

**Decriminalisation is an option  
to protect sex workers**

**D**ecriminalising adult prostitution is one alternative to ensuring the protection of sex workers, says Director General in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Menzi Simelane. "The law provides for the protection of all South Africans. Decriminalisation might be an option," said Mr Simelane. Under current law, the voluntary selling and buying of adult sex and all related acts are criminal offences. The commission proposed that the Sexual Offences Act and Section 11 of the Sexual Offences Amendment Act be repealed and a new Adult Prostitution Reform Act be enacted. The discussion paper was also aimed at conducting public hearings to elicit comments which will be used to assist the commission in preparing a report and draft legislation. We will have all of the views before making a decision." The closing date for comment of the discussion paper is 30 June and a decision will be made at Cabinet level. - BuaNews