

Limpopo Legislature

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NEGOTIATING MANDATE OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PREVENTION OF AND TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE BILL [B12B-2008]

1. INTRODUCTION

The Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Bill [B12B-2008] was referred to the Legislature of Limpopo Province by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). Subsequently, the Limpopo Legislature referred the Bill to the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for consideration and to confer negotiating mandate to the NCOP Permanent Delegates.

2. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

To provide for a comprehensive national response for the combating of substance abuse; to provide for mechanisms aimed at demand and harm reduction in relation to substance abuse through prevention, early intervention, treatment and re-integration programmes; to provide for the registration and establishment of treatment centers and halfway houses; to provide for the committal of persons to and from treatment centers and for their treatment, rehabilitation and skills development in such treatment centers, to provide for the establishment of the Central Drug Authority; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL

The Portfolio Committee met the National Department official Mr Kalayamodimo on 14 August 2008 for a briefing on the principle and provisions of the Bill and a decision was taken to facilitate public involvement on the Bill. Public hearings were conducted on 27 August 2008 at Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts, 28 August 2007 at Vhembe and Waterberg Districts and on 29 August 2007 at Mopani Districts, to provide provincial stakeholders and the public a platform to express their views on the Bill. The Public hearings were well attended and the following inputs were made:

- The Bill should create a coordinated programme to control liquor outlets and ensure the enforcement of law governing liquor and drugs sale in the country.
- The legislation should consider instituting institutions for prevention of substance abuse
- The Bill should stipulate as to how the Community Home Based Care givers will be compensated.

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- Liquor stores should have a standard opening and closing time
- collaborative approach amongst government departments and other stakeholders involved in combating substance abuse should be regulated
- Persons found guilty of substance abuse should be sentenced to imprisonment exceeding 10 years
- The Bill should provide for a minimum percentage of alcohol allowed at ceremonies

4. NEGOTIATING MANDATE

The Portfolio Committee having considered and supported the Bill, and taking into consideration the inputs and views of the stakeholders, hereby confer a negotiating mandate to the NCOP Permanent Delegates to negotiate in favour of the Bill with the inputs mentioned above.

E. Nchabeleng.

E. NCHABELENG, MPL

CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT