

LILITHA COLLEGE OF NURSING BRINGS HERITAGE TO LIFE

Lilitha College of Nursing's East London Campus came alive with colour, music, food and cultural pride on 30 September 2026 as students and staff gathered for a Heritage Day celebration under the theme "Our Heritage, Our Identity, Our Pride". The atmosphere was a beautiful reflection of the different cultures that make up the college community.

The celebration aimed to give staff and students an opportunity to reflect on their history, cultures and shared identity while strengthening unity and a sense of belonging. It also honoured the roots of the East London Campus, which are closely linked to the former Frere College of Nursing, while encouraging the college community to appreciate and preserve the diverse heritage that continues to shape its nursing community.

Campus Head Dr Luleka Gcawu explained that the celebration was about more than simply observing a calendar event. It created an opportunity for the college community to reconnect with its roots, appreciate its diversity and strengthen relationships among staff and students. Although Heritage Day is officially observed on 24 September, the campus created its own space to reflect on and express its heritage. "We all know that the 24th of September we celebrate Heritage Day, but here at Lilitha we did not forget it; hence, it is celebrated today, the 30th," she said.

The programme brought together first-, second- and third-year students, who showcased their talents through singing, while lecturers formed their own group. Traditional dishes, attire, music and colourful decorations added character to the celebration, with participants also recognised through best-dressed categories and certificates.

Principal Mrs Makinana reminded students that understanding where they come from helps shape where they are going. She encouraged them to learn about their roots, value their families and communities, and embrace their heritage while respecting the cultures and identities of others. "If you don't know where you come from, you will never know where you are going," she emphasised.

Beyond the performances and festivities, the gathering created a valuable space for staff and students to interact beyond their professional roles. It strengthened relationships, teamwork and social well-being while reinforcing values that are essential in nursing, including respect, compassion and cultural sensitivity.

For me, the celebration was a reminder that heritage is not only something remembered; it is something carried forward. At Lilitha College, diverse backgrounds came together in one space, united by a shared responsibility to learn, care and serve.



Lilitha College of Nursing Principal: Mrs Noxolo Makinana



Best Dress Student awardee with a lecturer during Heritage Day celebrations



Traditional African food and farming display during Heritage Day.