



REDUCING REOFFENDING THROUGH REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION.

SOUTH AFRICA

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1. Introduction

The Department of Correctional Services is tasked to deliver on the following objectives in the Correctional Services Act (Act No. 111 of 1998): to implement the sentences of the court in the prescribed manner; to detain all offenders in safe custody, while ensuring their human dignity; to promote the social responsibility and human development of all offenders and persons under community corrections; and manage remand detainees. Health and safety, dignity, social responsibility and human development are values - derived from the Constitution - that gives expression to the daily functioning of correctional services.

South Africa practically implements the Nelson Mandela Rules in its criminal justice approach through the national department of Correctional Services' three-legged mandate of ensuring safe and humane custody, rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders. To this end, South Africa has opted for a human rights-based rather than a stringent law enforcement punitive approach to the management of correctional facilities.

2. Legislative Mandate

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.
- Correctional Services Act, Act No 111 of 1998.
- Child Justice Act, Act No 75 of 2008.
- Children's Act, Act No 38 of 2005.
- Criminal Law Amendment Act, Act No 32 of 2007.
- Criminal Procedure Act, Act No 51 of 1977.
- National Health Act, Act No 61 of 2003.
- Health professions Act, Act No 56 of 1974.
- Nursing Act, Act No 50 of 1978 (Regulations) & nursing Act, Act No 33 of 2005.
- Adult Basic Education and Training Act, Act No 52 of 2000.
- White Paper on Correctional Services, 2005.
- Probation Services Act No. 116 of 1991.

3. National strategies implemented

3.1. The Department's Service Delivery model

Service Delivery Model developed and approved in 2019 to align the DCS in a more comprehensive and integrated operational framework. DCS is centre centric to ensure service delivery at the Theater of Operations.

3.2. District Development Model (DDM) was developed in order to align the Management Areas of the DCS to the District Delivery Model in order to contribute towards economic empowerment of communities. The focus is upon service delivery at the district level, with community development being identified as a top priority. Collaboration with other government institutions on other projects including programmes that align to the DDM. This is to ensure Management Areas are well equipped to play a role in rebuilding communities through procurement functions supporting local businesses, job creation, and building strong relationships and community involvement.

3.3. Self Sufficiency and Sustainability Framework;

The Department is implementing Self Sufficiency and Sustainability Framework to increase self-sufficiency through increased utilisation of the available hectares of correctional centre farmland. Agricultural productivity, vegetable production, fruit production, milk production, chicken-broilers, chicken-layers, red meat abattoirs, white meat abattoirs and piggeries takes place on correctional centre farms. Through the agricultural project, the centre is able to extend its social responsibility role in feeding impoverished communities, especially old-age homes and schools.

The Department also has production workshops, which include bakeries, wood workshops, steel workshops, textile workshops, a shoe factory, and a lock and key manufacturing workshop. Key to rehabilitation is empowering offenders to function effectively upon their release but, equally important, is to ensure that offenders are involved in productive activity while they serve their sentences.

The implementation of Self Sufficiency and Sustainability seeks to build the capacity of the state to be self-sustainable, by utilizing offender labour whilst in the process, those offenders will gain valuable skills. Both the state and the Department will save costs.

Self-sufficiency will positively impact on the reintegration of offenders back into society as the skills that the offenders acquire through their involvement in various self-sufficiency and sustainability projects will help them to regain the trust of their

communities when they are released. The offenders get presented with certificates for their participation on programmes such bricklaying, plastering, building and end-user computing.

3.4. **Social Reintegration Framework**

The main purpose of the framework is to ensure that social reintegration programmes are rendered to parolees and probationers' as soon as possible after admission and continues until transition to community. The Social Reintegration Framework assist to reposition the system of Community Corrections within the department, the Criminal Justice System and the community at large covers involvement of Community structures in the social reintegration programme. Assist in tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment through linking the paroles and ex- offenders with available resources for job opportune.

The Social Reintegration Framework focuses on promotion of alternative sentencing, that is, non-custodial sentences. Community corrections presents the most obvious alternative to incarceration. The effective utilization of community-based sentence as alternatives to incarceration and the placement option would contribute significantly towards reducing the number of accused detained in correctional centres as awaiting trial and afforded probationers with an opportunity to serve sentences within the community.

