

Have Your Say about the Criminal Justice System

BACKGROUND

Government is reviewing the South African Criminal Justice System (CJS), to make it work better for the nation. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, invites you to share your ideas about improving the justice system.

The Review is divided into two projects namely the CJS Research Review Project and the CJS Review Project that deals with the practical operational matters that require immediate attention.

The CJS Review has already found areas which need improvement and submitted recommendations to Cabinet. These recommendations will be applied immediately in order to improve the Criminal Justice System.

The Research part of the Review will determine the long term causes of the blockages in the system. Recommendations will be submitted that will ensure that our current Criminal Justice System meets the needs of all in South Africa and takes into account the challenges the country faces.

Members of the public are called on, to share their views on how to address the challenges in our Criminal Justice System, The research will also look at international views, existing research and hold seminars with experts. We request public input on the challenges facing the Criminal Justice System and their causes, focusing on, for example, the following areas:

The appropriateness of the current Criminal Justice System taking the changed Social context of our country into account

- The effectiveness of the current Bail and sentencing procedures
- The causes of delays in the finalisation of criminal trials
- Alternative methods of dealing with petty crimes, outside the Criminal Justice System
- The effectiveness of the Criminal Procedure Act and the Law of Evidence
- Causes of overcrowding of prisons with the focus on Awaiting Trial Detainees and
- The management of a case from the crime scene to completion of the trial

In researching the causes of blockages in the system issues of capacity, governance, performance evaluation of the Criminal Justice System and the Legal and Policy Framework of the Criminal Justice System will be considered as well.

Members of the public are invited to submit their inputs via drop boxes at courts across the country, via fax, email or through the post. Further input and submissions will be gathered in seminars with academic institutions and eminent experts in the Criminal Justice System.

