



The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) has made significant strides in promoting and protecting the rights of children and youth in the country through various programmes and pieces of legislation.



SEXUAL OFFENCES: VICTIMS ARE OUR FIRST PRIORITY



- The department has established new model sexual offences courts to reduce and ultimately eliminate the **secondary traumatisation of victims** from the court system.
- There are currently **46 new model sexual offences courts** countrywide.
- The Sexual Offences Courts provides specialised **victim-support services** to improve the effectiveness of sexual offences matters and improves the turnaround time of conviction rates.

THUTHUZELA CARE CENTRE:



- Thuthuzela Care Centres are **one-stop facilities** that have been introduced as a critical part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy, aiming to reduce secondary victimisation, improve conviction rates and reduce the cycle time for finalisation of cases.
- During the 2015/16 financial year the number of operational TCC sites increased from **44** (previous FY) to **55** which is in line with the NPA APP target.
- The number of matters reported at the TCCs increased by **2384** from **30 402** (previous FY) to **32 786**.

NATIONAL REGISTER FOR SEX OFFENDERS: MAKING SOCIETY SAFER FOR OUR CHILDREN



- The National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO) aims to fight the scourge of **sexual violence** against children and mentally disabled people.
- NRSO is a **record of names** of those found guilty of sexual offences against children and mentally disabled people which was established by an Act of Parliament in 2007.
- The number of sex offenders appearing in the National Register for Sex Offenders has drastically increased from **2 340** in 2011/2012 financial year to **22 928** in 2015/2016 financial year.

THE FAMILY ADVOCATE: ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHILD



- The Office of the Family Advocate helps families to **resolve disputes** such as custody, access and guardianship of children.
- We have established **26** Family Advocate branches countrywide.
- In the past financial year, **7194** mediation cases and **7966** reports were finalised.



CHILD MAINTENANCE: ENSURING THAT CHILDREN RECEIVE WHAT IS DUE TO THEM

- Last year, the Maintenance Amendment Act, 2015 (Act No 9 of 2015) became effective. This Act provides, amongst others, that parents who default on child maintenance will be blacklisted.
- The department continues to improve the maintenance system through the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) system. Between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016, a total of R1.58 billion was paid to maintenance beneficiaries through the EFT system.



CHILDREN'S COURTS: DEALING WITH THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IS A PRIORITY

- A Children's Court is a special court which deals with issues affecting children. It takes care of children who are in need of **protection** and makes decisions on behalf of children who have been abandoned, neglected or abused.
- To date, we have **482 children courts** in the country.
- During 2014/2015, **51 886** children were placed in foster care, 75 215 children court cases were opened and 61 119 cases finalised. A total of **67 532** children were found in need of care and protection.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: CREATING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- The Department appointed **800 interns** in the 2015/2016 financial year through partnership with Safety and Security, Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA).
- Through the department's **internship programme**, interns gain work experience and are exposed to learning programmes which build essential occupational competencies required by the workplace for tertiary students who aspire to become public servants.
- Between February 2010 and February 2015, the National Prosecuting Authority recruited **814** aspirant prosecutors.