



2013

Department of Correctional Services

BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

by the Minister of Correctional Services,
the Honourable **Sibusiso Ndebele, MP**
and the Deputy Minister of Correctional
Services, the Honourable **Adv. Ngoako
Ramatlhodi, MP**

Date:
29 May 2013

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**Parliament
Cape Town**



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Department of Correctional Services
Budget Vote Speech



Mr. Sibusiso Ndebele
Minister of Correctional Services, MP

Correctional Services Budget Vote Speech 2013/14

Mr. Sibusiso Ndebele, Minister of Correctional Services, MP

National Assembly, Cape Town • 29th May 2013

• Honourable Speaker • Honourable Members and Colleagues
• Deputy Minister of Correctional Services: Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi • Chairperson Mr. Vincent Smith, and Members of the Correctional Services Portfolio Committee • National Commissioner of Correctional Services Mr. Thomas Moyane, and senior Management of DCS • Judge Vuka Tshabalala: Inspecting Judge for Correctional Services • Chairperson Judge Siraj Desai, and Members of the National Council on Correctional Services • Our Officials and Offenders • All other Members of the Correctional Services Family • Comrades and Friends • Distinguished Guests • Ladies and Gentlemen •

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the African Union, across the world there's consensus that we must seriously re-think the role of corrections. As Chair of the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA), South Africa will use its position to improve the management of correctional centres across the continent.

This Department, now known as the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), has been in existence for 102 years. Correctional Services marks the end of a life of crime, and the beginning of restoration. We must deliver justice for victims and ensure that offenders make restitution both to society for their crimes, and leave correctional centres with better skills and prospects. The field of corrections is gaining prominence. On 16th May, 45 students, from the University of Zululand, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Correctional Studies.

The transformation programme of our democratic government necessitated that prisons shift from institutions of humiliation to institutions of new beginnings. The White Paper on Corrections represents the final fundamental break with a past archaic penal system, and ushers in a start to our second decade of freedom where prisons become correc-

tional centres of rehabilitation, and offenders are given new hope, and encouragement, to adopt a lifestyle that will result in a second chance towards becoming ideal citizens.

Our National Development Plan states: “In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime. They are safe at home, at school, at work and they enjoy an active community life free of crime. Women can walk freely in the streets and children can play safely outside...”

REBUILDING SOCIETY

According to the Freedom Charter, “Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance.”

Section 35(2)(e) of the Bill of Rights says, “Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity, including at least exercise and the provision, at state expense, of adequate accommodation, nutrition, reading material and medical treatment;”

OFFENDER POPULATION

According to the latest National Offender Population Profile (September 2012), the major crime categories are economic, aggressive, sexual and narcotics. As at 27th May, South Africa’s inmate population was 152,514; 45,043 (29,5%) were remand detainees, and 107,471 were sentenced offenders. Offenders sentenced to life imprisonment increased from about 400 in 1994 to more than 11,000 in 2013. Foreign nationals comprise 8,973 inmates (4,087 sentenced and 4,886 un-sentenced). In addition, 65,931 offenders are outside correctional centres living in their respective communities; 48,716 are parolees, 15,491 are probationers (serving non-custodial sentences) and 1,724 are awaiting-trial.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

On 19th and 20th November 2012, we hosted a colloquium under the theme, “TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA’S

HIGH RATE OF INCARCERATION AND BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME". All stakeholders, including judges, magistrates and academics, attended. An action plan has since been developed to address recommendations from the colloquium. The colloquium also consulted on the White Paper on the Management of Remand Detainees which, has been finalized for tabling with the JCPS Cluster DGs and, is due to be published soon.

On average, 15 to 20% of the 45,043 awaiting trial detainees are in custody because they cannot afford bail. This has resulted in the poorest of the poor being removed from their families, with associated socio-economic implications. The Electronic Monitoring Pilot Project (EMPP) has proven to be economical, effective, efficient and relevant to the broader goals of DCS and the JCPS cluster. Electronic monitoring is now available to the courts, particularly for remand detainees, non-custodial sentencing and parolees. It costs the taxpayer R9,876-35 per month presently for each inmate, whilst electronic monitoring costs R3,379. Electronic monitoring enables offenders to be monitored within metres, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Should an offender commit any violation, alerts are immediately generated and transmitted. Interference with the equipment, including tampering or failing to charge the receiver, is electronically relayed to the control room.

