



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE



CPLO/ISS Roundtable Discussion on Substance Abuse Draft Bill

Roundtable Discussion convened by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office and the Institute for Security Studies

CPLO, 12 Bouquet Street, Cape Town
Thursday, 07 June 2007

Background

Drug abuse is on the rise in South Africa and it can be argued that this permeates many aspects of society and hinders South Africa's prospects for development. Since drug abuse may lead to violent crime, domestic abuse and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases to name but a few consequential outcomes, drug abuse has far-reaching implications for everyone. It is within this context that the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) have the pleasure of inviting you to a roundtable discussion on the Substance Abuse Draft Bill.

The proposed Draft Bill aims to tackle substance abuse through preventative strategies of early intervention, treatment and reintegration. It presents guidelines for the establishment of treatment facilities and the committal of substance abusers thereafter. It also makes provision for the creation of a research and information management framework and for the formation of a Central Drug Authority. The Bill will supplement the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992.

- Are the intentions and the contents of the proposed South African draft legislation in line with what is needed to combat the drug problem in SA?
- Is there a need for the proposed draft bill?
- What does this legislation expect to achieve?
- Will minimum norms and standards at treatment facilities ensure that drug abuse is tackled more effectively?
- How will this affect rising levels of drug abuse in South Africa more generally?
- Are there other provisions that should be made to tackle drug abuse?
- How will a Central Drug Authority make a positive impact in combating drug abuse?

The roundtable discussion aims to debate these issues and provide a clearer understanding of what the draft bill really entails.

Programme

- 09h30-10h00** Participants' registration
Coffee and tea
- 10h00-10h05** **Welcome & Introductory remarks**
Reverend Peter-John Pearson
Director: Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO)
- 10h05-10h15** **Opening Address**
The Honourable Ms. Williams
Deputy Mayor of Cape Town
- Facilitator:**
Charles Goredema
Programme Head: Organised Crime & Money Laundering
Programme, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- 10h15-10h40** **Monitoring AOD use trends in South Africa (1996-2006) – 10 years of SACENDU data**
Andreas Plüddemann
Senior Scientist, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Research
Medical Research Council (MRC)
- 10h40-11h10** **Overview of the Substance Abuse Draft Bill and latest developments**
Dr. Evodia Makoko-Mabuza and Pierre Viviers
Department of Social Development (DSD)
- 11h10-11h35** **A critical response to the Draft Bill**
Sarah Fisher
Executive Director
Substance Misuse: Advocacy, Research & Training
(SMART)
- 11h35-12h30** **Comments, Questions and Discussions**
- 12h30-12h40** **Way Forward and Closure**
followed by a light lunch and refreshments