



MISSISSIPPI



Dear Fellow Mississippians:

I am proud to present the Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC). This thorough report profiles the agency's accomplishments and performance indicators from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007; is filled with a collection of data reflecting the state's felony population; and provides definitions of correctional terminology that I trust you will find helpful.

Fiscal Year 2007 has been a year filled with encouraging achievement.

MDOC has successfully retained accreditation through the American Correctional Association (ACA) at all three (3) of the state prisons, sixteen (16) of the state's seventeen (17) community work centers, and two (2) of the four (4) restitution centers. All of the state's eleven (11) county regional facilities and each of the six (6) private prisons have met accepted correctional standards and received ACA accreditation. MDOC is currently working towards ACA accreditation for MDOC Headquarters, Community Corrections Probation and Parole Field Services, and the Flowood Restitution/Community Work Center.

All three (3) state prisons remain accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care for meeting correctional healthcare standards and for providing quality healthcare to offenders.

In cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), MDOC established a Fatherhood Initiative at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The nine week collaborative pre-release program focuses on teaching inmate fathers the importance of taking an active role in their children's lives. The initiative is one of several MDOC programs offered to help inmates become productive citizens upon reentry into society.

Over the course of the past year, MDOC successfully increased inmate graduations by 8% in Adult Basic Education, Vocational Trades and Alcohol and Drug programs. There were 3,773 inmates awarded certificates for these three programs: General Education Development (GED) - 614 inmate graduates; Vocational Trades - 524 inmate graduates; Alcohol and Drug - 2,635 inmate graduates.

Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) held its first graduation ceremony, May 23, 2007, for the MSP Extension Center Faith Based Initiative Program. Of the thirty-five (35) inmate students who began the program in 2004, seventeen (17) received Associate of Christian Ministry degrees. The commencement service marked the successful completion of the program's thorough three-year curriculum which requires three courses of study per semester the first year and five courses per semester thereafter.

The MDOC victim services division continued its effort to bring inmates face to face with crime victimization by conducting a Victim Impact Panel forum at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The panel, consisting of survivors and victims of crime, was the first to be held at Parchman. Since the creation of the victim services division in November of 2000, more than 3,400 crime victims have registered for services with MDOC.

Inmate workforces continued to provide Katrina relief for communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. To date, free inmate labor has provided over \$16 million in cost avoidance for local governments related to Hurricane Katrina, a considerable savings to Mississippi taxpayers.

Offenders in the state's community work centers provided \$16,891,490.15 in free labor to local, county, state and non-profit charitable organizations during the fiscal year.

Looking ahead, the Mississippi Department of Corrections pledges to continue carrying out its mission with purpose, enthusiasm and hard work. We remain committed to maintaining high standards of accountability and excellence in public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Epps". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a distinct "Epps" at the end.

Christopher B. Epps, Commissioner