SECOND CHANCE ACT

In conjunction with the National Council on Correctional Services (NCCS), chaired by Judge Siraj Desai and comprising Deputy Chairs, Judge Ledwaba and Lacock, as well as other professionals including magistrates, attorneys, clinical psychologists, social workers, medical doctors, professors and officials, we are reviewing various issues including overcrowding, CCTV cameras in correctional centres, parole board and case management committee training, training for psychologists and social workers as well as the Second Chance Act.

In 2007, the Democrats and Republicans, in the United States, sponsored a legislative proposal to expand re-entry services for people leaving correctional centres. The Act counters policies which have made it difficult for ex-offenders to re-enter the normative non-criminal community, and could explain why there are so many recidivists. Our responsibility is to keep those who, by law, are supposed to be inside. But, unlike

a train driver, our task is not limited to ensuring that they are properly inside but rather that they are properly rehabilitated. That task does not end with them leaving our correctional centres. It is still our responsibility to ensure they do not re-offend. The Second Chance Act may assist in this task.

DRUG ABUSE

According to the International Centre for Prison Studies, January-February 2013 News Digest, a United States report suggests that the imprisonment rate for African-Americans is six times higher than the national average. This means that young Black men, who have not completed high school, are more likely to be imprisoned than find a job. South Africa is no different. The vast bulk of inmates are young Black men. More than a third of those incarcerated are youth, and a large number of inmates who, while not under 25, are still in the prime of their life. Children, as young as 17 years of age, have committed serious crimes. Our average inmate is a young substance abuser who, has dropped out of school before high school, is functionally illiterate and, more often than not, homeless.

During September 2012, we undertook a study tour to Brazil, Cuba and New York. South Africa is ranked 5th in terms of foreigners jailed in Brazil. The majority are convicted for drug-related crimes. In Sao Paulo, and Rio, 125 South Africans were incarcerated. Of these 57 men and 68 women, the youngest, and eldest, were females; the youngest was 20 years of age and the oldest 74. We welcome eNews Channel Africa (eNCA) anchor Joanne Joseph's role in telling the drug mule story of former Miss SA finalist Vanessa Goosen. The book, "Drug Muled, 16 Years in a Thai Prison: The Vanessa Goosen Story," details Vanessa's life of imprisonment in Thailand.

Drugs cut across race and class; it affects rich and poor. Your daughter, or son, could be next. We are calling upon everyone (parents, educators, religious leaders) to start learning, observing and recognising drugs and their signs. Observing your child when she is on trial, sentenced or serving time is too late. Together, we fought against apartheid and defeated it. Together, we are fighting against all forms of intolerance. A new scourge is upon us, the scourge of drugs. Let us unite, and fight it, in our families, communities, schools, churches, mosques, temples, everywhere.

As Correctional Services, our contribution, to preventing drug abuse, includes schoolchildren being taken on tours to correctional centres, with motivational talks from rehabilitated inmates. In Gauteng, to date, 1,107 school tours were undertaken by 56,634 learners and 3,321 educators. Inmates depict the realities of their life, demonstrating that crime does not pay. The motivational talks by offenders have also gone beyond correctional centres to schools, community events as well as media interviews.

BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE DARKNESS

Agricultural productivity takes place on our 21 correctional centre farms, and 96 smaller vegetable production sites, all spread over some 40,000 hectares of land. Vegetable production takes place on 21 farms, and 108 smaller centres; fruit production on 13 farms; milk production on 17 farms; red meat on 24 farming units; chicken on four farms; layers on eight farms; red meat abattoirs on 17 farms; white meat abattoirs on three farms; and 15 farms focus on piggery.

The abattoir at Leeuwkop Correctional Facility, once again, emerged a winner at the 2012 Nama Phepa Awards. It was declared the best in the province for three successive years in the category of Low Red Meat Abattoir, winning the gold award. At the Boksburg Correctional Centre Bakery, 22 offenders produce 2,000 loaves of bread daily which feeds 5,000 offenders.

