

## **GENDER BASE VIOLENCE IN ENGA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

I would like to thank the Coalition of Parliamentarians for being at the forefront of advocating at the highest political level to take all necessary actions to reduce Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Papua New Guinea and promote gender equality to progress development. The GBV is not only a law and order issue but is a national issue affecting the economy, education, health, and the whole fabric of society. Enga is no different to the rest of the country.

#### **1. POLICY AND PLANNING ON GBV**

Our population is rural based and a lot of cases are not reported but as a responsible second tier government and administration we are making every attempt to address the issue of GBV. Outlined below are strategies undertaken including our partners, and challenges which lie ahead of us.

##### **A. PROVINCIAL FAMILY SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACTION COMMITTEE**

The issue of Gender Based Violence has remained a major problem across the province. After realizing the need to address the violence the Enga Provincial Administration endorsed the establishment of the Provincial Family Sexual Violence Action Committee (PFSVAC) in November, 2020 though change in name from Gender Base Violence (GBV) but playing the same functions of addressing Gender Based Violence.

The PFSVAC membership is drawn from the key agencies of government who deal with family base violence which includes Community Development, Police, District Court, and Health. The Committee work is guided by a Terms of Reference though can be expanded more towards case management, awareness, reporting and presentation for policy options.

The National Action plan on Sorcery has also been considered as the platform to address sorcery as violence has been forcefully used on the accused, sorcery accusation related violence since 2010 and up until now.

## **B. PROVINCIAL GENDER BASE VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 - 2025**

The Provincial Gender Based Violence Strategic Plan 2001 – 2025 (PGBVSP) has been developed in reference to the PNG National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV 2016 – 2025 which provides the platform to develop the provincial strategies.

The PFSVAC has written the Provincial GBV Strategic Plan in 2021. Currently the draft Plan is being circulated for final comments before being printed as a provincial strategy to address violence with the assistance from the UNICEF.

The Plan calls for inclusive, peaceful, prosperous society where government in partnership with the people embrace diversity and equality, recognize and respect and promote the rights of all citizens without violence of any form.

## **C. PROVINCIAL CHILD PROTECTION COUNCIL**

The other priority area though much related is Child Protection. The National Lukautim Pikinini Policy (2017 -2027 ) and with reference to the Lukautim Pikinini Act of 2017 calls for all children to grow up in a safe and nurturing family and community environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and reach their full potential.

The PEC endorsed the submission No 11/21 of 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 of the establishment of the Provincial Child and Family Services Council in accordance with the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA), 2015.

The LPA calls for the establishment of the Provincial Child and Family Services Council (PCFSC). Enga has been the first province in PNG to establish the PCFSC in 2021.

An annual budget appropriation of K230, 000 is earmarked for the 2022 for the implementation of the child protection where activities will be rolled out into the districts.

Membership is also drawn from the key agencies like the Community Development, Health, Police, Courts, Education, and the Churches. The members of the Council

have been inducted on the Roles and Responsibilities and the Act. Official swearing of the members has taken place and an inaugural meeting has been staged.

## **2. BUDGET TO ADDRESS GBV**

The province understands the need to progress the work on GBV. Our foremost priority has been to put in place strategies and that has been to work on policy submissions to PEC to put in place the appropriate secretariats and committees to spearhead the work to reduce GBV in Enga.

The PEC through their decisions have endorsed initially K70,000 for the work of Family Sexual Violence Action Committee in 2021 and a further K230,000 towards implementing the Child Protection Plan in 2022.

The international organizations like UNDP and UNICEF have come on board to assist the province in capacity building by sponsoring officers to attend training and workshops on planning and policy development.

## **3. CHALLENGES**

There are challenges ahead of us to effectively and appropriately address the issues on GBV.

### **A. DATA COLLECTION**

The extent of Gender Based Violence in the province is hard to measure given there is no official reliable data. More than 60 percent has experienced some form of violence in the province. There is widespread call for the need to change and to end GBV and promote gender equality, respect and partnership for a better Enga.

