

constructs of care

Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference

16-18 April 2019
The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town

Building Children's Nursing for Africa conference 2019: 'Constructs of Care'

A participative conference for nurses who work with children, newborns to adolescents, and their families, to consider and celebrate their contribution to excellence in care

An interview with Tulipoka Soko (Director for Nursing and Midwifery services, Ministry of Health and Population in Malawi) by Busisiwe Jama (1st Year MNCN student)



Tulipoka Soko is the Director for Nursing and Midwifery services, Ministry of Health and Population in Malawi. Her academic qualifications include a certificate as a Registered Midwife, which she obtained in 1983 from Kamuzu College of Nursing; a bachelor's degree in midwifery from Medunsa in 1992; and a Master's degree in Public Health from the College of Medicine in Malawi, which she obtained in 2008.

After completing her bachelor's degree, she managed to set-up an in-service education component in her institution (Queen Elizabeth Teaching and Referral Hospital). Her strong professional and good leadership skills have benefited her in her role.

Whilst working as a Deputy Director in her institution, she used her influence in response to the burden of care needs of the community, and linked with the Kamuzu College of Nursing, to address the decreased numbers of nurses taking a lead in Child Nursing. Mrs Soko contacted Professor Minette Coetzee from the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative, and a collaboration commenced to develop a programme specific to the Malawian context. During this process of planning and curriculum development, Malawi sent a number of nurses to the University of Cape Town to complete their 1-year Postgraduate Diploma in Child Nursing. Since 2016 the Kamuzu College of Nursing have been running their own Masters in Child Health

Nursing.

Mrs Soko was invited to the 4th Building Children's Nursing for Africa conference by Professor Minette Coetzee and is the first time she has attended. Mrs Soko found it to be a mature conference with a range of informative topics. She also commented on how well organised it was with plenty of time to reflect.

Mrs Soko is currently furthering her studies doing PhD, in Inter-professional Health Care Leadership.