continues advocating that the Government should involve nurses in health policy formulation decisions.

Present:- She served and Retired as Chief Nursing Officer.



Pioneering in promoting nursing and midwifery education in Uganda

Mrs Jemimah Mary Mutabaazi

"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"

She is one of the first Nurses who on completion of the Nurse training at Mulago School of Nursing in the 1970s pursued a career in Nursing and obtained her first degree abroad (1985-6). She denied the quid pro quo, advocated and devoted for higher education for Nurses and Midwives on her return.

She spearheaded a team of 6 colleagues pioneering and negotiated for higher education for Nurses and Midwives at Makerere University. They started the Nursing and Midwifery degree program at Makerere University and subsequently, Aga Khan University Kampala, Uganda Christian University (UCU) Mukono and now Kampala International University (KIU). She managed these programs and wrote the curricula from the beginning and ongoing courses. She also led in Identifying scholarships for nursing education internationally.

Present:- Commonly referred to as "Mama J" in the fraternity. She has devoted 40+ years in Nursing and Midwifery education and has trained many of the now Nurse leaders in the country and is Executive to the National Health Care Conferences (NHCC) Uganda and Nurses and Midwives Society Uganda.

Some of the celebrants



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Pioneering in promoting nursing and midwifery diversity

*Mr David Atwooki Kyaligonza
"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"*

*He is one of the very first male Nurses in Uganda.
He paved the way to accept the male nurse in the fraternity.
He eventually excelled and served and retired as Assistant
Commissioner Nursing Services from Butabika National Referral
Mental Hospital. Present:- He is a Consultant with the Uganda
United Kingdom Health Alliance (UUKHA) for East London NHS
Trust link to Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital.*



Pioneering in promoting nursing and midwifery practice

*Mrs Mariam Louise Walusimbi
"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"*

*She is one of the first Clinical Nurse Specialists - focused in Critical
Care /HIV AIDS (co-infections). She advocated for improved clinical
practice by coordinating placements for Student Nurses and
Midwives from various Nursing Institutions nationally and
internationally.*

*She was also part of the team that started the newly constructed
China-Uganda Friendship Hospital, Naguru.
She served and retired as Assistant Commissioner Health Services
Nursing from Mulago National Referral Hospital.*

*Present:- She is a part time lecturer at Uganda Christian University
(UCU) Mukono and Chairperson of Uganda Nurses and Midwives
Examination Board (UNMEB).*

Some of the celebrants



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Pioneering in promoting nursing and midwifery leadership

Dr Rose Clarke Nanyonga

"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"

She persistently pursued her Nurse training with the assistance and guidance of her adoptive parents, Dr.Ian Clarke and Mrs. Robbie Clarke. She advocates for Nursing leadership and research in the fraternity.

Present:- Dr Rose is the Vice Chancellor of Clarke International University and named Patron for the National Health Care Conferences (NHCC) Uganda. She is the current Committee mobilizer of the newly formed Nurses and Midwives Think-tank.



Advocacy for nurses and midwives

Posthumous Medal of Honor

Ms Kiboko Petua Olobo, RIP

"A Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole of Uganda"

As the Senior Principal Nursing Officer at the Lira Regional Referral Hospital, she expanded the program on Immunization/Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Zonal Coordinator in the Lango sub-region.

Until her untimely departure on 29th December 2019, she was the Acting Commissioner Nursing and Midwifery at the Ministry of Health. She is a Florence Nightingale for Uganda because she showed exemplary Leadership skills and Advocacy for the nurses.

She displayed unity and challenged many policies and worked hard to improve the image of nursing.

*Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the dates for this exhibition
have been postponed.*

We shall announce new dates with time.

*Call/appeal to all individuals and stakeholders that can
support this Exhibition in 2020, the first of its' kind in
Ugandan history!*

*We are also looking for volunteers and facilitators,
as well as artists to create life long portraits of our Leaders.*

Thank you and join us as we celebrate our own!

For references, see Wikipedia.

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