



SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226

EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA
WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

SAGA Snippets
October 2025

Opinion: A Dangerous Agenda – Control by Disarmament

*A Critical Look at the South African
Firearm Control Policy*

by Shaun Lyle
SAGA Trustee

A Dangerous Agenda

South Africa's firearm policy has drifted far from rationality and deep into ideology. The Firearms Control Amendment Bill (FCAB 2021) – though defeated after public outrage – has returned under new political branding and familiar bureaucratic deceit. The message remains unchanged: trust a State that cannot protect you and surrender the means to protect yourself.

This is not crime prevention; it is citizen control – the 'second horseman (capture)' in the State's coordinated assault on lawful firearm ownership. Together with the Expropriation Without Compensation Act, PSiRA's unconstitutional regulatory expansion, and weaponised bureaucracy inside the Central Firearms Registry (CFR), it forms a single, deliberate pattern: **to weaken the lawful, empower the criminal and centralise State power.**

Disarmament by Deception

The State's narrative is deceptively simple yet fatally flawed: "fewer guns, less crime."
However, after two decades of this experiment, the results are catastrophic:

Crime did NOT fall – it metastasised.
Police capability did NOT improve –

it collapsed.
Citizens do NOT feel safer – they have become prey.

The FCAB (2021), and its silent resurrection now through policy "revisions" seeks to erase self-defence as a lawful reason for ownership, restrict firearms & ammunition, drowning firearm owners in more bureaucracy. Meanwhile, the State's own armouries continue leaking firearms at an alarming rate and the illegal pool grows bigger every year.

Criminals Don't Queue at the CFR

No gang boss or cash-in-transit syndicate stands in a DFO queue with a SAPS271 form. They steal, smuggle and trade – often from State sources and cross border (Nambija).

SAPS data between 2018 and 2022 shows that nearly two-thirds of firearms used in violent crime were illegally possessed, not registered, rather trafficked. Of the remaining third, the vast majority were stolen; from SAPS, SANDF, security companies or private citizens – and then used in crime.

Yet the State's own recovery rate for its lost firearms is abysmal. In one year alone, SAPS recovered six times more civilian-stolen firearms (close to 100% recovery rate) than State-issued ones.

That is not policy failure. That is policy collapse.

Special points of interest:

- *Opinion:
A Dangerous
Agenda – Control
by Disarmament*
- *SAGA Personal
Membership*
- *Wildland
Magazine
October 2025*
- *SAGA Corporate
Membership List*
- *Fact Sheet 506:
Firearm
Modifications*
- *Keep an Eye on
their Hands*
- *Advertise in SAGA
Snippets*
- *Self-Defence
Questions to Ask
Yourself*
- *Focus on SAGA's
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Continued...Opinion: A Dangerous Agenda – Control by Disarmament

Disarming the Lawful: The Perfect Gift to the Criminal

By targeting the lawful and ignoring the unlawful, government has achieved something extraordinary; it has made South Africa both **less free and less safe**.

When responsible citizens are stripped of their ability to defend themselves, criminals grow bolder, more organized, and more violent. This is not a theoretical risk – it is measurable in every murder statistic, every farm attack, every home invasion, every woman assaulted while “waiting for SAPS to arrive”.

To disarm the lawful is to empower the criminal, a formula the State seems determined to perfect.

PSiRA, CFR and the Capture of Firearm Policy

The rot runs deeper than the FCAB. Through PSiRA's unconstitutional overreach into private security firearm control, and CFR's paralysis by corruption, the machinery of the Firearms Control Act has been captured.

What was meant to be an administrative system for licensing has become a political weapon – selectively enforced, deliberately delayed and systematically abused to discourage civilian ownership.

This is not administration, it is weaponised bureaucracy – the quietest but most effective and deceptive form of incremental disarmament.

The Principle of Deterrence

The evidence, both local and international, is unambiguous:

An armed, responsible citizenry raises the risk for the criminal (Lotts Principle). Disarmament lowers it. Criminals calculate risk. When they know their victims are unarmed, they act with impunity. When they face an armed society they hesitate, that hesitation – that fraction of a second – saves lives.

That is the deterrence principle that government refuses to acknowledge, because it shifts power away from the State and back to the citizen.

Time for a Constitutional Reset

South Africa needs a complete reset in how it approaches firearms and public safety. The path forward is not disarmament – it is restoration of balance and accountability.