From April 2012 to March 2013, inmates at correctional centre farms and abattoirs produced more than 6,5 million litres of milk (6,585,711 litres), 551,000 kilograms of red meat (551,596kg), 1,8 million kilograms of pork (1,863,906kg), 1 million kilograms of chicken (1,077,908kg), 1,4 million dozen of eggs (1,473,995dozen), 9 million kilograms of vegetables (9,030,042kg) and 607,000 kilograms of fruit (607,768kg).

The establishment of a trading entity is being prioritised, which will impact positively on offender labour. We have adopted various orphanages and old age homes, and will continue to donate excess products to disadvantaged communities.

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

We want to return rehabilitated offenders to society as healthy, and responsible, community members. The yellow ribbon, we wear, is a symbol urging communities to support reintegration and rehabilitation.

Government has stepped up its efforts to fight tuberculosis (TB) in correctional centres. On 24th March (World TB Day), we, together with Minister Motsoaledi, accompanied Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe to Pollsmoor where six GeneXpert machines were handed to us to test inmates.

As at April, 98,4% of the 65,931 offenders, under community corrections, complied with all their parole conditions and did not re-offend. Parolees, who obtained skills in correctional centres, are being provided with work tools, and start up kits, to start their own businesses. These include welding machines, sewing machines, car wash machines and vacuum cleaners to create entrepreneurs and employment for parolees.

Through the Working on Fire project, female parolees are being trained and graduate to structural fire fighting. The training is not only confined to fire fighting, but includes administration and carpentry.

The Department has also engaged the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) in rehabilitation, and reintegration, of offenders. This project is aimed at going back to the basics of rehabilitation and reintegration, and a MoU is expected to be signed next month.

Other initiatives include parolees employed by the City of Jo'burg in the Gateway Project, the Clean Sweep Jo'burg Project, painting the Glenanda Clinic as well as a garden project at Helen Joseph Hospital which supplies the hospital with fresh vegetables. Similar projects are being undertaken in other provinces.

VICTIM-OFFENDER DIALOGUES

Since the launch of the Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) programme on 28th November 2012, more than 85 VOD sessions were hosted, and 1,342 DCS officials trained, across the country on the VOD implementation guidelines. One such session was when we welcomed victims of the

1996 Worcester bombing, who arrived in Tshwane by train from Worcester on 30th January 2013, to meet the youngest bomber, Stefaans Coetzee, at the Pretoria Central Correctional Centre. VODs are based on a theory of justice that considers crime, and wrongdoing, to be an offence against an individual or community, rather than the state. Restorative justice, that fosters dialogue between victim and offender, shows the highest rates of victim satisfaction and offender accountability.

Ultimately, every correctional centre will have a Victim Offender Dialogue Representative Forum. The Head of Centre is the Convenor of the Forum. It is expected that, among others, social workers, psychologists, educators, religious leaders and communities will be actively involved in the VODs. This programme must form part of the sentence plan of offenders. High value must also be placed on ensuring that victims of crime are empowered. We, therefore, request our business community, and other stakeholders, to join hands with us in empowering, especially women and children, victims. The Victim-Offender Dialogues provide an opportunity for offenders to meet with victims and account for their crimes, thereby re-building our nation. Through the VODs, Parole Boards and other structures, we are working towards democratization and creating more opportunities for people to join the fight against crime.

NEW GENERATION CORRECTIONAL CENTRES

We have 243 correctional centres which were built, over the past 100 years or so, when corrections and rehabilitation were unheard of. With the policy shift from historical custodial warehousing to rehabilitation, a review, and redesign, of some facilities is required to enable unit management as well as enhance public involvement, offender development and social reintegration. As we review old-generation facilities, we are mindful of the increasing costs for maintenance of old facilities, overcrowding and limited fiscal capacity. Over the medium-term, there is no budget for building new facilities. An innovative model of facilities acquisition is required to respond to public interest on location, operational needs of rehabilitation, public security and integration with the criminal justice system. Various proposals have been received offering creative, and innovative, solutions. A task team, of senior officials, is currently considering various options including: suitability of current location of facilities and design models offering solutions for rehabilitation; flexibility in custody management based on security requirements, gender,

physical and mental incapacity of inmates; and addressing special needs based on development and care approaches. The task team is expected to complete its work soon, and a call for expressions of interest will be advertised.