Professionalization of Social Reintegration, Provision of rehabilitation and reintegration services/programmes to address issues that contributed to offending. Additional to physical supervision of offenders under the system of Community Corrections, psycho-social support programs are also offered. The implementation of the Social Reintegration Framework contributes towards promoting corrections as a social responsibility.

4. Evidence-based Approaches/ Promising practices on reducing reoffending.

Strategic partnerships with stakeholders and community involvement. DCS engaging structures within the community, including parolees/probationers and their families. Department is working in collaboration with various stakeholders to enhance rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. DCS formalized partnerships with various stakeholders, such as, NPO's, FBO's CBO's and Government Departments for successful reintegration of parolees and probationers. Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Learning. Halfway Houses established in partnerships with NPO to place offenders without monitorable addresses.

DCS participates in various clusters to ensure maximum collaboration is attained from Departments in the Cluster System to assist with enhancing the Service Delivery Mandate of DCS by either leveraging off shared resources or introducing efficiencies and eliminating blockages in the Corrections and broader societal system. Coordination within the criminal justice cluster continues to have beneficial effect on the work of the Department. Creation of job opportunity to ensure the economy growth and minimise crime.

One of the responsibilities of the Department is to facilitate **employability in collaboration with business sector, inter-governmental sector and community development structures.** The Department assist the parolees and probationers to secure employment by establishing partnerships with potential and relevant stakeholders.

5. Programmes aimed at reducing reoffending

The Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 requires offenders to be assessed and profiled, and for a Correctional Sentence Plan to be compiled. The Act further provides for the development and implementation of correctional interventions to address offending behaviour and encourages offenders to restore relations with those they offended. Emanating from the Act, a policy on Risk Profile Management has been implemented since 2007 which provides for offenders to be assessed within 6 hours of admission to establish immediate risks and needs. The Policy on Risk Profile management regulates the individual needs and risk assessment, profiling of inmate population for purpose of compiling a Correctional sentence plan that informs interventions to be undertaken by an offender. The DCS is contributing towards an efficient and effective Criminal Justice System and reduction of re-offending by increasing the number of offenders that are subjected to rehabilitation programmes.

In an effort to offer better rehabilitative services to offenders, various rehabilitation programmes, such as correctional programmes, education, social work, psychological and spiritual care services, have been developed according to major crime categories and successfully rendered to offenders. The Department has established 14 full-time schools registered with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and an additional two schools at the private correctional centres. The most common programmes presented are the pre-release, life skills, anger management, cross roads, social work intervention, new beginnings, educational, economic programmes etc.

5.1. Correctional Programmes

While the Department of Correctional Services uses a multi-disciplinary approach, the implementation of Correctional programmes is one of the measures that the Department of Correctional Services has in place with the aim to facilitate rehabilitation. Correctional Programmes are needs-based programmes that are also aimed at addressing offending behaviour. Correctional Programmes are non-therapeutic in nature and focus on raising awareness, providing information as well as developing life skills. Offenders who require in-depth therapeutic intervention are referred for specialized services to social workers and psychologists.

Correctional programmes are rendered in line with the Correctional Sentence Plan (CSP) of the offender (offenders serving longer than 24 months). Correctional Sentence Plan is a tool that is utilized to assess the needs and risks of offenders according to the offence committed.

South Africa currently implements 13 endorsed correctional programmes aimed at criminogenic factors of crime and will immensely contribute in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders upon their release.

