



# **Men's Protection Against Domestic Violence**

## **(MPADV)**

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### **Annual Report**

### **March 2014 – Feb 2015**

#### **Secretariat.**

MEN'S PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (MPADV)

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## Foreword

The period between March 2014 and February 2015 has been quite eventful for MPADV as the organisation celebrated its first anniversary at the frontline of reviving the honour and nobility of family institutions.

As if to emphasize the need for such an organization is not enough, this period has seen a good number of men, women and children in need of assistance come to our office. Thanks to enhanced capacity at the MPADV office due to the recruitment of designated Protection Officers and the continued Support from our members, partners and other well-wishers, many of these cases were successfully attended to with the urgency they deserved.

Once again, with increased internal capacity as well as the ongoing support from our partners, MPADV was able to expand its advocacy programme significantly in the past twelve months. The dire situations of abused men, women and children in the country were raised and efforts to lobby for effective accountability mechanisms continue. The organisation has furthermore maintained its efforts in building the capacity of community activists to effectively disseminate MPADV information from the grass root.

Guided by the organisation's Plan of Action and the belief in its importance, the secretariat was initiated in Kampala. This organisation handled its first challenge by rapidly and effectively responding to the post men's protection against domestic violence in Uganda that saw men's rights come under attack for the legitimate work and outspokenness in calling for a return to family justice. MPADV is committed to working closely with its partners and support similar initiatives in other parts of Uganda in the year (s) to come.

The MPADV Strategic Planning Meeting (Annual General Meeting) of the organisation held in February 2015 in Kampala at Sojovalo Hotel on Rubaga road witnessed an extension of the organisation to include other districts as new members. MPADV as the Secretariat is committed to fully engage with these new members and implement the newly agreed Plan of Action with the help of all its members.

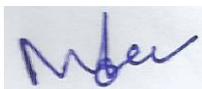
Appreciation goes to all our partners and supporters throughout the world their assistance whether financial or technical is indispensable in our work for the better protection of men's rights and your contribution cannot be under estimated.

Many thanks goes to media organizations who have helped in disseminating the work of MADV to all the people across the country by inviting us to radio and TV talk shows and by publishing articles in newspapers about MPADV. Thank you so much may you continue with that spirit.

Sincere thanks also go to all our members who inspire, motivate and guide the work at the Secretariat. In the year to come, we hope for continued cooperation and commitment to overcome the domestic challenges in the country.

We are looking forward to a successful years to come and we are committed to be dedicated partners.

Sincerely,



LAUBEN MUHABUZI  
Executive Director-MPADV

## 1. Background

Men's Protection Against Domestic Violence (MPADV) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization formed with the main aim of minimizing Gender Based Violence (GBV) through reviving the honor and nobility of the family institution, with major emphasis being put on sensitizing men (heads of families) about their rights, duties and responsibilities, powers and limitations; to enable them treat their female counterparts and children with dignity they deserve, in order strengthen gender partnership and promote Human Rights, in line with the Uganda National Gender Policy (2007), The Domestic Violence Act (2010), The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to achieve UN Millennium Development Goals; 3,4,5 and 6.

Many Organizations in Uganda have been formed to advocate for women and children's rights, but no organization in the recent past, has come up to sensitize men about the dangers of domestic violence, and how to protect themselves from it despite the fact that they are largely criminalized as the major perpetrators of domestic violence.

For this reason, Gender Based Violence has turned out to become a major threat to human co-existence in Uganda, and beyond as revealed by recent data and statistics from the media, Police reports and Human Rights activists. In many cases, men are unjustly treated in the process of defending their rights; others are unjustly imprisoned by law enforcement agencies while those who are tortured by their own spouses tend to keep silent about the problem because of fear to be called cowards or weaklings.

MPADV also aims at promoting Gender equality and equity, socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable families through capacity building and training, provision of free legal, psycho-social support to victims, supporting the formation of income generating and Livelihood projects to address the various cycle of poverty, thus deepening the propagation of stable and sustainable families through engaging the entire segments of our population and stakeholders to ensure the promotion and protection of the inherent fundamental human rights of all the members that constitute a family.

