



EUSCP OPERATING AS

ELUXOLWENI UMTATA CHILD CARE PROGRAMM

P.O. Box 217

34 Bernard Schultz Drive

Tel: (047) 535 01

UMTATA, 5099

New Brighton, UMTATA, 5099

Fax: (047) 535 734

P.O. Box 94 PSJ

183 West Street, Port St Johns

Tel: 047- 564 1530

Registration No:

008 - 873 N-PO

Enquiries-----

Reference No.....

Date:.....

SUBMISSION ON CHILDREN'S BILL BY MRS C.N. BOLOFO CO-ORDNATOR
ON BEHALF OF ELUXOLWENI UMTHATHA STREET CHILD PROGRAMME
(EUSCP)

DATE :25/10/06

TIME :10h00

VENUE :UMTHATHA

1. INTRODUCTION

Eluxolweni Umthatha Street Child Organisation is a registered Organisation (008-873 NPO) which was established in 1985 and provides Residential Care for Street kids. It caters for boys aged between six (6) and sixteen (16) years of age is registered to accommodate hundred (100) boys some of whom are kept at its branch in Port St Johns.

1.1 STAFF COMPLEMENT

The Organisation has a staff complement of seventeen (17) members viz :

- 1 CO-ORDINATOR
- 1 PROFESSIONAL CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKER (C&YCW)
- 1 SOCIAL WORKER
- 1 ADMIN. SECRETARY
- 1 EDUCATOR
- 1 SENIOR C&YCW
- 7 CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKERS
- 1 HANDYMAN
- 2 GENERAL ASSISTANT
- 1 PART TIME POTTERY INSTRUCTOR

BASIS OF THE SUBMISSION

This submission is based on the experiences we have in dealing with street kids and on the socio- economic conditions that prevail in our region i.e the O.R Tambo District.

Suffice to say that O.R Tambo District is the poorest of the poor regions in the Eastern Cape and our children live in the most abominable conditions and difficult circumstances which drive them to the streets.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR: MRS C.M.N. BOLOFO, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT: LBG MPAHLWA (CHAIRPERSON)
ADV. MKHWANA, A.M. MABINDLA (TREASURER), D.F. ROZANI (SECRETARY), MASUKU, SISTER CONSTANTIA, I.T.
KUSE, N. RULUMENI - NTLOMBENI

These conditions affect both children and parents so much that one hardly hears in the news or Radio that parents are looking for their child who have disappeared to the Streets. This shows gross child neglect and loss of parent / child relationship

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 8

CLAUSE 144

This clause should emphasise the responsibility of the parents / families to look after their children and obligation to look for them when they have disappeared so that even if they have been admitted to a Residential Care they must know where they are. This applies also to schooling. No parent should allow a child under 16 years to be out of school unless there are tangible reasons for doing so.

FAMILY PRESERVATION

Many children find it difficult to remain at home after re-unification because of intolerable conditions.

Many households have a shack for accommodation of all members of the household in different ages. Usually there is hardly any piece of land for the family to grow vegetables. If the land is there, there is no fence – the place is just barren.

The Bill should also include that Street Children's parents, who live in trying conditions should be placed in the priority list of the RDP Houses, whenever possible, so that the child should not go back to squalor conditions when re-unified with parents / relatives.

If this could be effected, it would facilitate capacitation of parents to embark on income generating projects and promote family preservation.

AFTER CARE

The section is on "After Care" whereas children who have been re-unified usually find conditions even worse than they were when they left home.

The section should spell out what should be done to prevent children reverting to Streets life after re-unification.

SHORT STORY

EUSCP ^{re-unified} re-unification 12 children at the end of December 2005.

Six (6) of those children went back to the Streets in January 2006. They found night shelter in a dilapidated house in Ngangelizwe under the Auspices of a certain lady who runs an unregistered shelter. This lady allows the kids to go to work on the Streets during the day and come to her house to sleep on the floor at night. When these kids are hungry, they come to Eluxolweni in search of food. They don't want to go to school but to look for money to buy glue. Yet EUSCP has provided books & uniform for them to continue schooling.

The conditions in some homes are conducive to Street life in that parents also go to Town early in the morning to assist shoppers so as to buy drinks etc. Though networking with other stake holders is done it is not very effective because of transport constraints. The children are also very good in dodging professionals hence the big onus to look after the child should be on the parents and the community at large.