YEAR OF THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICIAL

To promote good governance, ethical administration and effective human resource management, we declared 2013 as “The Year of the Correctional Official.” When society breaks down, Correctional Services picks up the pieces and deals with the entirety of the human experience. However, Correctional Officials must first, through their own conduct, earn respect to give this profession the respect it deserves. The balance between internal security and order, as well as rehabilitation, is paramount. We want to re-iterate that unlawful attacks by officials on inmates, as well as riots instigated by inmates in correctional centres, and attacks on officials, will not be tolerated. A National Gang Management Task Team has been established to implement a multi-dimensional gang management strategy. However, gangs in correctional centres are not unique to South Africa.

On 27th January, Venezuelan prison minister, Iris Varela, announced the closure of the Uribana prison, near the city of Barquisimeto, where more than 60 inmates died in a riot.

We have renewed our efforts at ensuring a healthy organised labour-management relationship. On 11th February, we convened a Ministerial Consultative Forum with recognised trade union partners such as PSA and POPCRU. At this forum, parties resolved to establish a Ministerial Task Team comprising representatives from organised labour and management. The task team has since been meeting regularly to tackle a number of employee-related issues, including employment equity. Due to the nature of the issues, the team has requested a postponement, from March to June, to submit a comprehensive report. We call upon all stakeholders to utilize this forum.

We will continue to ensure that the departmental structure fundamentally transforms the manner in which DCS delivers services. The organizational culture must ensure effective, and sustainable, rehabilitation. The Department will roll out a new Human Resource Strategy, focusing on,

among others, the development of a staffing plan; the enhancement of relationships with employees, and recognized trade unions, to reduce labour disputes; rolling out an integrated Employee Health, and Wellness, Programme; and channelling more resources towards staff development.

TURN-AROUND STRATEGY

We have instructed management to implement a turn-around strategy, to ensure improved financial controls. We must all fight fraud and corruption with vigour. During 2012/13, 19 officials were dismissed, two were demoted, 15 were issued with final written warnings and 14 were suspended without pay. We are currently conducting a major investigation into allegations of blatant anarchy at certain correctional centres, including collusion by officials. Due to sensitivity, further information cannot be provided at this stage. We are also working with the Office of the Inspecting Judge, Judge Vuka Tshabalala, on these matters. We will ensure that officials, and offenders, found guilty of any offence face the consequences of their actions.

BUDGET FOR 2013/14

The period post-1994 has seen the review of policies, the introduction of new legislation, the development of the White Paper on Corrections and many other improvements.

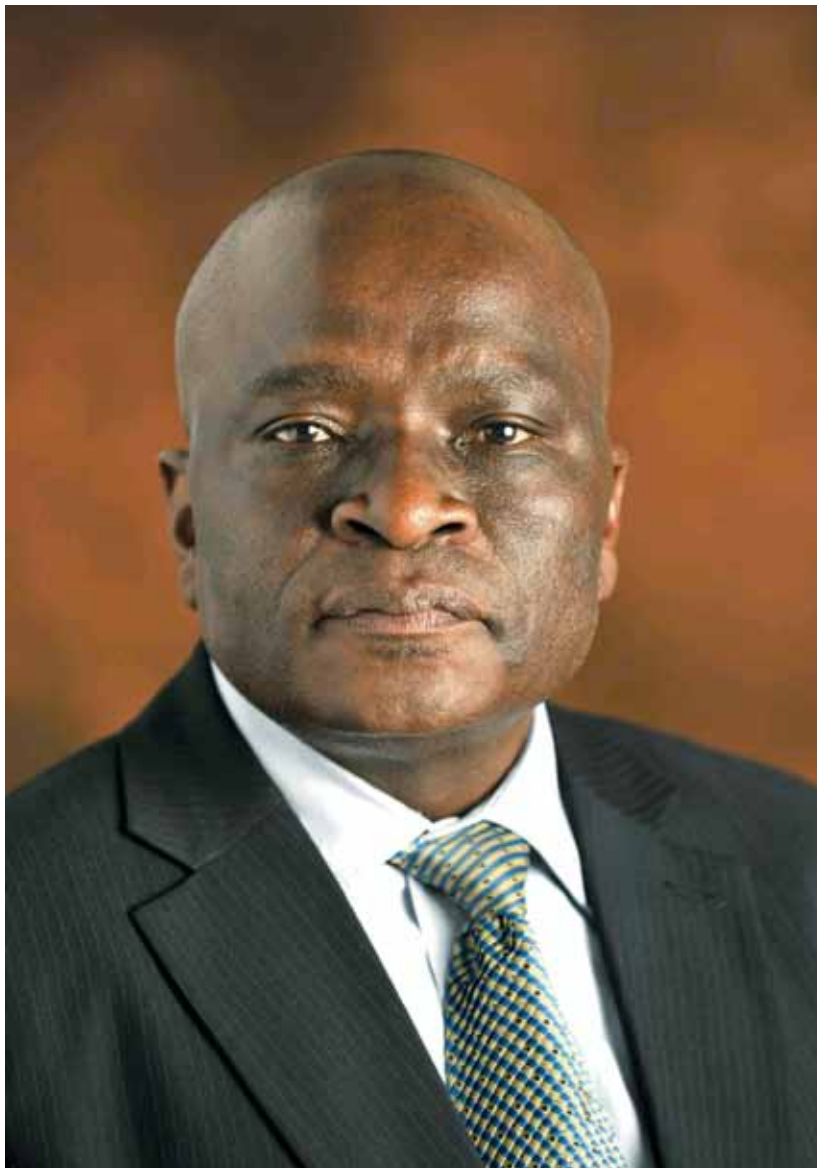
During the current term of government, bold strides have been taken in providing better services to inmates including taking care of their physical needs and their need for correction and rehabilitation.