From June to August 2014, MPADV conducted a baseline survey as a demonstration to establish irregularities/ abuses against men in their families. This was in divisions of Nakawa, Kawempe, Rubaga and the Central Division of Kampala Capital Authority – KCCA. It was established that 4 out of 10 men in families were either arrested and detained or had ever been arrested and detained or charged for family irresponsibility, malicious damage of property as a result of fights and taking part in unlawful actions in trying to defend their property”.

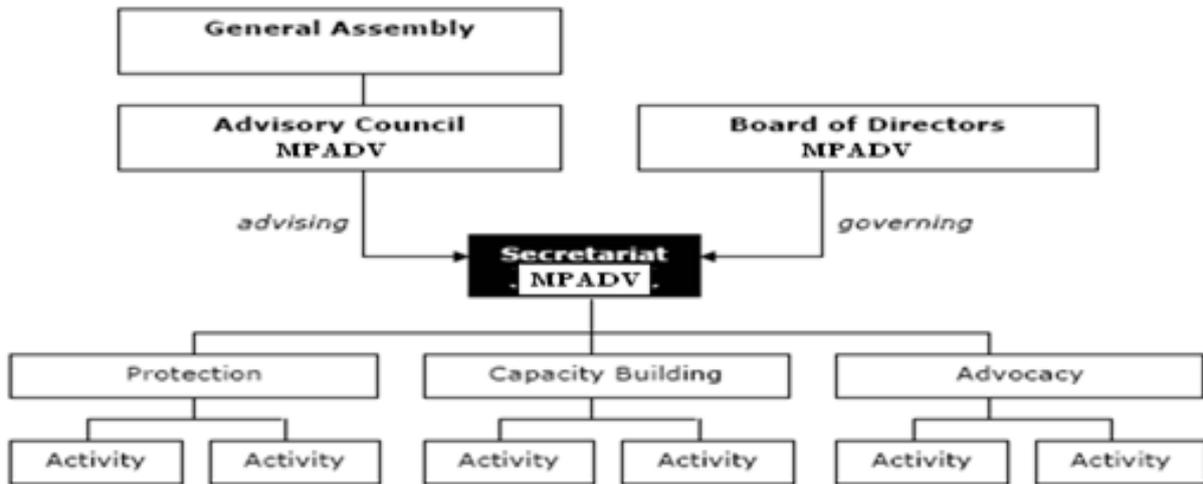
On 12 August 2014, MPADV researchers went to the police stations to get information from those arrested. These had this to say *“most of us are charged for violence in our homes, malicious damage of property and taking part in unlawful actions by attempting to defend our property being grabbed by our wives aided by area LCs”*. They further said that most of our colleagues released on bond/bail, have their cases pending.

It was equally established from the [Uganda Police report \(2013\)](#) that out of the 360 deaths recorded that year resulting from domestic related violence, 183 deaths were men, representing about 51%. This shows how acute the problem of masculine persecution is. It is against this background that MPADV has set out to do even more intervention to redeem the future of men in this country.

It's against this background that MPADV seeks to spearhead a new approach to the emerging problem, by bringing together major parties affected by domestic violence including the men, women and children into dialogue to promote interactive communication, in order to create harmony and peaceful co-existence in families, peace and family stability, which are pre requisites for national development.

## 2.1 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The structure of the organisation reflects its democratic and flexible working mode with a clear line of responsibilities and powers.



The General Assembly is constituted by all members who are life members, full members, associate members or honorary members. The Advisory Council, Chaired by Prince Godfrey Bamweyana, functions as the policy organ of the organisation and advises the implementation unit. MPADV Board of Directors consists of 7 members who have been elected by the General Assembly to represent them on issues arising in regard to the work of MPADV.

MPADV board of directors were elected by the general assembly meeting which sat on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at MPADV secretariat. Mr Byabagambi Placid was elected as the Chairperson of the Board; Ms Nampijja Jane was elected as the General Secretary and Mr Ssentongo Jaffery as the Treasurer among other 4 members.

With the support of membership fee and other contributions from well-wishers MPADV organised a swearing-in ceremony of Board members. This function took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Sojovalo Hotel Rubaga road in Kampala.

