

PRESS STATEMENT

13 December 2007

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CHILD JUSTICE [B49-2002]

Yunus Carrim, MP, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development.

The Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee will be holding public hearings on the Child Justice Bill on 24 January 2007.

This Bill seeks to protect the rights of children as contemplated in the Constitution and promote the spirit of *ubuntu* in the child justice system. It also aims at preventing children from being exposed to the adverse effects of the formal criminal justice system by using, where appropriate, processes, procedures, mechanisms, services or options more appropriate to the needs of children and in accordance with the Constitution. This includes the use of diversion, and the promotion of cooperation between all government departments and other organizations involved in implementing an effective criminal justice system for children.

Written submissions on the Bill should reach parliament by no later than 18 January 2008. Requests for oral evidence to the Committee should also be submitted by the same date.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary: Ms P Sibisi
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Copies of the Bill may be obtained from Ms Sibisi.

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