Government and the State must:

1. Purge corruption within SAPS and the Central Firearms Registry.
2. Criminalise firearm diversion by State officials with the same zeal applied to citizens.
3. Reaffirm the constitutional right to self-defence under Sections 11 (Life) and 12 (Security of the Person).
4. Recognise lawful firearm owners as part of the public safety solution, not the problem.

Protect the Lawful, Disarm the Criminal

We will continue to push back hard against any attempt to criminalise responsible firearm ownership or erode self-defence rights!

We do not oppose firearm control – we oppose firearm confiscation disguised as control. We do not resist regulation – we resist regulatory abuse that serves politics instead of public safety. If the State cannot protect its citizens, it has **NO right nor justification** in punishing those who can protect themselves and others.

Closing Note

This is not the end of the debate – it is the continuation of a campaign.

Together, the ‘four horsemen’ of Capture, Control, Corruption and Cowardice – ride in step. However so do we – the lawful, the vigilant and the responsible. Citizens who refuse to surrender their safety, their freedom, or their dignity, to a **government that has lost its authority and lacks a moral compass**.

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Wildland Magazine October 2025

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Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/70781327/wildland-oktober-2025>



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506

MODIFICATIONS TO FIREARMS – Understanding the Law on Altering Barrel Lengths and Related Changes under the Firearms Control Act

Why This Matters

South African firearm owners often ask whether they may legally cut down or otherwise modify a firearm barrel, particularly with shotguns. The Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 (FCA) makes this an area of control: some modifications are flatly prohibited; others require written authorisation and only a licensed gunsmith may perform them.

This Fact Sheet sets out what the Firearm Control Act says, what the exceptions are and what procedure firearm owners must follow.

1. Altering Barrel Length – Permission Required

- FCA Section 4(1): Any firearm with a barrel altered in length without the Registrar's written permission is classified as a prohibited firearm.
- Practical meaning: Cutting, shortening, or extending a barrel without prior written approval makes the firearm unlawful to possess.

Note: You may not change a firearm's barrel length unless you get explicit written permission from the Registrar. If you alter the barrel length without this, your firearm becomes a prohibited firearm and a prohibited firearm cannot be licenced.

2. Narrow Exception – Incidental Work by a Gunsmith

The Act recognises one limited exception: incidental alterations carried out only by a licensed gunsmith in the ordinary course of their work, provided the intention is not to alter the barrel length.

Example: If a gunsmith removes minimal material while polishing a chamber or repairing a muzzle, this is not considered a violation.

However, cutting down a barrel is not incidental – the purpose is to alter its length, so the exception does not apply!

Only a Licensed Gunsmith May Alter Firearm Barrels

Section 59(1) of the FCA makes it unlawful for anyone without a gunsmith's licence to:

- alter the firing mechanism to discharge more than one shot,
- alter the calibre,
- alter the barrel length, or
- remove or alter identifying marks.

Note: Even with the Registrar's permission, the work must only be done by a qualified licensed gunsmith.

The Official Process (SAPS 531 & SAPS 521[g])

If you intend to lawfully modify or replace a firearm barrel:

1. Apply in Advance:

- Complete SAPS Form 531 "Request to alter firearm by a gunsmith".
- Submit through your Designated Firearms Officer (DFO) with supporting documents:
 - Detailed motivation for the alteration,
 - Licensed gunsmith's report,
 - Certified copies of your ID and firearm licence,
 - If replacing a barrel: an affidavit about the lawful disposal of the old barrel, plus a post-firing test affidavit.

2. After Modification

- Once the work is complete, submit SAPS Form 521(g) to record the changes.
- A new firearm licence card reflecting the modification must be issued before you may take possession of the altered firearm.

Summary Table

<u>Action</u>	<u>Legal Position under FCA</u>
<i>Cutting/shortening shotgun barrel</i>	Illegal unless Registrar's prior written permission obtained (s4)
<i>Doing the work yourself</i>	Illegal – must be done by a licensed gunsmith (s59)
<i>Incidental alteration by gunsmith</i>	Allowed only if not intended to alter barrel length (rare, narrow scope)
<i>Lawful alteration / replacement</i>	Requires SAPS Form 531 application, supporting docs, & SAPS 521(g) update

Key Takeaways

- Never cut down or alter a barrel yourself – it risks turning your firearm into a prohibited weapon.
- The Registrar's written permission is always required where barrel length is intentionally changed.
- Only licensed gunsmiths may perform such work.
- SAPS forms 531 and 521(g) must be completed and approved; you may not lawfully reclaim the firearm until your reissued licence has been approved and issued.