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMME		OBJECTIVES
1.	New Beginnings	The objective is to empower offenders to be more aware of themselves and the situation around them. The programme also allows for offenders' transition into and adjustment to the correctional centre or to the conditions of their Correctional Supervision sentences.
2.	Anger Management (Anger In Anger Out)	Raising offenders' awareness of the causes and symptoms of anger and teaching them how to manage their anger. Assists offenders to unlearn old habits associated with aggression and learn or relearn healthy ways of dealing with and expressing anger. Sentenced offenders who have committed aggressive offences and where anger played a role in the crime committed.
3.	Cross Roads (sourced)	Aimed at targeting offending behaviour through the implementation of basic behaviour modification techniques. It also ensures that offenders understand the impact of their choices.
4.	Restorative Justice Orientation	The objective is to orientate offenders in respect of restorative justice and to prepare them for possible further intervention through the different restorative justice processes. Restorative Justice in the context of the DCS can be described as a restorative response to crime. It emphasises the importance of elevating the role of victims and community members through a more active involvement in the justice process, holding offenders directly accountable to the people they have violated and providing a range of opportunities for dialogue, negotiation and problem solving, which can lead to greater sense of community safety, social harmony and peace for all involved.
5.	Preparatory Sexual Offences	To involve sexual offenders in a correctional programme addressing their sexual offending behaviour through the acquisition of the relevant knowledge and skills. All sentenced offenders who have committed a sexual offence and based on the needs and risks identified in the offender's CSP.

6.	Substance Abuse (Stop to Start)	To assist offenders to gain insight into the negative effects of substance abuse. All sentenced offenders (serving sentences of longer than 24 months) with substance related problems, based on the needs and risks identified in the offender's CSP.
7.	Behaviour Modification Programme on Gangsterism	To raise awareness amongst offenders of gang related activities and negative consequences thereof. Empowers offenders with practical skills to change behaviour and cope in a correctional centre without any affiliation to gangs in any form. All sentenced offenders based on the needs and risks identified during the assessment process. The programme should be presented to offenders as soon as possible upon admission.
8.	Economic Crime programme (fraud related)	Addresses offending behaviour, specific to fraud and related offences. Sentenced offenders who have committed fraud related offences and based on the needs and risks identified in the individual Correctional Sentence Plan (CSP) of the offender.
9.	Economic Crime programme (theft related)	Addresses offending behaviour, specifically related to theft and related offences within a holistic approach. Sentenced offenders who have committed theft related offences based on the needs and risks identified in the individual CSP of the offender.
10.	Programme on Murder related offences (Changing Lanes)	Assists offenders to understand the factors which contribute to aggressive behaviour and to broaden their knowledge of emotional intelligence. Sentenced offenders who have committed murder related offences based on the needs and risks identified in the individual CSP.
11.	Robbery and Related offences (Change is possible)	Addresses offending behaviour, specifically related to robbery and related offences. Sentenced offenders who have committed robbery and related offences based on the needs and risks identified in the individual CSP of the offender.
12.	Correctional Programme for Female Offenders	The programme was developed specifically for Female offenders after a survey on the needs of female offenders. All female offenders with Correctional Sentence Plans (CSPs) should attend the programme.
13.	Pre-release Programme	The objective is to prepare offenders for successful reintegration into society by providing them with skills and information which will enable them to cope with possible challenges they may have to face after their release.

5.2. Personal Development Programmes

It is acknowledged that the majority of offenders in South Africa come from poor households where a range of circumstances led to early drop out from school. These offenders are given a second chance as part of rehabilitation in order to provide them with educational qualifications; skills to create own or enter employment in an effort to assist with successful reintegration and prevention of re-offending.

The Department provide development programmes such as Formal Education for the illiterate (Adult Education and Training/ AET) and grades further education (grades 10 -12), post school education and training through access to TVET programmes and enrolment at Higher Education and Training institutions. The Department also offers skills training, accredited and not accredited and sport, recreation Arts and culture opportunities for the development of offenders. Offenders are also provided with skills in agriculture, agronomy, animal production, metal, steel and woodwork skills.

The Department provides or give access of a range of programmes and activities, including needs-based programmes, as are practicable as possible to meet the educational and training needs of sentenced offenders. Ordinarily the South African school system accommodates learners that are up to the age of 18/19, but sentenced offenders who are interested in completing basic schooling up to grade 12 are encouraged to do so. The Education and Training division makes provision for Adult Education and training, Further Education and Training, tertiary education as well as skills development (engineering, hair dressing, motor mechanics, food preparation, etc.) in line with the National skills training guidelines of authorities linked to the Departments of Basic Education and Higher Education respectively. Through production workshops, offenders are provided with work opportunities to promote the transfer of skills to offenders as part of rehabilitation.

