



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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 08 August 2013

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NEGOTIATING MANDATE

To: The Chairperson: Select Committee on Health
 National Council of Provinces

Name of Bill: Mental Health Care Amendment Bill
Number of Bill: [B39-2012]
Date of Deliberation 08 August 2013

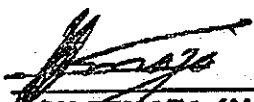
1. Vote of the Legislature

The Province votes in favour of the Bill and mandates the Eastern Cape delegate to the NCOP to negotiate in favour of the Bill.

2. General Recommendations

- 2.1 Traditional healers must be given room to assist with the treatment of mental illness where scientific western medical interventions fail. Room must therefore be given for traditional exorcisms where psychiatric doctors fail, off course, subject to the rights enshrined in the constitution to refuse any form of interventions.
- 2.2 Cognisance must also be given to the fact that some mental illnesses require spiritual interventions for cure than pure scientific western medicines and therefore where such western medicines fail spiritual healings may be employed and again subject to the rights to refuse any form of interventions enshrined in the constitution.

- 2.3 It is further proposed that once the Bill becomes law more psychiatric doctors and nurses must be trained and employed in mental care facilities to deal with the mental health care issues envisaged by the Bill
- 2.4 The regulations in the principal Act requires that form 7 be completed before a patient can be assessed by a health practitioner. It is suggested that this must be amended and form 7 must not be a requirement as sometimes difficulties are experienced in assessing patients that need urgent attention.
- 2.5 The specified limits on administering the electroconvulsive treatment (ECT) should be revisited, as sometimes it needs to be administered more frequently in order to save the patient's life. The frequency for administering ECT must be determined by the treating psychiatrist.
- 2.6 It is difficult for psychiatric hospitals to get assistance to transport patients by the South African Police Services (SAPS) as the SAPS always refuse to assist claiming that they do not have vehicles conducive for transporting psychiatric patients resulting in them being open to litigation if a patient hurts himself/herself during transportation.
- 2.7 The SAPS needs training interventions in dealing with Mental Health Care and procedures to be followed when assisting with psychiatric patients.



HON DIMAZA (MPL)
CHAIRPERSON
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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08/08/2013
DATE