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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. 899

30 SEPTEMBER 2015

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS DRAFT REGULATIONS RELATING TO SEXUAL OFFENCES COURTS: CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES AND RELATED MATTERS) AMENDMENT ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 32 OF 2007)

1. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development invites interested parties to submit written comments on the proposed draft Regulations relating to Sexual Offences Courts, 2015 (the draft Regulations).
2. The Judicial Matters Second Amendment Act, 2013 (Act No. 43 of 2013) amends the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007), to enable the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to—
 - (a) designate, by notice in the Gazette, courts as sexual offences courts to deal with sexual offences cases; and
 - (b) make regulations necessary to give effect to the designated sexual offences courts, including the requirements for the efficient and effective functioning thereof.
3. In preparing the proposed draft Regulations, the recommendations contained in the Report on the Re-establishment of Sexual Offences Courts compiled by the Ministerial Advisory Task Team on the Adjudication of Sexual Offences Matters (the Matso-report), were taken into account.
4. The draft Regulations focus on elements of efficiency and effectiveness of the sexual offences courts. The draft Regulations aim to provide for protective measures for victims to be available at designated courts and also focus on the needs of persons with disabilities. The draft Regulations provide for basic requirements before a court may be designated as a sexual offences court and advanced requirements, which must be realized progressively.
5. A copy of the draft Regulations is available on the website of the Department at <http://www.justice.gov.za>. The Matso-report is available on the website of the Department at the following address: <http://www.justice.gov.za/vq/sxo-info.html>
6. The comments on the draft Regulations must be submitted to Ms A Van der Walt, on or before 30 October 2015. The contact details are:
 - (a) Postal address:
The Director-General: Justice and Constitutional Development
Private Bag X 81
Pretoria
0001;
 - (b) e-mail address:
alvanderwalt@justice.gov.za
 - (c) Fax nr:
0866480963
7. Further information can be obtained from Ms A van der Walt at 012 406 4767 or Ms I Botha at 012 406 4756.