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22 February, 2013

**SUBMISSION: WRITTEN AND ORAL ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE AMENDMENT BILL [ B39-2012 ] TO PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT, 2002 (Act No.17, 2002) in the definitions mentions the Correctional Services Act 1998 but makes no mention of the Defence Act. This may have been an omission that must be addressed in the Amendment Bill.
2. The Bill must be clear in talking about Implementation of Policies and measures by State, that the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) of the Department of Defence (DOD) is included as an organ of the state responsible for health services.
3. The Bill must specify that Military Hospitals (currently 1 Mil in Pretoria, 2 Mil in Cape Town and 3 Mil in Bloemfontein are State Hospitals and thus automatically Designated to serve as Psychiatric Hospitals and or care and rehabilitation centres.
4. The head of national department, with concurrence of the head of the relevant provincial departments must specify that the Surgeon General of the SAMHS is included as head of "provincial department".

#### **REQUEST TO DO A VERBAL SUBMISSION**

5. We, the consultant psychiatrists working at the 1 Military Hospital, Pretoria, would like to do a verbal presentation to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health on a date and time you stipulate.

**(T.E.RANGAKA)**

**PRINCIPAL PSYCHIATRIST: 1 MILITARY HOSPITAL: LT COL**

**RESTRICTED**

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