The overall budget for 2013/14 for the Department of Correctional Services is R18,748 billion. Last year it was R17,7 billion.

Finally, we thank this House, and members of Portfolio Committee in particular, for your on-going support and oversight. Once more, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister, National Commissioner, senior management and all officials for their work in support of our policy objectives.

THANK YOU.

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Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi
Deputy Minister of Correctional Services

Budget Vote Speech

Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi

Deputy Minister of Correctional Services

• Honourable Speaker • Honourable Minister of Correctional Services • Honourable Chairperson and Members of the Correctional Services Portfolio Committee • Honourable Members of the Extended Public Committee • Honourable Judge Tshabalala: Inspecting Judge of Correctional Services • Honourable Judge Desai: Chairperson and Member of the National Council on Correctional Services • Mr Tom Moyane: National Commissioner: Department of Correctional Services • Distinguished Guests • Esteemed Members of the Media • Cadres and friends •

As we approach two decades of democracy in our country it is important that we must be clear and accurate in sharing with this house what we as a National Department has achieved and where we are going to.

The change of guard in the Ministry on 12 June 2012, which saw the arrival of the Honourable Minister Ndebele from Transport and the departure of Honourable Ms Mapisa-Nqakula to Defence, allows me the opportunity to say to this house that I relished the period I served as Deputy-Minister to her. When I was appointed to this portfolio she assigned me specific focus areas of operation and I enjoyed her leadership while attending to them.

Minister Ndebele requested me to continue focusing on the same areas of performance and this allowed me to seamlessly continue with the work done over the past few years.

The three main streams of core business of the department are vested in the budget programmes: Remand Detention, Incarceration and Corrections and Social Reintegration. My focus areas mainly find presence in Remand Detention and Social Reintegration.

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Honourable members, I am pleased to share with you the considerable progress that the department has made in terms of Remand Detention.

The Remand Detention Branch was established on 1 April 2012 and the Branch Head was subsequently appointed on 1 June 2012. She is Ms Britta Rotmann. The vacancies in the Branch Structure on National level were filled and a draft Regional and Management Area Organizational Structure was developed and submitted for approval. We are hoping to fill positions at those levels soon.

WHITE PAPER ON REMAND DETENTION

One of the first and key responsibilities of this new branch was to develop a White Paper on Remand Detention that is aligned to the Correctional Services legislation and specifically to the Correctional Matters Amendment Act. This was done.

The White Paper was consulted with our key role players in Government namely the South African Police Services, the Department of Social Development and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and relevant Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster structures such as the Management of Awaiting Trial Detainee Task Team, Criminal Justice Review Committee, National Integrated Court and Case-flow Management Task Team and the National Development Committee of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster.

