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YOUTH POLICY CONCERNING CRIMINALITY
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH
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Youth Policy concerning criminality

An integrated approach

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Youth considered as vulnerable group

- n Youth is the future of tomorrow
- n Society bears a very high cost from youth crime especially if dealing with recidivism;
- n A significant part of our population consists of youth
- n The improvement of quality of life of youngsters involved in crime and their social environment
- n Suriname has ratified the Convention on the rights of the Child
- n Moral obligations against youth

Definitions

- n Youth delinquency; criminal acts committed by or against juveniles. According to the Surinamese legislation only juveniles who have reached the age of 10 can be prosecuted.
- n Juveniles: individuals in the age 0-17 years
- n Crime: criminal acts mentioned in the Surinamese legislation.

Demographic aspects concerning the population of Suriname

- n Total population is estimated at : 481.194
- n Gender differentiation: 50% (male /female)
- n 44,4% (213.650) of total population is under 24 years
- n 19 % (91.426) of total population is between 0 -10 years
- n 12 % (57.743) is between the age of 10 -17 years
- n 5% (2.887) delinquency of the age group 10 – 17 years.

Youth involved in Crime

- n About 5 percent (2.887) of the category 10-17 years are arrested yearly
- n About 56 percent (1616) of those arrested are taken in custody yearly
- n Recidivism percentage is about 18 percent (291)
- n Youth involved in drug related crime is less than 1 percent yearly (16)

Juvenile crimescope 2009-2010

Imprisoned juveniles according to type offence , 2009-2010				
Criminal Offence	2009	2010	Trends	Percent
Crime against property	80	34	-46	-57,5 %
Violent crime	23	7	-16	-69,6 %
Sexual offence	49	18	-31	-63,3 %
Narcotics offence	4	0	-4	-100 %
Other offences	6	1	-5	-83,3 %
Total	162	60	-102	-62,9 %

Integrated approach

- n Preventing youth crime is a key element of policy
- n Early detection of "problem youngsters"
- n Repressive measures
- n Close guidance /coaching during arrest and detention
- n Alternative sanctions
- n Involvement of civil society (NGO's, Parents etc)
- n Coordination and communication

Activities based on prevention and early detection

- n Specific activities in selected neighborhoods (involvement of multi disciplined team)
- n Awareness programs in schools and through media on specific themes
- n Involvement of parents and school management for early detection
- n Involvement of NGO's (Raid program)
- n Regarding drugs: disruption of local selling points

Juvenile Correctional Facility "Opa Doeli"

- n An correctional facility for juveniles which was founded in 2007 with the aim to create a youth friendly environment in which the youngsters can get the best services to prevent recidivism and enabling them to participate in the community in the best way.
- n Having all services together in order to share information and have structural meetings (decrease bureaucracy)

Present services

- n Intake and Investigation team
- n Information and awareness team
- n Medical support
- n Classrooms for primary education
- n Sport facilities
- n Counseling team (social workers /psychologist)
- n Detention facilities for 72 boys and girls
- n Office for public prosecutor, lawyer and Courtroom.
- n Technical work place

Key elements

- n Day, week and month programmes for children in order to teach discipline and to keep structure and coherence
- n Skills and knowlegde to make them see their own oppurtunities
- n Take responsibility (going to school on their own and coming back to the facility)
- n After care for one year

Bottlenecks

- n Better gathering of data in order to monitor results especially after release
- n Expertise and involvement of other stakeholders on a structural basis.
- n Lack of expertise to support parents
- n Lack of shelter or facilities, where youngsters can stay longer on their own in a more disciplined and structured system
- n Children from rural areas
- n Administrative measures for prevention

Moral obligation to youth

What's done to children, they will do to society. (Karl Menninger)

Children are the most valuable asset of the future, and we have to deal the best way we can to protect them and to let them see the opportunities of life .

Thank you !
Questions?

