



ALINA MOLEBOGENG NANCY LEKGETHA

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers none goes his way alone All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

Edwin Markham

On 14 Feb, 1992 Southern Africa lost one of its great nurses with the death of The Hon. Mrs Alina Lekgetha, Order of the Leopard, RN, RM, CWA and CT, Deputy Minister of Health, Bophuthatswana.

Alina Lekgetha was a nurse who walked tall. She had vision, determination and a capacity to communicate and co-operate with people. Her ability to analyse and identify the

essence of a problem, to marshal the facts and state her case was well known. She devoted her life to the concept of comprehensive health care, and to the development of the nursing and midwifery professions in Southern Africa. Alina Lekgetha's philosophy throughout her life was to strive for harmonious human relations and endeavour to "Strike a golden mean." She fought all her life for her community, and for better conditions for Black nurses. As an advocate of primary health care she was ahead of her time.

The dignity, quiet confidence, reasoned manner and determination with which she negotiated with persons in authority, was a lesson in effective diplomacy for all nurse leaders. At international level she was

equally effective.

Devoted wife and mother, role model to nurses and midwives and loyal supporter and able leader of her professional association. She was respected by all who knew her or of her work. She played a major part in the development of community nursing in Southern Africa, and in the rise to leadership positions by Black Nurses. As co-founder of the Bophuthatswana Nursing Association and the Bophuthatswana Nursing Council and as main motivator for the establishment of the Department of Nursing Science at the University of Bophuthatswana, her work lives on in the service of the people of that country.

Charlotte Searle