The White Paper was also consulted with several other key stakeholders and interest groups. Amendments were effected after each phase of consultation. The document has now been submitted to the National Development Committee for further consultation processes with the Directors-General's Committee, Ministers' Committee; Cabinet Committee and eventually to Parliament for approval.

COOPERATION WITHIN THE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION AND SECURITY CLUSTER ON REMAND DETENTION ISSUES

The Department works closely with partners in the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster and enjoys excellent support from them. Case-flow Management Meetings, Criminal Justice Review Meetings as well as Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster Development

Committee Meetings are attended and the refinement of the Remand Detention System feature prominently on their agendas.

The protocols on Section 49G (Maximum Incarceration Periods for Remand Detainees) and Section 49E (Referral of Terminally ill Remand or Severely Incapacitated Remand Detainees to Court) were endorsed and approved by the relevant Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster of Directors-General of: Department of Correctional Services; Department of Justice & Constitutional Development; National Prosecuting Authority and South African Police Services at a meeting held on 03 July 2012. The protocols were further unpacked into operational policies and relevant forms required for implementation were developed.

Standardized presentations were also developed and circulated to the National Integrated Court and Case-flow Management Secretariat for further distribution to all the Provincial and Local Case-Flow Structures that are Chaired; by the Judiciary.

The official implementation date for the Section 49E protocol was on 01 December 2012 and referrals are being monitored at National level. The official implementation date set for the Section 49G protocols is 01 July 2013 and the preparatory processes for the promulgation are in place.

IT solutions for implementation and accurate data capturing were developed in 2012 and implemented on 01 April 2013. The solution will assist in determining which remand detainees qualify for referral to court at certain intervals in line with Section 49G provisions. The first three months (April to June 2013) is the pilot phase during which testing of the accuracy of information is done, as well as referral of cases, which would constitute “backlog cases” once the Section is implemented. A strategy in this regard was developed with key strategic partners Department of Justice & Constitutional Development; National Prosecution Authority; Legal Aid South Africa and the Judiciary.

A tool for calculating the length of detention was also developed and implemented on 1 April 2013 with a three month testing period. In addition, a monitoring tool was developed for completion by all the Regions that will make it easier for the calculation of a National average length of Detention.

SECURITY RISK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR REMAND DETAINEES

The Department's inability to accurately determine the Security Risks that Individual Remand Detainees pose has long been an Achilles Heel for the Managers of Remand Detention Facilities. A Security Risk Classification System for Remand Detainees has been developed in conjunction with South African Police Services during 2011/2012. A Testing Phase of the System and Tools started on 1 December 2012 and will continue during 2013/2014. Once the system's effectiveness and reliability are guaranteed, it will be rolled out to all Remand Detention Facilities.

REMAND DETENTION FACILITIES

Twenty six dedicated Remand Detention Facilities were established across the country and a further 109 Centres have been authorized to establish Remand Detention Sections with effect from 1 March 2012. The Department is currently looking at disaggregating the number of bed spaces made available to Remand Detainees versus Sentenced Offenders in order to, in future, have Split Overcrowding Figures, which will ensure better planning.

VIDEO ARRAIGNMENT

Twenty two Video Arraignment Courts in Correctional Centres serving 47 Magistrate Courtrooms have been established although the site at Mthatha is still being refurbished under the Management of the Department of Public Works. Challenges relating to the connectivity of lines (both Telkom and ISDN) and theft of equipment have prevented the system from functioning optimally.

REMAND DETENTION UNIFORM

Bright yellow uniforms are being manufactured by offenders in the Department's Textile Workshops. Thus far 8400 one-piece overalls, 11307 shirts and 6049 pairs of trousers have been manufactured utilizing 50% of the capacity of the Workshops. The rest of the capacity is utilized to manufacture uniforms for Sentenced Offenders. Production will carry on through 2013/2014.

According to projections, the wearing of Uniform by all Remand Detainees will start during the second half of 2014. This will contribute to better Security Management in Remand Detention Facilities and Improve Hygiene Issues.