The Chairperson of MPADV Board of Directors is the link between the policy makers and advisory organ that is, the Advisory Council, and its implementers through the Secretariat for the good of MPADV and all its members.

The Plan of Action was jointly developed by participants, Functions as a guide for MPADV activities and objectives in the years to come. It focuses on three main areas; protection, advocacy, and capacity building, depending on MPADV's programme design for the next five years, and will be translated into effective and far reaching activities.



*A Board member on a swearing in ceremony of MPADV Board of Directors which took place at Sojovalo Hotel Rubaga road in Kampala*

After swearing- in, the Board members started playing a vital role in creating and maintaining viable work throughout Kampala district. Only close cooperation and coordination ensured the timely and effective information exchange and implementation of activities. MPADV therefore has continuously involved the Board of Directors in following-up, by regular updates on the current state of affairs, participation in the planning process and distribution of particular responsibilities.

## **2.2 Administration**

MPADV office is functioning as the Secretariat and is headed by Lauben Muhabuzi who is the executive Director, whose role is to implement the organisation's policies and carry out specific practical activities that aim at reaching the organisation's set objectives. It is advised by the Advisory Council formed by the members of the board. Currently, the Secretariat has the following staff who works on voluntary basis:

Lauben Muhabuzi – **Executive Director**

Ndawula Robert - **Program Manager**

Mutebi Ronald - **Leader Legal Officer**

Masaba Hassan- **Legal Officer**

Namugula Gorreth – **Administrator**

Patience Tenywa- **Youth Program Officer**

Kalazani Junior- **Research Officer**

Buwdhike Moses – **Head of Finance and Procurement**

Wandeba Emmy – **Field Officer**

Hadijah Tusiime – **Senior Counsellor**

Their work is made easy by high motivation, eagerness to learn and approach new areas of activities, team work and achievements of work plans. The variety of activities carried out in recent months has benefited from the different professional background of the staff members and has at the same time contributed to their skills and capacities. Regular consultative meetings and revision of work plans allow for self-evaluation and focussing on project objectives within their given area of work.

It can be concluded that the Project activities have been implemented in a professional and efficient manner to satisfy internal as well as external standards.

With the assistance of the Board members, MPADV managed to get a fully furnished office which works as MPADV secretariat is located in Najjanankumbi along Entebbe road at Nambi Irene House.



*Some of the MPADV staff in a meeting at the secretariat*

With the launching of the MPADV, several administrative tasks were handled such as a detailed and updated database of individual members and member organizations and their contact details together with an organizational profile. The need for such a database becomes important when one thinks of the importance of information sharing among members of MPADV. The timely and effective cooperation of MPADV members is commended here as a detailed list was compiled speedily due to the quick response by individual members. Another detailed data base of MPADV clients (victims of domestic violence) is always compiled for quick response to such cases.

## **3. Activities**

### **3.1 The Three programmes**

With the support from MPADV board members contribution and other stakeholders, MPADV managed to recruit some staff who have managed to successfully conduct the organization activities under the following programmes; **Advocacy, Capacity Building** and **Protection**. The following sections provide an overview of the activities undertaken, achievements made and challenges encountered with the intention to strengthen the organisation's performance in the coming years.

#### **3.1 (i) Advocacy**

MPADV's advocacy programme has seen a substantial expansion in the past year owing to the realisation of its potential as an important tool of men's rights defence, new expertise at the Secretariat as well as the creation of new partnership with other entities coming together to effectively strategize on the promotion of Men's Rights.

As an on-going effort, MPADV has continued with its monitoring of the situation of Men's rights defenders across Kampala and its advocacy highlighting violations occurring against men's rights and to end impunity, call for justice and contribute to mechanism of accountability by perpetrators of men rights' violations.

One strategy to do so is by issuing well researched public statements based on information received by MPADV members and partners which are then circulated widely among its partners across to cause action. Thanks to the coverage by various local media organisations and partner NGO's who have regularly posted MPADV campaigns on their websites. MPADV's work has reached out to thousands of people across the country.