5.3. Personal Well-Being Programmes

The Department of Correctional Services provide needs-based social work, psychological and spiritual services and programmes to inmates in order to develop and promote their social functioning and mental wellbeing.

5.3.1. Social work Services:

The effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts by Social Work Services is reflected through the percentage of offenders, parolees and probationers receiving social work services and programmes. The following standardized needs-based rehabilitation programmes are offered to incarcerated offenders, probationers and parolees:

- Anger management.
- Substance abuse.
- Sexual Offender Treatment.
- Marriage, Family Care and Relationship.
- Parenting Skills/ Supportive Services.
- Life Skills.
- Youth Resilience.
- Elderly Programme.

5.3.2. Spiritual Care Services

The Department of Correctional Services offer spiritual care services to offenders. The following Spiritual Care services and programmes are rendered to inmates:

- Church/Faith Services
- Religious Group Sessions
- Individual Pastoral Interviews
- Religious/ Bible Studies
- Religious Rituals and festivals
- Observance of Religious / faith Holy Days
- Religious Literature (Koran, Bible, etc.)
- Faith Correspondence Courses.
- Moral Regeneration Programmes.
- Pre-release programme.
- Anger Management.
- Heartlines.
- Family Life.
- Reconciliation Programme.

5.3.3. Psychological Services

Psychologists' focus areas:

- Suicide risks.
- Court referrals.
- Offenders with emotional problems, mental disturbances or offenders who are under psychiatric treatment.
- Sexual and violent offenders.
- Lifers' risk assessments.
- Offenders seeking intervention out of own initiative.

5.4. Social Reintegration

The Community Corrections is responsible for the facilitation of acceptance and social reintegration of offenders into their respective communities and the creation of conducive environment for the successful reintegration of offenders. Establishment of Community Corrections is in line with the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998, Section 50 which mandates the functioning of community corrections and ensuring successful reintegration of offenders. Facilitate the provision of community corrections offices, including satellite offices and service points to enhance community reintegration.

The objectives for community corrections are amongst others:

- To afford sentenced offenders an opportunity to serve their sentences in a non-custodial manner.
- To enable persons subject to community corrections to lead a socially responsible and crime-free life during the period of their sentence and in future.
- To enable persons subject to community corrections to be rehabilitated in a manner that best keeps them as an integral part of society.
- To enable persons subject to community corrections to be fully integrated into society when they have completed their sentences.

Community Corrections ensure safe communities through effective supervision and monitoring of probationer's, parolee's and awaiting trial detainees, including provisioning of social reintegration and appropriate interventions that enable achievement of one's prescribed conditions.

5.4.1. Supervision Services:

Community Correction creates a conducive environment for the reintegration of parolees and probation through supervision, monitoring and rehabilitation and ensure that parolees and probationers comply with conditions of parole. DCS ensured that probationers and parolees complied to their set conditions despite an increase in the caseload of probationers and parolees. Provide effective supervision of offenders placed under correctional and parole supervision in order to enhance public safety. The aim of correctional supervision is to control, monitor and to rehabilitate those persons, who according to a court of law, should serve their sentences within a community.

5.4.2. Community Reintegration:

Provide and facilitate support systems for the reintegration of offenders into society. Partnership with all relevant stakeholders to be continued. Community involvement in the reintegration of parolees and probationers need to be fully implemented

Through **Community Outreach**, South Africa has strategically developed the following programmes to assist with the resettlement of ex-offenders:

Imbizo to engage, educate and create awareness to the South African citizens on the importance of accepting the ex-offenders back into their community with an emphasis on their participation in the reintegration of ex-offenders to curb reoffending;

Ambassador programmes to show case the rehabilitation of ex-offenders by providing motivational activities as a preventative measure to a crime free society;

Community Forums, structures are created for wider participation of communities in the reintegration of ex-offenders; and Ex-offender desk, a partnership with the community stakeholders to create aftercare structures to the ex-offenders which provide programs that support ex-offenders and help with their livelihood.

The impact of these programmes is that communities are willing to reintegrate the offenders due to information shared during Imbizos. However, more work still needs to be done to enhance education and buy in of the communities.

Additional to physical supervision of offenders under system of Community Corrections, psycho social support programmes such as social work and psychological services are also being rendered to parolees and probationers.