



THE EVOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL NURSING ASSOCIATION- DENOSA OVER THREE DECADES

PREPARED FOR 4TH BRICS NURSING CONFERENCE.

THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2026.

EMPEROR'S PALACE



THE OUTLINE

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WHEN NURSES STARTED TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES IN SA

BEFORE SANA

British nurses formed a whites-only nursing association.
But non-white nurses were not part of this association.

- ❑ Pre- SANA: South African Trained Nurses Association (SATNA) on 1 October 1914 by British nurses.
- ❑ Aim: To push for professional independence and higher educational standards.
- ❑ Strictly for British and Afrikaans-speaking white nurses.
- ❑ Black, Coloured, and Indian nurses were excluded.



BRIEF HISTORY ON JOURNEY FROM SANA TO DENOSA

SANA ERA

- ❑ National Nursing Association for South Africa.
- ❑ First established in 1944 with the promulgation of Nursing Act of 1944.
- ❑ Therefore, historically 82 years old.
- ❑ Constitutionally and democratically 30 years old.
- ❑ Historically SANA was based on apartheid laws of segregation and separate policy.
- ❑ Soon, it institutionalized the separation of nurses along tribal lines.
- ❑ ICN expelled SANA in 1973.
- ❑ Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act of 1970 was promulgated by government, & Nursing Act of 1978 introduced Homelands Nursing Associations.
- ❑ Black nurses were removed from the Unity of South Africa, and their files transferred to homelands.
- ❑ Nurses compelled to join SANA and prohibited from associating to other organisations.
- ❑ Black nurses paid double dues: to SANA and their homeland associations.
- ❑ Labour Relations Amendment Act No 57 of 1981 expanded the rights of black workers, but trade unions couldn't represent nurses.



BRIEF HISTORY ON JOURNEY FROM SANA TO DENOSA

SANA ERA

- ❑ Nurses grew disgruntled over the blatant oppressive laws.
- ❑ Some nurses started joining industrial trade unions amid complaints over conditions of service.
- ❑ SANA did not represent nurses at salary talks.
- ❑ Only accepting what the government placed on the table.
- ❑ Nurses met in Durban in 1991 – then
- ❑ Forming Concerned Nurses of South Africa (CONSA).
- ❑ A National Consultative Forum for unification
- ❑ CONSA agitated for change and consulted with nurses in homeland associations.
- ❑ Finally, it was agreed that all homelands collapse in favour of one organization.
- ❑ DENOSA formed on 5 December 1996
- ❑ Inherited SANA asserts

