

# ELIZABETH OMOLLO OYWER

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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Date of Birth : 13<sup>th</sup> March 1958  
Nationality : Kenyan  
Gender : Female  
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## OBJECTIVE

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To make a positive contribution in global health through policy development, dialogue and implementation

## SPECIAL INTEREST

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Workforce, regulation and access to quality health care especially on matters of safety and standards

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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2013 University of Dundee  
▪ MN (Nursing Education)  
2011 University of South Africa  
▪ MA Health Studies (Mental Health) with Distinction  
2005 University of Dundee  
▪ BN  
1987 University of Nairobi  
▪ DAN(Diploma in Advanced Nursing)  
1984 Mathare School of Psychiatric Nursing  
▪ KRPN( Kenya Registered Psychiatric Nursing)  
1981 Medical Training College  
▪ KRN(Kenya Registered Nursing)

## PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

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Current Certification with the Nursing Council of Kenya  
2013 Kenya School of Government  
▪ Strategic Leadership Development Programme  
2011 Strathmore Business School  
▪ Leading High Performing Organizations Programme  
2003 – 2006 Marquette University  
▪ Certificate in HIV/AIDS Care and Counseling  
2002 International Nursing Foundation of Japan

- Certificate in Leadership and Management
- 1998 Research methodology, data analysis and report writing, Namibia
- 1996 Research methodology, proposal development, Mozambique
- 1995 International course for African Nurse Leaders in Cairo
- 1990 Palliative Care Course for Nurses

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Active member National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) since 1981
- Executive member, NNAK since 1990
- Member and past Chairman, Mental Health Nurses chapter
- Active member and Past Board of Directors, International Council of Nurses (2009-2013) representing Africa
- Member and past Council of National Representative of ECSACON (East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing) representing Kenya
- Current Treasurer, ECSACON Kenya Chapter
- Leader and past chair for the Federation of East African Nurses (FEAN) to harmonize nursing education and practice in line with EAC Treaty

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**April 2018-Date:** Independent Nursing and Health Systems Consultant

**2016-March 2018:** Director of Nursing responsible for:

- Overall policy direction of nursing in Kenya
- Technical Advisor on nursing issues
- Strategic planning and performance management
- Employments and deployments
- Nursing budget and capacity development of nurses
- Quality and availability of Nursing Commodities

**2014- July 2016:** Mathari National Referral and Teaching Hospital, responsible for:

- Quality improvement ,CPD and Research

**2003 – 2014:** Registrar/Chief Executive Officer, Nursing Council of Kenya,  
Responsible for:

- Board governance
- Strategic Planning
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Council programmes and projects
- Human Resource Management
- Management of Finances
- General and day-to-day Administration

**1996 – 2003:** Ministry of Health headquarters at Chief Nursing Officer's office

Responsible for:

- Leadership and management at national level, undertaking supportive supervision
- Coordinating Human Resource issues affecting nurses such as deployment and practice environments
- Education and Research

**1993 – 1996:** Coordinator of Mental Health activities at National level

- 1987 – 1993: Mental Health Nursing School
- Lecturer
- 1981 – 1985: Clinical practice in Mental Health, Paediatric and Surgical Nursing  
In various hospitals in Kenya

### **SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

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- 2018 Led in the Development of Policy Documents for South Sudan Nurses Association
- 2016-2017 Clinical Lead in a USAID Funded AIDSFree Paediatric HIV Project
- 2015 Supported Burundi and Lesotho in developing regulatory frameworks.
- 2014 Supported Tanzania to develop a Scope of Practice for nurses.
- 2010 Appointed board member for Nairobi Health Management Board
- Elected chair of curative committee of the Board and revived the activities of the committee
- 2007 Appointed member, National Health Training Policy Development Committee
- 2007 Assessed (on behalf of AMREF) the potential of Liberia to launch BScN
- 2006 Appointed member, taskforce on assessment of training institutions
- 2001 - 2005 Participated in the preparation of strategic plan for the health sector
- 2001 & 2003 Organized the first and second quality congress in health in Kenya
- 1999 Appointed member, Health Sector reform in Kenya and visited Uganda to learn about decentralization of health services

### **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

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#### **Nursing Education**

- Revolutionized nursing education in Kenya by steering a very successful distance learning programme for upgrading certificate holders to diploma level

#### **Nursing Practice**

- Lead a successful 43 member team and system at the Nursing Council of Kenya with very clear job definitions based on job analysis and evaluation
- Developed the first ever strategic plan for the Council and now implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> plan
- Coordinated the development of several standards documents like scope of practice, code of conduct and standards of nursing education and practice, plus the procedure manual. These and more documents serve as reference materials for nurses and guide their practice.
- Managed a very unique nursing workforce project and now the Council has a data base which serves as a best practice in the region from 2003. From this work, the Council published a nursing report which was launched in April 2014
- NCK was also the first board to initiate ISO certification
- NCK was the first board to embrace Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a prerequisite to re-licensure and currently, have a framework to allow for accreditation of providers

#### **Development record**

- Under my leadership, the Council built a multimillion plaza which houses the secretariat.

- The nurses' bill which had stalled for over 20 years became law.

### **Research, presentations and publications**

- Established a research desk and committee at the Council
- Presented several opinion and research papers at national levels, regional level to include Health Ministers meetings and International level including ICN  
Some examples include:
  - ICN conferences in Taiwan; Japan, South Africa, Australia, Korea and Barcelona in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2017 respectively
  - ICN regulators meetings in Geneva and Taiwan
  - ICN/WHO/ICM Triad meeting in Geneva 2014 to discuss quality, quantity and relevance of health training
  - Health professions congress in Geneva 2008 to discuss accreditation
  - CNF meetings in London in 2012 and 2014 to discuss database and mental health nursing
  - Global Nursing Summit in Nashville in February 2014 to discuss nursing policy
  - ECSACON meetings in Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya to present on Leadership in ECSA region, Task Shifting and Quality improvement respectively
- Co-authored "Developing a nursing database system in Kenya". Health Services Research, Vol. 42 (2007) 1389-1405
- Co-authored "The impact of out migration on the nursing workforce". Health Services Research, Vol. 46 (4) 997-1332
- Co-authored "Barriers to enrollment into professional upgrading programme for enrolled nurses in Kenya" Pan African medical Journal 13(1)10
- Co-authored "the Global Summit on Nurse Migration" in conjunction with ICN and STTI. Nursing Outlook 62(1)16-21
- Oywer, E, Ochieno, F, Omiah and Magothe, E. 2014. Decentralization of Nursing Council Services. African Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health volume 8 Number 2

### **Mentorship**

- Played and still playing a leading role in mentoring boards in the region such as Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzanian, Zimbabwe and South Sudan.

### **Awards**

- Recipient of RADM Julia Plotnick publication award (2007) in recognition of the contribution to public health and nursing policy
- Presidential Award OGW (2011) in recognition of the contribution in nursing education, practice and research in Kenya

### **REFEREES**

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1. Susan Otieno, Former Director of Nursing Kenya. Current President ECSACON  
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2. Alfred Obengo, President National Nurses Association of Kenya. Tel contact +254713741561; Email: [alfobengo@yahoo.com](mailto:alfobengo@yahoo.com)
3. Maurice Osano, Former HRM of Nursing Council of Kenya. Current Management Consultant. Tel contact +254722441659. Email: [osanomk@gmail.com](mailto:osanomk@gmail.com)