Different sections of the sectors like the Police Family Sexual Unit, Hospitals and the District Courts or Child Protection may have their own data but that is more at a unit level. This is an idea that needs support for data on GBV to be manipulated on a central database in future.

There is need for the development a central database as it provides important insights into the main characteristics of incidents such as gender, age, type, response and others.

## **B. SUPPORT SERVICES**

Currently there is need for referral pathways and this needs attention. Police Sexual Violent Unit seems to be working in isolation without getting the full support of the Police Department.

There are no safe houses for the victims of GBV. There is no lead agency providing services to abused women and children. Services for survivors must be supported by the appropriate agencies of government.

## **C. RESEARCH**

There is need for research in the Restorative Justice and it must be more prudent to ensure that restorative justice and appropriate community engagement frameworks with recognition, respect and protection on the rights of women.

## **D. CAPACITY ISSUES**

There is need to beef up additional staff to effectively coordinate and monitor GBV in all the districts in the province. The need for the recruitment of the Gender officer(s) is an option for the province and districts.

## **E. MULTI SECTORAL APPROACH**

In Enga it is difficult to address GBV in remote communities. There is need for stakeholder groups and partners to address GBV.

## **4. PARTNERS IN ADDRESSING GBV**

The Enga province has had the opportunity to partner with Government Departments, International Organizations and Non-Government Organizations (NGO) by working in partnership to address GBV which is affecting every fabric of society. The following are acknowledged for their contribution though there may be others who also need our acknowledgement.

## **A. CONSULTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING COUNCIL**

The Consultative Implementing and Monitoring Council (CIMC) comes under National Planning Ministry and is an independent organization that brings together civil society, the private sector and government partners to dialogue and develop policies, influence and monitor government decisions.

As a policy and development platform for all stakeholders, Enga has participated in their forums and trainings on Families and Sexual violence since 2013.

#### **B. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS EMERGENCY FUND**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has worked closely with the administration and civil society organizations, the media and in the districts in the areas of health, justice and advocating on the protection and rights of the child.

#### **C. TRIBAL FOUNDATION**

The Tribal Foundation (TF) is a humanitarian Non-Government Organization (NGO) that works hard to reduce sorcery related violence. The TF has partnered with the European Union (EU) and Wabag District Development Authority (DDA) to address law and order violence in Wabag District in October, 2019. The TF has also continued to support the province to fight against sorcery accusation based violence on men and women and children. TF has been a strategic partner to educate many people on sorcery accusation based violence and gender based violence.

#### **D. NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The National Research Institute (NRI) has undertaken research on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in the Enga Province – Issue Paper August, 2021. Sorcery known as Sanguma which started around 2010 has now forced violence and accused being victims by the relatives and others in the Enga Province. Various agencies have attempted to respond. Victims have sought help from the churches and they have worked with the provincial administration to respond to violence implicated to the victim(s).

#### **E. UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

United Nation Development Programme's (UNDP) mandate is to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law and inclusive institutions and help people live better lives. UNDP has worked closely with the province

Provincial Consultative Meetings have been held with the UNDP and in June, 2021, the Spotlight Initiative was introduced. They wanted to partner with the Provincial Administration in partnering with UNDP to address the issue of GBV and to find out where the Enga Province was.

The Enga Province currently is falling in the 60-70 category at 61.1 % which is in the high percentage of the GBV basket. It was noted that the Department of Community Development and Religion has been very slow in addressing the GBV issue.

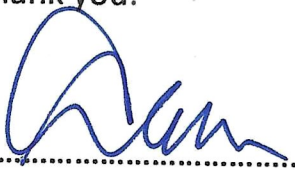
#### **F. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGION**

The lead Department to advance GBV in the country should be the Department of Community Development and Religion (DCDR) but little attention has been given to GBV. However, DCDR has just come on board late this year with other partners.

#### **CONCLUSION**

All in all we understand that GBV has not been addressed by the key lead agencies of government. The wake-up call has been made by the international organizations and the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV. We will try our utmost best to deliver our plan, programs and activities to reduce GBV in the Enga Province.

Thank you.



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**SAMSON AMEAN (Dr)**

**Provincial Administrator for Enga Province**

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021