As part of its advocacy campaign, MPADV seeks to directly interact with policy and decision makers who are influential in the protection of men's rights.

### **3. 1.(ii) Media Advocacy**

MPADV developed a media strategy that intends to work towards the fulfilment of its objective to raise the profile of MPADV in Uganda and make their challenges known by decision-makers and other stakeholders.

MPADV led several radio talk shows on Radio One, radio Akaboozi, Top radio, Capital, Star Fm, radio Sapientia, Impact radio, Family radio, Beat Fm, Dembe Fm, radio CBS, Voice of Africa, Namirembe Fm and TV news pieces on Bukedde TV.

MPADV also led talk shows on Bukedde TV, NBS, NTV Uganda, Delta TV, Star TV and Top TV.

Over 5 articles have been published in different newspapers in Daily monitor “**Men cry out as bully wives punch**” by Lillian Namugambe on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Daily Monitor of Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 “**In defiance: a portrait of motionally abused men**” by Gillian Nantume.



*MPADV Executive Director Mr Muhabuzi Lauben on a live radio talk show at Dembe Fm on issues of domestic violence*

#### **3.1.2 Capacity Building**

MPADV managed to implement comprehensive trainings tailored to the needs of men's rights defence in Uganda with the aim of equipping them with skills that enable them to enhance the

efficiency of their work and ensure better individual men protection through improved personal capacities and familiarity with handling situations of crisis and threat.

The organization recognizes the specific needs of groups of men's rights defenders such as journalists, men's rights defenders working in situation of marital conflict among others.

In the long term, MPADV seeks to conduct national training workshops for men's rights defenders in each district that will not only enhance their capacity but will initiate the formation of district coalitions of men's rights defense. These coalitions are to act on the challenges faced at districts and feed into the secretariat of the organization. Having effectively organized district coalitions will increase the potential to strengthen intervention for the protection of men on national levels.



*MPADV staff during a capacity building session at Sojovalo Hotel Rubaga road in Kampala.*



*Some of the MPADV community activists of Kawempe division in Kampala district*

### **3.1.3 Protection**

The period of March 2014 to February 2015 was particularly challenging for MPADV as the number of men in need of urgent assistance increased greatly. Thanks to the timely intervention by its members and partners, MPADV was able to successfully attend to a total number of 50 abused men, settled 20 families back, and a total number of 30 women reported their husbands on cases of being irresponsible in their families. Men were called at MPADV secretariat and sensitised on their responsibilities and some who adamantly refused to cooperate with MPADV

and remained violent ended up in courts of law and some were imprisoned. Yet the challenge still continues in the sustainable support rendered to the homeless men as well as the continued fleeing of men from their homes.



*Mr. Musoke Hannington one of the victims of domestic Violence, who is now utilizing MPADV psycho-social support services*

A 60 year old Ssemanda Julius of Nyanama in Kampala was chased away from his home by his own son Kyeyune Ronald who decided to marry a wife in his father's house. Ssemanda left his home and rented a small house in lungujja where he stayed for over five years. So when he heard of MPADV he came for help and MPADV intervened using its legal team to evict the son from his father's house.

*Ssemanda Julius in a photo*



*Kyeyune Ronald evicted from the house Kyeyune Ronald in a photo*



*MPADV is against all forms of human rights violations .*

#### 4. Research

From June to August 2014, MPADV conducted a baseline survey as a demonstration to establish irregularities/ abuses against men in their families. This was carried out in the divisions of Nakawa, Kawempe, Rubaga and the Central Division of Kampala Capital Authority – KCCA. It was established that 4 out of 10 men in families were either arrested and detained or had ever been arrested and detained or charged for family irresponsibility, malicious damage of property as a result of fights and taking part in unlawful actions in trying to defend their property”.

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It was equally established from the Uganda Police report (2013) that out of the 360 deaths recorded that year resulting from domestic related violence, 183 deaths were men, representing about 51%. This shows how acute the problem of masculine persecution is.

