

Media Advisory



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No Logic in Statement by Minister of Police

It has been reported to SAGA that the Minister of Police, Fikile Mbalula has suggested that firearm legislation must be amended to reduce the number of firearms in circulation.

Responding to this proposal, SAGA Chairman, Advocate John Welch said that the Minister had clearly failed to apply his mind to the issue at hand, and that the Minister's proposal was irrational.

"Statistics to hand reveal that the overwhelming majority of gun related deaths in South Africa occur at the hands of criminals using unlicensed firearms. It is illogical to operate on the assumption that changes to the Firearms Control Act to limit the quantity of licensed firearms for lawful private owners could have any marked effect on the behaviour of criminals. By their very nature, criminals can be safely assumed to have an intrinsic disregard for the rule of law, and no interest at all in the Firearms Control Act", said Welch.

"Moreover, it is also well established that firearms stolen from the Police and Military as well as firearms still in circulation from pre-1994 South Africa are the most prevalent in violent crime. Lawful gun owners in South Africa comply with some of the strictest gun legislation anywhere in the world and are in the main, very responsible in handling and securing their firearms."

SAGA suggested that the Minister of Police firstly look inward towards the loss of Police and Military firearms and to the apparent inability of the Police to deal with criminal gun possession before taking aim at lawful gun owners.

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