

International Nurses Day celebrations

By Simon Shabangu

LOCAL nurses will join the world in celebrating International Nurses Day.

This is in commemoration of the profession's founder, Florence Nightingale, the Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA) President Bheki Mamba has said.

Hosting

He said they were hosting this year's event in collaboration with the International Centre for AIDS and Treatment Programmes (ICAP), a non governmental organisation supporting the ministry of health. Mamba added that there were a lot of issues which

they need to deliberate on as nurses on this day.

"Some of the issues that needs to be addressed are capacity for nursing schools to have more intakes. Swaziland needs more nurses to respond to the severe human resources for health shortages.

"We will also be assessing training needs and the provision of equipment to effectively respond to health needs of the Swazi nation and for the provision of quality nursing care. There is also a need to increase the number of people enrolled on ARV treatment and care."

Mamba said nurses contribute to

improvement in health of populations across the world through attention to chronic disease prevention and care. "Swaziland is faced with an even greater challenge to current convectional diseases including diabetes, hypertension and cancer as well as HIV and TB.

Theme

This year's theme directly addresses this challenge, nurses leading chronic care of HIV. The SNA has partnered with ICAP to intensify responses to HIV and TB in the country through nursing capacity - both in in-service and pre-service competency based HIV curriculum integra-

tion." He added that the nurses association has embarked on a 'know your status' campaign to promote the knowledge of status, effective prevention programmes, access to HIV and TB treatment care and support.

He added that nurses in Swaziland were committed to the provision of quality care and treatment across all levels of the health system.

The Swaziland Nurses Association will be celebrating this day on the 12th June 2010 at the Mavuso Trade Centre. There will be a march from the city centre and speeches by prominent figures in the country.



Zombodze Emuva Member of Parliament Johannes Ndlangamandla.