

080923pc justice



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Presentation to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice

Audio Visual Remands



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Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BRANCH: COURT SERVICES: Chief Directorate: Court Performance

Audio Visual Remands: Purpose

Purpose of the presentation:

- ☐ To provide feedback on the Audio Visual Remands pilot project
- ☐ Briefly cover the way forward with regards to envisaged national roll out



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Audio Visual Remands:

Areas covered by the presentation:

- ☐ Background
- ☐ Impact study - benefits
- ☐ Way forward



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Background: Audiovisual Remand Project goal

- To establish an environment conducive to test the remand of criminal cases against accused persons who are in custody awaiting trial utilising technology in the form of audio-visual link between the prison and the court

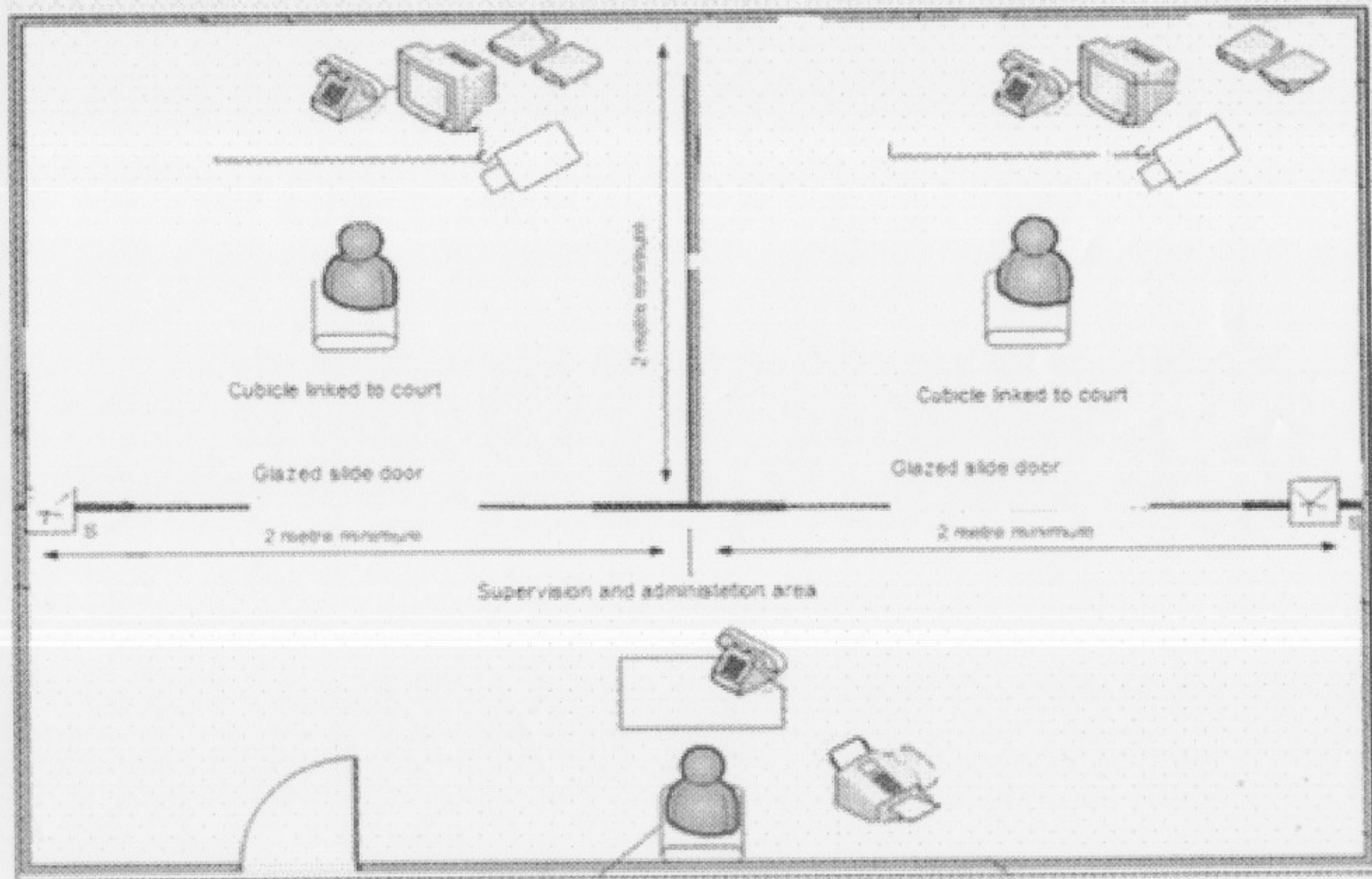
Background:

Solution provided for:

