IF YOU live in any of the townships of South Africa, the term Nyaope is probably familiar to you. You should also know that the use of this and other illegal drugs by young people is a major concern for the future of our nation, as it destroys families and leads to increased criminal activities.

ACTING ON DRUGS
In order to curb the growing abuse of narcotic substances (drugs), the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development effected amendments to Schedules 1 and 2 of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Drugs Act’). The amendments seek to address the escalating use of new narcotic substances, such as nyaope, which are increasingly destroying the lives of young people. Contrary to the misperception that nyaope cannot be prosecuted, the new amendments will ensure that the criminal justice system is enabled to prosecute the use and possession of drugs.

WHAT IS NYAOPE?
Nyaope is a popular drug in townships. It consists of a mixture of either heroin or dagga to which other harmful substances can be added. Both heroin and dagga are listed as undesirable dependence-producing substances in the Drugs Act.

WHY IS NYAOPE ILLEGAL?
It is a highly addictive, dangerous and destructive drug, unique to South Africa.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF NYAOPE ON A PERSON?
Heroin and dagga are addictive. Users of nyaope will experience a sense of euphoria (excitement) and relaxation, but these effects soon wear off and another hit is required. Some side-effects include a painful stomach, muscle cramps, and the feeling of being sick.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO A PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF NYAOPE?
The use or possession of undesirable dependence-producing drugs is strictly prohibited and punishable in South Africa. It carries with it a fine and or imprisonment period not exceeding 15 years.

The selling of these drugs is punishable with a fine and/or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 25 years.

UNITED TO FIGHT DRUGS
The Department would like to call upon South Africans from different sectors to report individuals suspected of using or dealing with these harmful illegal substances. Be part of a clean and stable society. Report drug dealing and abuse!