

Cecilia Makiwane.

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1. Cecilia Makiwane was the first registered professional black nurse in the world. In May 1977 the Biggest Gathering of black nurses seen in South Africa went to Lovedale for the unveiling of a statue in her honour. (2,000 nurses) ¹
2. At the unveiling ceremony Professor Searle, President of the Nursing Association said 'Cecilia Makiwane was a pioneer whose name stood forever in the history of world nursing, that "She lit the lamp of nursing for her people and her pioneering spirit and love for humanity provided the oil for this lamp. She said today there were more than 17,600 black registered professional nurses in South Africa alone.'
3. Cecilia Makiwane was born in 1880 at Macfarlan Mission in the district of Victoria East almost six miles from Alice where her father, the Rev. Elijah Makiwane was Presbyterian Minister trained for the ministry at Lovedale Seminary. ¹ ²
- 4, Cecilia was educated at Lovedale. As at this time Dr MacVicar the superintendent of Victoria Hospital, Lovedale together with Miss Balmer, the Matron, were contemplating the training of black nurses in 1905, training for 2 probationers / Student nurses was opened and Miss Mina Colani and Cecilia were trained. After 3 years she obtained the hospital certificate of proficiency and in 1907 she passed the nursing examination of the Cape Colony Medical Council. ³ ⁴
5. It is believed that Cecilia Makiwane worked for a number of years as staff nurse at Victoria Hospital, Lovedale until she married a Transvaal Black. It is thought by some that her choice of husband did not exactly agree with her father's. It is also believed that she did not live many years after her marriage.

reference S A OUTLOOK MAY 1977 page 74 and 75