Another baseline survey conducted by Men's Protection Against Domestic Violence (MPADV) in January 2015 in the districts of Wakiso, Kampala, and Mukono on how domestic violence has affected children revealed that the total number of 60 children between the ages of 11-18 years that were interviewed, 15% of these reported to have received no education at all, 5% had been forced into early marriages, 5% were sexual workers, and 10% of these had been raped, 20% left their homes and went to streets due to domestic violence issues, and 5% resorted to drug abuse.

Basing on this research, MPADV decided to conduct a comprehensive sensitization on domestic violence related issues from the ground working together with the community leaders and the MPADV community activists in order to reach its objective.

#### 5. Community outreach Program

MPADV has managed to conduct seminars to share information with community on domestic violence related issues, encouraging men to break the silence on domestic violence, empowering men to be responsible to their families, advocate for men's rights, Family planning campaigns, and campaign on HIV/AIDS etc.



*MPADV staff addressing community members of Nsooba zone in Kanyanya Kawempe division in Kampala district*



*One of the community seminar which was carried out by MPADV. This was at Najjanankumbi Rubaga division in Kampala district*



*Some of the community members who attended a seminar in Kizito zone Rubaga division Kampala district*



*MPADV staff sharing information on domestic violence related issues with Bodaboda (Motorcycle) riders in Makindye division*



*MPADV works hand in hand with CBO's here they were sharing information with a group of women in a Single Mothers Association of Ndejje*

## **6. 1 MPADV meetings**

The idea for convening meetings was an outcome of field research carried out between March and May 2014 in Uganda.

During the research, we consulted extensively with a wide range of men, civil society groups, fellow researchers and government officials and in these consultations, the potential to enhance personal effectiveness of workers through better networking, training and media work was recognized.

Inviting other stake holders to the MPADV meetings posed a unique opportunity to bring together the immense expertise, capacity and provided us with a forum to exchange ideas and arrive at viable and sustainable solutions for a better protection of MPADV clients throughout Uganda.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To examine the challenges MPADV is likely to face while carrying out its work;
- To provide training on instruments for men's protection.
- To provide specialized counselling of traumatised men, women and children and designing strategies for MPADV, particularly to help those under threat;
- To establish plans and networks for action to enhance the capacity of MPADV and raise its profile.

## **6. 2 Meeting with stakeholders**

MPADV tries to continuously extend its circles of stakeholders and partners to make its work known, and lobby for support for men in the country.

Soon or later the MPADV team intends to invite and brief Ambassadors and delegates of Embassies of European Union countries on the state of engaging men to end violence against women and children and also to call upon men who suffer domestic violence quietly to break silence. The participants of MPADV will show a keen interest in the problems highlighted by the MPADV team and recommendations will be given for possible intervention in their capacity as diplomatic missions. MPADV has agreed to continuously update the partners on current development with regards GBV and future involvement.

Several other meetings with a number of stakeholders will take place as MPADV grows and main issues of concern will ably be addressed. The Project intends to continue approaching influential actors for the good of the MPADV members and all men, women and children whose rights are violated within the country.

MPADV managed to organise several community seminars mainly sensitizing them on domestic violence. This ongoing project covered mainly slum areas of Kampala, markets, worshiping places among others.

## 7. Liaison

MPADV aims at further strengthening its activities by cooperating and liaising more effectively and more regularly with other stakeholders to ensure that vital information about GBV circulates quickly and responded to in Uganda. To achieve this, MPADV activates and motivates fellow citizens to join the exchange of information and thereby creating a chain from the grassroots going upwards. This has been achieved by community outreach seminars which have been organised by MPADV, the community members have elected leaders among themselves who act as community activist for MPADV.

These activists work hand in hand with MPADV in order to spread the message of MPADV from the grass root.



*MPADV works hand in hand with the Police here they were at the MPADV seminar in Kanyanya Kawempe Division Kampala District*

## 8. Counselling and Guidance

As one of MPADV's major activities aimed at reviving the honour and nobility of family institutions in Uganda and globally. MPADV works hard to settle broken families through counselling and guidance. In a period of one year MPADV has been able to settle back 20 families through counselling and guidance. More than 30 men who had neglected their family responsibilities were sensitized and 50 children who had dropped out of school because their fathers failed to pay school fees were taken back to school.