REMAND DETAINEE CHILDREN

Although we do not want to accommodate Children in Remand Detention, there are unfortunately Cases where a Court has no alternative but to refer Children for Remand Detention to our Centres. The Department works in close collaboration with Justice to ensure that we adhere to the stipulations of the Child Justice Act. In line with Section 30(4) of the Child Justice Act, Children appear every 14 days before the Presiding Officer to allow Reconsideration of their Detention Orders.

I am pleased to report that the total number of Children in Remand Detention has decreased considerably over the past three years. It decreased from 305 children at the end of March 2011 to 218 on 31 March 2012 and a further reduction to only 135 on 31 March 2013.

REPEAT OFFENDING

The Department of Correctional Services adopted a Cluster approach to developing a framework for measuring repeat offending. As the honourable members may know we do not have reliable figures on repeat offending which is a crucial performance indicator to determine the success of Rehabilitation Programmes and Correctional Interventions.

A Cluster Committee has completed the framework and it has been consulted with various Cluster Committees. It will be implemented once finally approved.

PAROLE BOARDS

The R22.8 million allocation; to the Department of Correctional Services; by Cabinet from the Criminal Asset Recovery Committee Fund for the installation of an Audio-Visual System in the Parole Boards Offices will come to fruition soon. Final bid evaluation documents and recommendations were submitted to the procurement division for submission to the National Bid Adjudication committee. The committee met during May

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2013 to consider recommendations of the Bid Evaluation Committee. Final awarding of this tender is expected to happen by the end of May 2013. Once the system is installed, it will give victims access to any of the 52 Parole Boards across the country to make presentations without having to travel.

In 2007, the Department developed a Policy on Restorative Interventions. This included the Victim-Offender Mediation Model which outlines the process of identifying offenders who are genuinely ready to take part in Victim-Offender Mediation.

In addition, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation of Victims of Crime to assist with tracing Victims of Crimes for their possible participation during Parole Placement considerations of Offenders who committed Crimes against them. During the year 2012/2013 the Foundation of Victims traced 1037 Victims of Crime. Of these Victims; 46 have participated in Parole Boards Hearings. Another 52 Victims prepared by the Foundation of Victims of Crime have participated in the Victim-Offender Mediation Programmes whilst 875 Victims are ready to participate in either the Victim-Offender Mediation Programmes or Parole Board Hearings.

PAROLE AND PAROLE VIOLATIONS NUMBERS

The parole system that is used in the country is based on international best practices. It allows for independent decision making by Correctional Supervision and Parole Boards and it allows for the participation of Victims as well as other role players such as representatives from the South African Police Services and Justice.

The average number of Offenders on Parole has grown from 44 941 in 2010/2011 to 46 259 in 2012/2013. The average number of Offenders subjected to Correctional Supervision however; has in the past three years; decreased from 22 458; to 17 183.

During 2012/2013; 78% of all Offenders placed on Parole underwent Pre-release Programmes.

Of those placed on Parole during 2012/2013; 15.19% violated their Parole conditions compared to 23.9% during the previous year. It represents a decrease of almost 9%, which is a good achievement.

JUDICIAL INSPECTORATE

The Department cannot overemphasize the significance of the role of the Judicial Inspectorate in assisting the Department to ensure Compliance with Legislation and Policies within Correctional Centres. The presence of the Independent Correctional Centre Visitors and the regular oversight reports that are received from the Inspecting Judge's Office enable the Department to deal with cases and areas of underperformance. I want to thank Judge Vuka Tshabalala; the Inspecting Judge for the Inspectorate's contribution in ensuring that the Department in compliance with the prescripts of Chapter 2 of our Bill of Rights; delivers in its obligation to provide conditions of detention that are appropriate for our constitutional dispensation.

LEGAL SERVICES

The Department's Legal Services Component has been bolstered by the appointment of a Chief Director; Mr Mxolisi Zulu. It is believed that his leadership will provide the impetus for improved delivery in respect of Litigation and other Legal Advisory Services. The Department is faced with extensive Legal Risks that emanate not only from Offenders and Remand Detainees but also from our officials and their respective labour organizations.

CONCLUSION

Honourable members; the Budget of Correctional Services has been submitted to you. I trust that the Budget will be approved so that we can continue to contribute towards making South Africa a place in which all people are; and feel safe.

I thank you.

