



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WEBINAR



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On the 10th of August 2020, the NAMC's Men's Diversity Forum (MDF) hosted a webinar to discuss the issue of gender-based violence (GBV). The webinar was part of the MDF's annual activities, which normally take place during the forum's annual general meeting (AGM) outing where NAMC men consult and exchange information and ideas on matters related to men, family related issues in particular. The forum holds its AGM every year around the hunting season and does several activities, including discussing issues that affect men and their families, sporting events and hunting. However, this normal routine was affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. But the forum realized that some things cannot be postponed. Hence, an alternative arrangement was made to discuss the burning issue of GBV that has become one of the serious pandemics the world is dealing with recently.

The GBV is recognized as both a public health and human rights issue and can take many forms such as physical, sexual, psychological, cultural and economic violence, among others. The main focus of the MDF webinar engagement was on the domestic, social and work place aspects of GBV which relate to any threatening, abusive, or violent behaviour in the home (between adults and young family members), at work (between employees – all ranks) and in our surroundings when (mainly the youth) are distant from a nurturing environment. The term “nurturing environment” in this context was used to indicate an environment in which a young individual is normally taken care of, feels protected and encouraged to develop. The idea was to find out the extent to which a lack of access to such an environment could lead to mental distress and aggressive behaviour among the youth.

The webinar discussion was driven by an external guest speaker from the Department of Social Development, in addition to 2 speakers from the MDF. The guest speaker gave an insightful presentation on GBV; what it is; the reasons it happens; and its impact on the societies, families and the nation at large. It came out clearly that GBV can affect any gender and that it has a profound destructive impact in our societies. Therefore, much of the discussion was focused on the interventions and the roles each person could play to reduce the occurrence of the GBV in their small corners, under the hashtag #Not in my name.

The NAMC men are taking the stand to say the GBV has gone too far - we need to act against it – and that begins with “me”. This indicates a gesture where we refrain from pointing fingers at others to do something, but instead, all fingers point at each and everyone of us as we all need to do something no matter how small we may deem it to be.



MR QAQAMBILE NYEMBEZI (GUEST SPEAKER)

Mr Nyembezi grew up in rural areas of Mbizana in the Eastern Cape. He holds an Honours Degree in social work, obtained from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. He is currently doing theology studies. His work as a social worker began at the Department of Social Development in the Lusikisiki service office. As part of his work, he has been involved in several programmes which include a family programme, HIV/AIDS, Early Childhood and the male initiation programmes. He also worked in cases of forced marriage. Mr Nyembezi is passionate about serving people and he wishes to see all people afforded equal opportunities to life.