*Mr Muhabuzi Lauben MPADV Executive Director during a counselling session at MPADV offices.*



*Senior Counsellor Hadijah and Muhabuzi MPADV ED trying bring back the memories of a desperate mother whose husband run away and left her with a three months baby helplessly.*

*This woman was given transport to take her back to her parents in Nakaseke district as MPADV looks for the man.*

## **9. Launch of MPADV website**

With the assistance of Board members, MPADV was able to launch its website (<http://www.mpadv.org>) hosted. The website informs users about MPADV's developments, its work, achievements and planned activities. It also introduces the MPADV staff by providing a short professional biography. Links to relevant documents like existing protection mechanisms or stakeholder organisations in the protection of men against domestic violence are provided. Give an insight on current efforts to minimize GBV. The team is compiling profiles for each of MPADV member districts highlighting its past and present challenges to the work of GBV. The profiles will be made available online after the completion of the consultation process with country focal persons.

It is envisaged that the website shall be expanded into a resource and documentation centre aiming at providing detailed information for MPADV members, the situation of Gender Based Violence throughout the country and achievements made in fighting against GBV.

## **10. Policy Development**

In its effort to strengthen the institutionalisation and internal accountability, MPADV is developing a financial policy that is to guide the financial management of all transactions and clearly assign responsibilities among the staff with the intention to achieve full transparency, accountability and sustainability. A robust Human Resource policy is also being developed to further strengthen the institutionalisation and internal function of personnel.

## **11.1 MPADV Challenges**

Though MPADV has managed to achieve 80% on the one year work plan, there are still some challenges;

- We are still limited by finances to implement and fulfill all our objectives.
- There is still a wrong mentality that men cannot be tortured in their own homes that is why some men who are victims of domestic violence are still silent about the problem.
- We have a wide geographical coverage and we still lack adequate logistics to enable us reach out to these places.
- The expanding prevalence of polygamous families which result into disease, producing children that cannot be taken care of, etc.
- The low life expectancy among men, caused by the fact that men have been neglected in all spheres of life, over working to support dependants, which has resulted into the increasing number of orphans.
- Men are not given a fair hearing in the judicature especially family courts as they are always taken to be to the perpetrators of domestic violence.

## **11.2 Way forward**

In order to offset the above challenges, we have attempted to undertake the following;

- a) Writing as many Project proposals as possible to different funders to appeal for financial assistance.
- b) Seeking partnership with different Organizations with which we share common goals, aims and objectives.
- c) Intensifying capacity building campaigns to break the traditional mentality that men cannot be victims of domestic violence.
- d) Lobbying the government to be more supportive towards programs related to men, and granting equal opportunity to men in all spheres of life e.g. during university admissions, designating paternity leaves for men, etc.
- e) Lobbying the judiciary to be more sensitive to the needs of men by granting them a fair hearing.

## **12. Conclusion and Perspective**

One of the Project's successes is the establishment of a running office that functions as the Secretariat and the successful execution of several activities in the areas of advocacy, capacity building and protection. The establishment of a functional MPADV and creation of close ties with influential stakeholders in fighting against Sex and gender based violence especially among men and boy child a continuation of efforts in this line to enhance information exchange,

increase opportunities of sharing expertise and to organise for joint action on key matters of concern to the entire men's rights movement.

The need for further research on issues relevant to Sex and Gender based violence (SGBV) has been accommodated in MPADV's planning process and will form its programme design to ensure validity and relevance of the activities carried out.

One of the priority areas for MPADV will be the increase its outreach to minimizing GBV functional groups in less institutionalised settings on the very grassroots of the society. Their training and protection needs will be addressed vigorously to have an impact on those rights that are defended. Here, MPADV will draft a comprehensive strategy with its existing members that will take into account country-specific problems and procedures of men, women and children's rights work.

With the accomplishment of these objectives, the Project will have been able to make a felt impact on the situation of minimizing GBV in Uganda and more concerted action can take place.

**In conclusion**, the path towards sustainability, peace and stability, self-fulfillment and total liberation of men from domestic related injustices will be long and sometimes difficult but we cannot resist this transition, rather we must lead it. Our journey will not be complete until we have achieved a violent free generation.