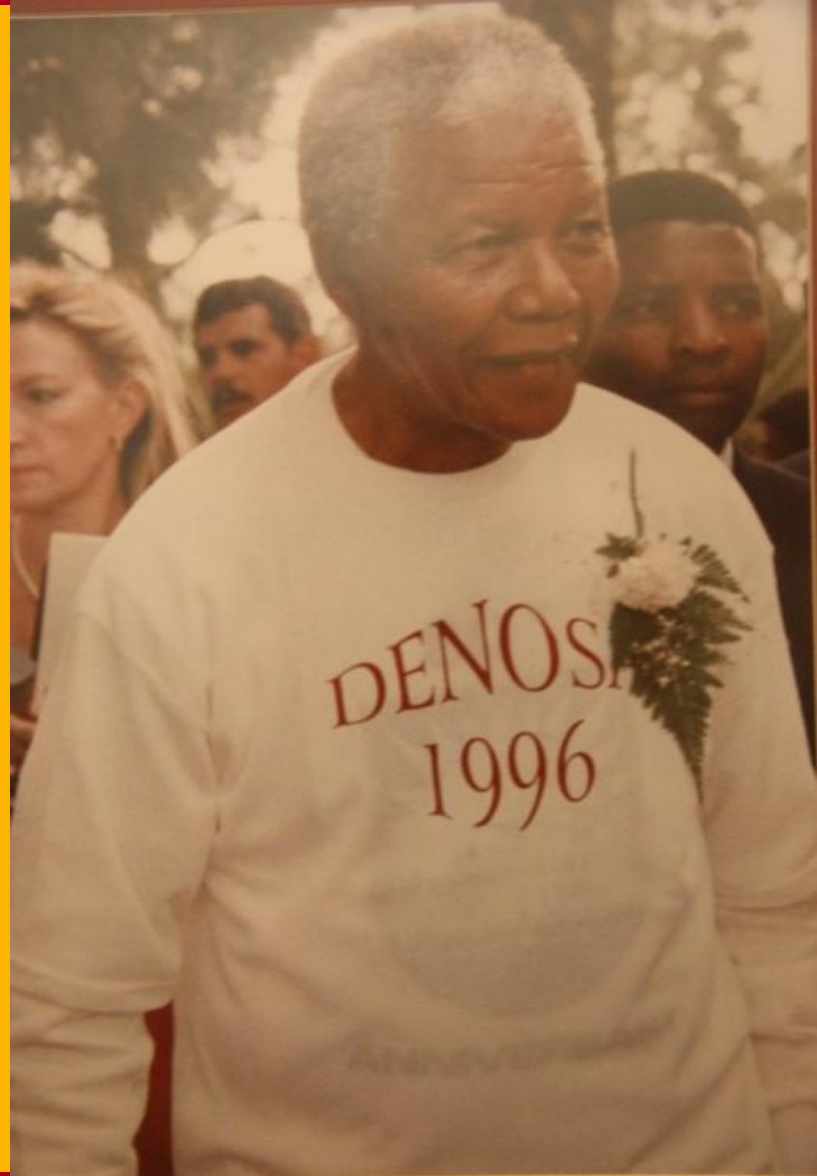




DENOSA FORMED: 5 DECEMBER 1996

‘We have great and realistic expectations of DENOSA, and so does the rest of the world. You dare not fail us!’

– **Dr. Nelson Mandela**, at DENOSA launch. 5 December 1996.



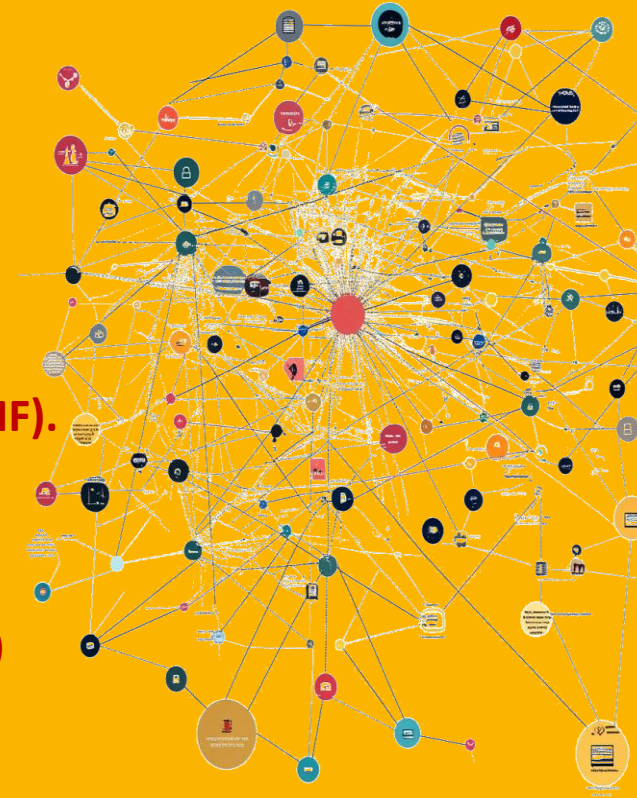
DENOSA, THE DEMOCRATIC NNA

- ❑ Freedom of association prevails.
- ❑ Joining DENOSA is not compulsory.
- ❑ 92 000 members
- ❑ Admitted at PSCBC and PHSDSBC to negotiate conditions of service for nurses.
- ❑ Dual role: professional organization and trade union.
- ❑ National and provincial leaders get elected democratically for a 4-year term.