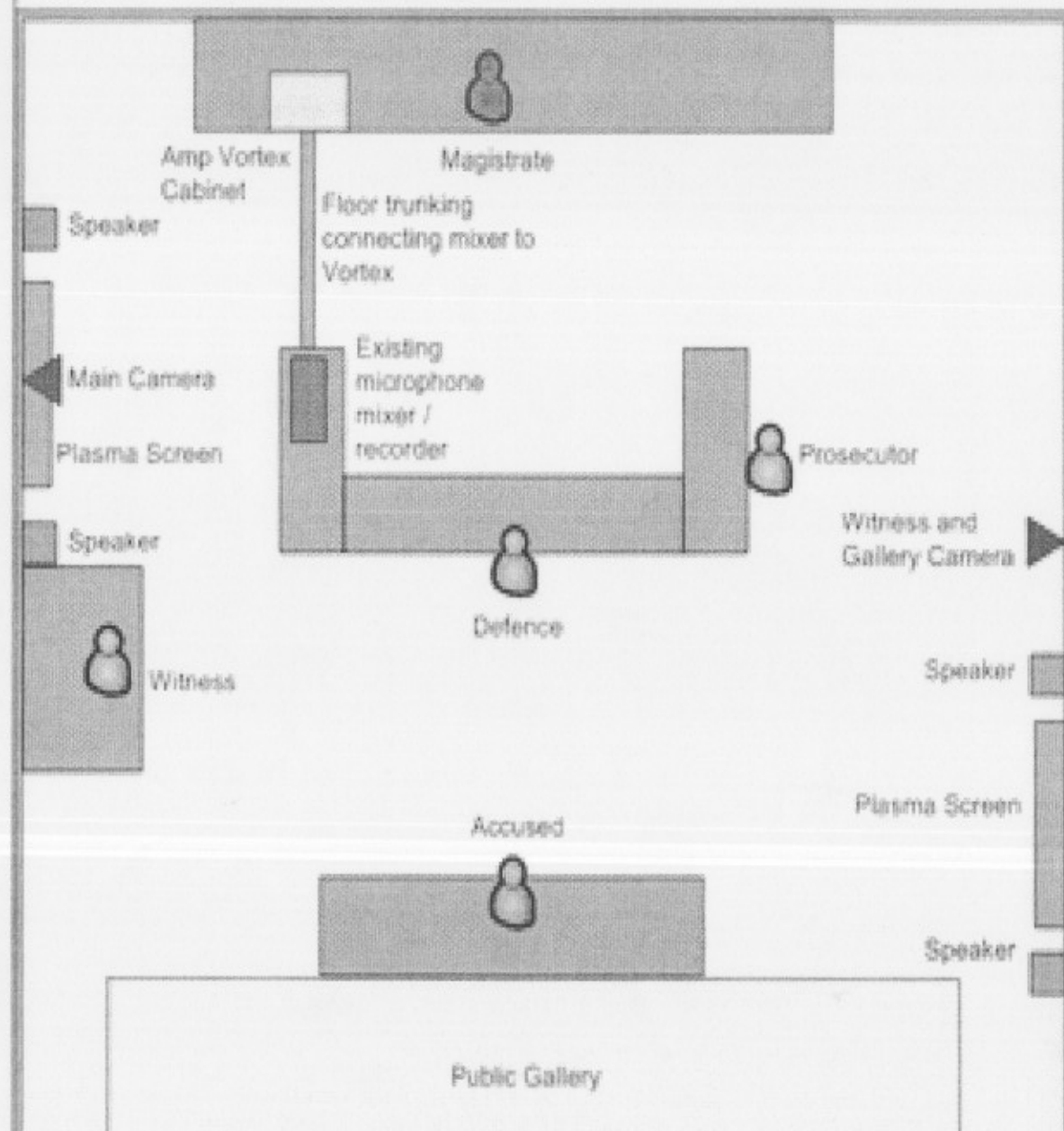
- A high quality audiovisual link between two cubicles/remote points at the Medium A Correctional Centre at Durban Westville and courtrooms at Durban & Pinetown magistrates courts
- Facilities utilized to deal with routine remands without the awaiting trial detainee leaving the Correctional Centre

Background: Audiovisual Remand Infrastructure

At Correctional Centre: Office divided into two cubicles



Video Remand Court



Key



Camera



Speaker



Plasma Screen



Amp Vortex Cabinet



Existing microphone mixer / recorder



Floor Trunking

Video Remand: Impact study: Benefits

To date -6415 ATD's appeared before the court utilizing the concept

- Reduction of transportation & costs
- Reduction in security risks in the court environment
- Reduction in numbers of internal security officials guarding inmates – DCS/SAPS
- Reduction in the number of accused persons at the magistrate courts at any given time.
- Shortened the overall time frame to conduct remands
- Reduced administration at holding cells
- Normal remands of cases – further investigation, formal bail application requests, legal aid requests etc. conducted
- Accused are granted unopposed bail
- Bail set previously is reduced
- Cases are withdrawn
- Sec 63 of the CPA applications entertained



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Audiovisual Remand: Impact study: Benefits

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Audiovisual Remands: Way forward

- Pilot success prompted top management to roll out nationally.
- Workload (cases & ATD's) analysis conducted to determine the most appropriate courts and Correctional Centers to implement the concept.
 - To provide for a prioritized/incremental implementation plan
 - Align further roll out with DCS - focusing on ATD's detention centers/ large courts
- Engaged with DoPW to
 - determine the infrastructure specifications conducive to operate the concept based on lessons learned with pilot project
 - Conduct cost analysis for converting existing infrastructure (Court & Correctional Centre)

Audiovisual Remands: Way forward

- A total of 47 courts with 36 aligned Correctional Centers have been identified for deployment. (Key stakeholders have been engaged).
- National tender for the supply, installation and maintenance of the system, has been made.
- A performance testing of the technology on the Department's VPN network (as opposed to the KZN ISDN network) is currently done at New Brighton and Port Elizabeth Courts aligned to St Alban's Correctional Centre in Port Elizabeth.
- Lessons learnt from this performance testing will be utilised to determine the Blue Print for national roll out



Video Remands: Key Dependencies

- Approval of the Criminal procedure Amendment (Audiovisual Adjournments) Bill
- Refurbishment of the facilities especially at Correctional Centers to bring it in line with the specifications to optimally utilise the concept