

# 7 Years

**TODAY, JANUARY 6, 2025, CDD CELEBRATES  
SEVEN YEARS OF EXISTENCE  
A JOURNEY OF JUSTICE: SEVEN YEARS OF  
CDD INSPIRING MOZAMBIQUE**



These have been seven years of tireless struggle: a struggle for the dignity of our people, for human rights, for justice, and for the hope of a better Mozambique. As we mark this milestone, it is essential to reflect on the origins of CDD and the context that brought this organization to life.

## The Birth of CDD

The idea to establish CDD began in 2014, during the presidential elections that brought Filipe Jacinto Nyusi to his first term. At the time, as Director of the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP), we led vigorous efforts to expose corruption, state plundering, and political gangsterism, which characterized the administration of Armando Guebuza.

The Guebuza era paradoxically marked both the peak of Mozambique's economic growth and rampant corruption. While there was a perception of prosperity, fueled by external investments and the extractive sector, many warned that this growth was unsustainable and did not translate into tangible benefits for the population.

In 2014, inspired by the theory of anti-corruption, we believed that exposing corrupt practices would lead to significant changes in voters' behavior. However, to our surprise, Frelimo retained its political dominance, defying expectations of accountability by the electorate. This episode revealed the need for more than just exposing corruption: it was crucial to organize the youth, promote democratic participation, and fight for the right to hope.

It was in this context that CDD was born, grounded in the theory of social justice, which emphasizes promoting equality, dignity, and universal access to rights. Social justice, for us, means creating an environment where everyone can thrive, with fair institutions, equal opportunities, and respect for human rights.

The registration process for the organization, however, was lengthy and challenging. The regime tried to block CDD's formalization through various means. Yet, after almost three and a half years of struggle, we finally secured registration, thanks to the determination and support of allies committed to democracy and human rights.

## Seven Years of CDD

Today, CDD is widely recognized as one of the most influential organizations on the African continent, celebrated for its significant impact and international prestige as a true Think and Do Tank. Over this journey, we have gone beyond words, translating ideas into concrete actions. We have developed innovative programs, published strategic analyses, and established a national network of young leaders transforming their commu-



nities. These young leaders are at the forefront of promoting democratic participation, social empowerment, and strengthening social cohesion.

In the past two years, we faced numerous challenges and achieved remarkable milestones. We provided legal assistance in more than 850 cases of injustice, ranging from victims of judicial corruption to police arbitrariness. Among them, we conducted 110 strategic litigation cases against the state, always aiming to protect human rights and democracy. Additionally, CDD has been a vital pillar in protecting human rights defenders, not only in Mozambique but also across the Southern African region.

This work, however, has not been without its obstacles. We have faced constant threats, from cyberattacks to defamation campaigns and physical intimidation. Yet, our resilience remains unshaken. In 2024 alone, we recorded:

- 59 attempted attacks on our website;
- 119 attempts to infiltrate our emails;
- 114 interception attempts on our phone communications;
- 59 fake Facebook profiles created to deceive and discredit us.

Despite these challenges, we have not faltered. We continue with courage, determination, and an unwavering commitment to social justice, relying on the support of our partners, friends, and, above all, the Mozambican people.

## Looking Ahead

In these seven years, we have built more than an organization: we have created a platform for change, a space of hope, and a force that defends human dignity. We will continue to inspire, empower, and fight to make the dream of a dignified Mozambique a reality, where everyone's rights are respected.

Though the road is arduous, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a country that is a source of pride for all its citizens.



**To everyone who has walked and continues to walk this journey with us, we extend our most sincere and profound gratitude.**




*Construindo uma sociedade democrática que promove, protege e respeita os Direitos Humanos.*

*Building a democratic society that promotes, protects, respect human rights & transform people's lives.*

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