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AIDS HELPLINE: 0800-0123-22 Prevention is the cure

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 2200 OF 2003

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE CHILDREN'S BILL

The Minister of Social Development intends introducing the Children's Bill in Parliament during September 2003. An explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly and Rule 186 (10) (b) of the Rules of the National Council of Provinces.

The aim of the Bill is to replace the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No. 74 of 1983) and to deal with other matters pertaining to children.

The main objects of the Bill are –

- (a) to make provision for structures, services and means for promoting and monitoring the sound physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of children;
- (b) to strengthen and develop community structures which can assist in providing care and protection for children;
- (c) to protect children from maltreatment, abuse, neglect, degradation, discrimination, exploitation and any other physical and moral harm or hazards;
- (d) to provide care and protection for children who are –
 - (i) suffering from maltreatment, abuse, neglect, degradation, discrimination, exploitation or any other physical and moral harm or hazards; or
 - (ii) in need of care and protection;

- (e) to give effect to the Republic's obligations concerning the well-being of children in terms of international instruments binding on the Republic; and
- (f) generally, to promote the protection, development and well-being of children.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comment on the Bill by 7 September 2003, by –

- (a) mailing comments to the Director: Children, Department of Social Development, Private Bag X901, Pretoria, 0001;
- (b) faxing comments to the Director: Children, Department of Social Development at (012) 312-7830;
- (c) delivering comments to the Director: Children, Department of Social Development, 7th Floor, HSRC Building, 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria;
- (d) e-mailing comments to the Director: Children, Department of Social Development at musam@socdev.gov.za.

The Bill is available on the Department of Social Development's website: www.socdev.gov.za.

Printed copies of the Bill can be obtained from Ms M Ngcobo-Mbere, Department of Social Development, 7th Floor, HSRC Building, 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, (Tel: (012) 312-7609.

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