

# Role of nurses

I AM not writing on behalf of black nurses only but on behalf of all nurses, irrespective of colour, because the nursing profession knows no colour.

'Disgusted' of Katutura recently wrote about one incident concerning the profession, but not all of it. Let me tell all Namibian taxpayers what they pay for. The pay raise which has been announced is not solving the problem, but is part of it.

Recently a group of women from the different communities came together to consult with the nursing heads, thinking that they could help to identify the problems and at the same time solve them, which was a good and sound gesture. But instead of trying to improve the situation, the nursing heads felt that they stood unreasonably accused, and wanted names and dates when the incidents happened.

I say that 'silence never won rights'. There are those of us who sat at that meeting and took note of what was said. But how are we to improve conditions when there were posts advertised almost a year ago and so far we have heard nothing about them. Instead in the latest hospital news brief, we read of someone who is being moved from one high post to another. Nothing advertised. Where does the post suddenly come from? The joke is that the person who has been appointed has to be taught by the old staff. The post she has left has to wait for another 'favourite friend' in order to be filled?

If the senior structure is not right, then what motivation is there for the rest of the personnel to be faithful? What are all the sisters doing in the office - why must they all be doing statistics and filing? Why can't clerks be employed, and let the nurses do nursing tasks.

The nursing care on the wards is not up to scratch. So Mrs Barlow, take a hint and do something to improve the situation. Do you need all those nurses around your office?

There is another incident about which all nurses are aware: sometime last year a senior retired nurse was admitted to hospital for a major operation, and two days after the operation she was still lying there in her theatre gown, not in the best of health. How does that sound? It is not only the person in the street who suffers, but 'old nurses' too.

Please do something about this situation. Reduce the number of nurses around you, Mrs Barlow, you don't need them all for moral support.

DOUBLY DISGUSTED  
KATUTURA