

Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and  
Constitutional Development:  
Presentation of Child Justice National Policy Framework,  
in terms of sections 93 and 96 of Child Justice Act, 2008  
(Act No 75 of 2008)

Department of Justice and  
Constitutional Development  
26 May 2010

DGs ISCCJ GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- The DGs ISCCJ has met twice this year
- The first meeting in March concentrated on the mandate and governance of the ISCCJ
- The second meeting on the 19 May was to consider the NPF and the Accreditation Framework for Diversion
- The DGs ISCCJ agreed on quarterly meetings until the NPF is implemented
- Nominations for the secretariat were received from the Department of Justice and the NPA

## The National Policy Framework

### THE DGs ISCCJ must

Develop a National Policy Framework in order to-

- Ensure a uniform, co-ordinated and co-operative approach by all government departments, organs of state and institutions dealing with matters relating to child justice;
- Guide the implementation and administration of this Act;
- Promote co-operation and communication with the non-governmental sector and civil society in order to ensure effective partnerships for the strengthening of the child justice system; and
- Enhance service delivery as envisaged in this Act by the development of a plan within available resources.

## Outline of Child Justice National Policy Framework

- Background to the Child Justice Act;
- The Context and Vision of the Act;
- Introduction to the National Policy Framework;
- Objectives of the Policy Framework;
- Implementing the Child Justice Act;
- Priorities of the Act:
  - Building capacity in the sector;
  - Ensuring assessment of children;
  - Preliminary Inquiries;
  - Sentencing;
  - Provision of Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Services;
  - Establishment of Child and Youth Care Centres;
  - Establishment of One Stop Child Justice Centres;
  - Resources and Budgets;
  - Public Education and Communication; and
  - Development of necessary IT and IJS-systems to support information management systems.

## Outline of Child Justice National Policy Framework, continued

- Roles and Responsibilities of all government departments
- Intersectoral co-ordination mechanisms
- Managing the flow of children through the system
- Monitoring Evaluation and information management
- The Legal Framework
- Conclusion

## Section 93(2): The Cabinet member responsible for the administration of justice must-

- Adopt and table the policy framework in Parliament, within two (2) months after the commencement of this Act (i.e., by 31 May 2010);
- Publish the policy framework in the *Gazette* for public comment two (2) months after it has been tabled in Parliament; (i.e., by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010);
  - Process comments received
- Review the policy framework within three years after its publication and at least once every five years there-after (i.e., by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013; and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018); and
- Amend the Policy Framework when required, in which case the amendments must be-
  - Tabled in Parliament and
  - Published in the *Gazette* for public comment.