



RECEIVED
2008-09-04

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Legislature Building
Dr James Moroka Drive
Private Bag X2018
MMABATHO
2735

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

04 September 2008

Report on the negotiating Mandate of Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Amendment Bill [B12B-2008]

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The above mentioned Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee for consideration as a matter of priority.

2. BRIEFING

On the 14 August 2008, Hon. J. Masilo and Hon Kgarebe, NCOP Permanent Delegate briefed the members of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on the above Bill. Present at the briefing was Committee members, the Department legal advisors and Legislature legal advisors.

3. CONSIDERATION

There was a need for public hearing and it was held on the 18th to 21st August 2008 at Bojanala-Mariting, Central-Lichtenberg, Southern-Potchefstroom and Bophinima-Ganyesa.

4. RESOLUTION

The Committee having considered the bill, resolved to accept and support the bill with the attached amendments.

Signed

The Speaker: Hon. T. Modise

4.1. Questions and comments/inputs

- ❖ The following compressed questions and comments/inputs are based on the above-mentioned / identified regions. They are randomly arranged. Most of the questions and comments are in line with the Bill.

4.1.2. Community

- ❖ Different committees do not participate in the Center-based and out-patient services. It is suggested that committees at the serve point should be a starting point. They should be empowered for quality management. Structures should begin at a local level.
- ❖ Establishment of Drug Committee will make a difference.
- ❖ How to establish or manage any treatment centre?
- ❖ Are there any services provided that people can be stopped to use substance abuse.
- ❖ Are there any programmes for prevention of substance abuse, especially, for children in place?
- ❖ One of the concerns is that, the Bill should include Sports against Crime programmes for the learners / students. In future, the SAPS can always monitor the schools because sport grounds are not used as before. Instead, learners are substituting sport time with drugs.
- ❖ Most of the participants complain about the shortage of the Social Workers in their districts, which hampers service delivery.
- ❖ There should be private investigators for the smokers because they end up vandalizing the sport buildings.
- ❖ Educational awareness / campaign amongst the youth should be established and implemented.
- ❖ Some of the participants prefer learnership programmes instead of bursaries to further their studies on Social Work.

- ❖ Monitoring of Rehabilitation Centers and at the Universities on Substance Abuse should be a priority.
- ❖ Substance Abusers are discharged very soon at the hospital. The Portfolio Committee is requested to look at this matter in collaboration with Health Department.
- ❖ A request was raised that the policemen should work hand in hand with the entire Community, including teachers, learners / students etc.
- ❖ A concern was pointed out that some of the policemen failed to do their job effectively and efficiently because the substance abusers are regarded as heroes / heroines and some are family friends if not relatives of the policemen.
- ❖ **Concerns about the Bill are as follows:**
 - ✓ Due to shortage of Social Workers in the province, the implementation of the programmes identified is not in good shape.
 - ✓ The Bill should include the duration of people in treatment centers.
 - ✓ The Bill should include disciplinary measures against centers that refuse admission to people who need help or who abuse service users.

4.2.3. The following compressed responses are based on the above-mentioned / identified regions. They are randomly arranged. It is emphasized that:

- ❖ According to Chapter 6 on Center-based and out-patient services, the Minister must in, consultation with the MEC, from funds appropriated by Parliament for that purpose, establish, maintain and manage at least one public treatment center in each province for the reception, treatment, rehabilitation and skills development of service users.

- ❖ No person may establish or manage any treatment center maintained for the treatment, rehabilitation and skills development of service users or in which such persons receive mainly physical, psychological, spiritual or social treatment unless such treatment center is registered in terms of section 6.
- ❖ A municipality must establish a Local Drug Action Committee. The members of a Local Drug Action Committee must be appointed by the Mayor of the Municipality.
- ❖ The municipality in which a Local Drug Action Committee is situated must, from the moneys appropriated by the municipality for that purpose, provide financial support to the Local Drug Action Committee. Furthermore, at the Province, the MEC must establish Provincial Substance Abuse Forums. The MEC adequate and sustained funding must be provided by the Provincial Department responsible for Social Development.
- ❖ A Local Drug Action Committee must ensure that its action plan is in line with the priorities and the objectives of the integrated Mini Drug Master Plan and that it is aligned with the strategies of government departments.
- ❖ There are programmes for prevention of substance abuse. They develop the personal and social skills of people, especially children, to increase their capacity to make informed and healthy choices.
- ❖ According to the Bill, Community based services must establish recreational, cultural and sports activities to divert young people from substance abuse.

- ❖ The monitoring and assessment team may interview any service user or persons affected by substance abuse admitted in such treatment centre or halfway house.
- ❖ Service users and persons affected by substance abuse may, as prescribed, establish support groups that focus integrated ongoing support to service users in their recovery.
- ❖ Parents should encourage their children to apply for bursaries at the Department of Social Development due to shortage of Social Workers. In addition, they will be in the position to assist the Parliament in the implementation of this Bill.