DENOSA AFFILIATIONS

- ❑ International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- ❑ Public Services International (PSI).
- ❑ Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).
- ❑ Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF).
- ❑ East Central Southern African College Of Nurses (ECSACON).
- ❑ Southern African Network of Nurses and Midwives (SANNAM)
- ❑ BRICS Nurses Forum



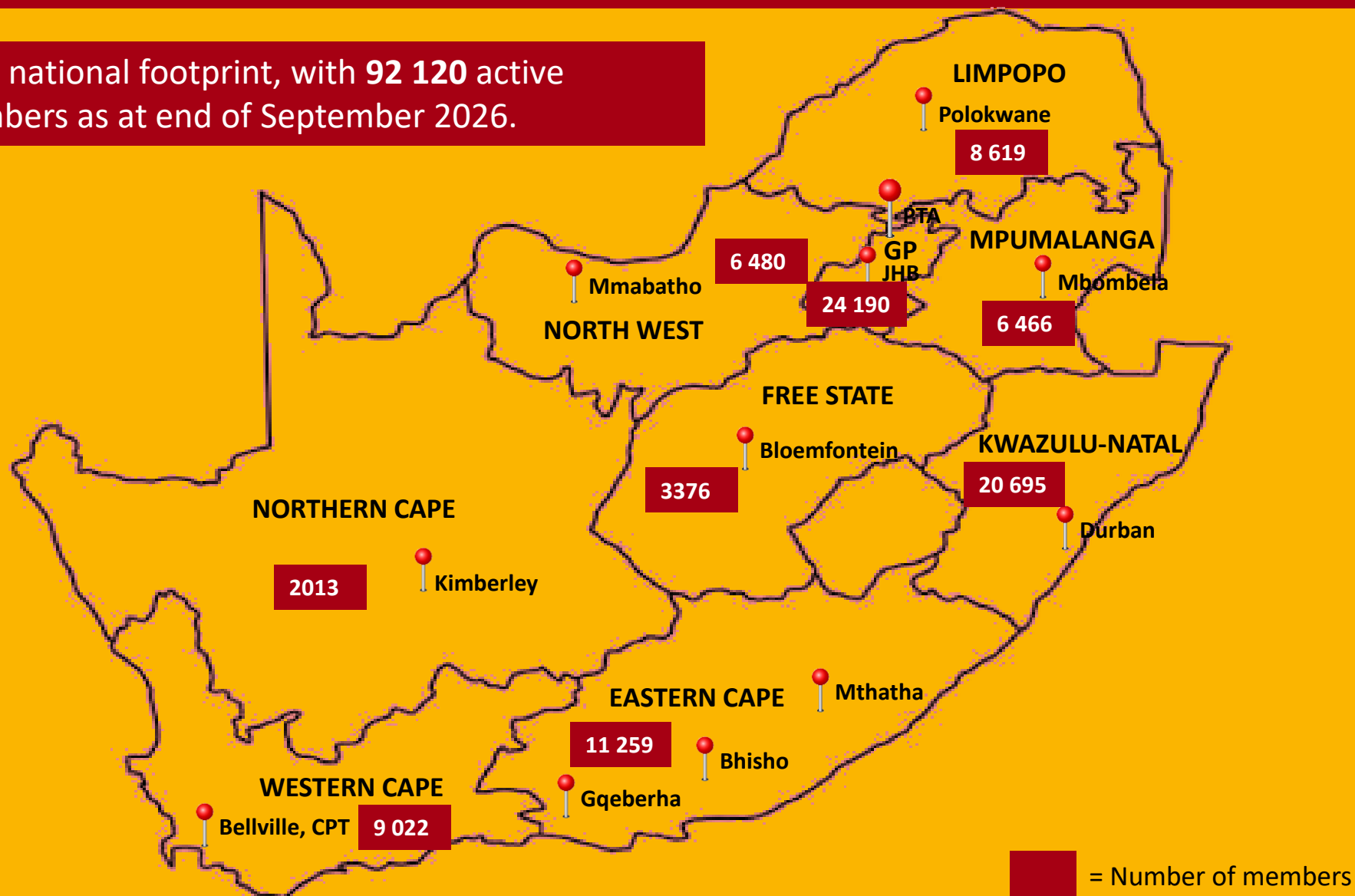
DENOSA OFFICES

Twelve Offices countrywide, with Head Offices based in Pretoria, next to Union Buildings.



DENOSA OFFICES COUNTRYWIDE

Solid national footprint, with **92 120** active members as at end of September 2026.



DENOSA ANNUAL AWARDS

Five annual awards, nationally and provincially.

- ☐ To recognize and promote nursing excellence
- ☐ To acknowledge nursing excellence in the clinical area
- ☐ To recognize excellence in academic nursing and research
- ☐ To promote excellence in nursing education
- ☐ To recognize nursing leadership excellence



THE AWARDS

The Henrietta Stockdale Floating Trophy in consistent academic excellence for student nurses.

- ❑ Awarded to deserving students at graduations at universities and nursing colleges



THE AWARDS

The Cecilia Makiwane Excellence Award in Nursing Education.

- ❑ Awarded to deserving nursing educator/lecturer at a South African university or nursing college.



THE AWARDS

The Marilyn Lahana Trust Caring Award For Excellent Patient Care.

- ❑ Awarded to Nurses who showed Selfless Patient Care on the bedside.



THE AWARDS

The Albertina Sisulu Leadership Excellence Award.

- ❑ Awarded to nurses who showed exemplary leadership skills in nursing in their area of work.



THE AWARDS

The Dr Philda Nzimande Research Excellence Award.

- ❑ Awarded to a nurse researcher who has shown consistent excellence in pursuit of evidence-based knowledge in nursing.
- ❑ Named after the founding President of DENOSA between 1997 and 2002.
- ❑ Former Vice-President of ICN.
- ❑ Passed away in December 2025



DENOSA STUDY FUND

- ❑ DENOSA allocates funds for a Bursary, to assist students who are DENOSA members with financial support for their post-graduate nursing studies



- ❑ Applications open annually from 1 September to 31 January of the academic year the application is made for.
- ❑ REQUIREMENT: Be a DENOSA member for at least two years consecutively.
- ❑ Your study must be advancing the nursing field.

DENOSA TRAVEL GRANT

- ☐ DENOSA offers Travel Grant to both DENOSA members and non-DENOSA members to present their nursing research papers at conferences locally, regionally and abroad.



- ☐ Your area of study must be advancing the nursing profession field.

CURATIONIS: DENOSA's Nursing Journal



- ❑ To support the scholarly work of nurses, DENOSA has the *CURATIONIS* Nursing Journal to publish the research work of nurses.
- ❑ The oldest nursing journal in Africa, and one of the most cited globally.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAYS, NURSES CONFERENCES, DENOSA CONGRESSES, AND PICKETS



DENOSA Library: the support base for evidence-based knowledge and life-long learning.

- ☐ DENOSA Library supports nurses with academic studies.
- ☐ It belongs to a network of libraries that lends books.
- ☐ Library has stored critical documents for nursing in South Africa, including minutes of the meetings on the transition from SANA to DENOSA.
- ☐ Photos of the signing of the handover from SANA to DENOSA stored in the DENOSA Library.
- ☐ A museum to conserve history of nursing

DENOSA Bookshop

From books to merchandise: the one-stop shop for nurses.

- ☐ DENOSA bookshops support student nurses with their life-long learning.
- ☐ DENOSA members enjoy 10% discount when buying books at our bookshop
- ☐ Books get couriered nationwide.
- ☐ DENOSA merchandise sold only at DENOSA bookshop.
- ☐ Prescribed books for nursing curriculum available.



DENOSA

UNITED WE CARE AND SHARE

THANK YOU