E & OE

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Acknowledgements:

1. Drafted by SMS Lyle, research by Co-Piot
2. SAPS regulations & procedures
3. Sections 4 & 59, Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000, as amended



SAGA: The SA Gunowners' Association

Web: www.saga.org.za **Facebook:** GunLobbySAGA

Telephone 031-562-9951 **Cell** 066-003-9226

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Annexure

Section 4, Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 as amended

4 Prohibited Firearms

(1) The following firearms and devices are prohibited firearms and may not be possessed or licensed in terms of **this Act**, except as provided for in sections 17, 18 (5), 19 and 20 (1) (b):

- (a) Any **fully automatic firearm**;
- (b) any gun, cannon, recoilless gun, mortar, light mortar or launcher manufactured to fire a rocket, grenade, self-propelled grenade, bomb or explosive device;
- (c) any frame, body or barrel of such a fully automatic firearm, gun, cannon, recoilless gun, mortar, light mortar or launcher;
- (d) any projectile or rocket manufactured to be discharged from a cannon, recoilless gun or mortar, or rocket launcher;
- (e) any imitation of any device contemplated in paragraph (b), (c) excluding the frame, body or barrel of a fully automatic firearm, or (d);
- (f) any firearm-
 - (i) the mechanism of which has been altered so as to enable the discharging of more than one shot with a single depression of the trigger;
 - (ii) the **calibre** of which has been altered without the written permission of the **Registrar**;
 - (iii) the barrel length of which has been altered without the written permission of the Registrar;
 - (iv) the serial number or any other identifying mark of which has been changed or removed without the written permission of the Registrar.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) (f) (iii), the incidental alteration of the length of the barrel of a firearm by a **gunsmith** in the ordinary course of a gunsmith's work which does not have as an objective the alteration of the length of the barrel of that firearm must not be regarded as an alteration contemplated in that subsection.

- (3) (a) The **Minister** may, by notice in the Gazette, declare any other firearm of a specified type to be a prohibited firearm if it is-
- (i) in the interest of public safety; or
 - (ii) desirable for the maintenance of law and order.
- (b) A notice contemplated in paragraph (a) must be tabled in Parliament at least 14 days before publication thereof if Parliament is then sitting, and if Parliament is not sitting, within seven days after the commencement of the next sitting.
- (c) A notice contemplated in paragraph (a) is of full force and effect until withdrawn by the Minister or by a resolution of Parliament.

59 Prohibition of certain work

No person may, without being the holder of a **gunsmith's** licence or being registered as an apprentice to such holder-

- (a) alter the mechanism of a **firearm** so as to enable the discharging of more than one shot with a single depression of the trigger;
- (b) alter the **calibre** of a firearm;
- (c) alter the barrel length of a firearm;
- (d) alter or remove the serial number or any other identifying mark of a firearm; or
- (e) perform such other work as may be **prescribed**.

Keep An Eye On Their Hands

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/keep-an-eye-on-their-hands/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
11 October 2025

We tell the armed citizen that it is important to keep an eye on a potential threat until the issue is resolved one way or another. One of the best places to focus our attention is on the individual's hands. While the person may not be holding an obvious weapon, we can still learn a lot by watching their hands and develop information that can become important should the potential threat become an actual threat.

One of the first things that I look for is a wristwatch. Most people wear these on their non-dominant wrist, which means that the other hand is probably the one that the person will use to throw a punch or access a weapon. If no wristwatch is present, I look for the hand that is being used to gesture with or using to hold or pick up items. It is that dominant hand that will probably hold the danger if trouble starts.

You may notice that those who are new to concealed carry often seem insecure about carrying the defensive handgun. Often they are continually touching it, through their concealment garment, to make sure it is secure and in place. By watching the newbie, you can quickly determine if they are carrying on the hip, in a pocket, shoulder holster or what-

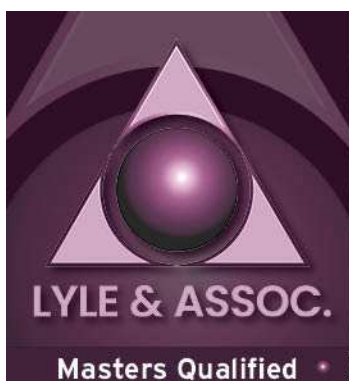
ever. It is generally just a nervous movement due to lack of personal security that will fade with time.

However, the criminal may be in the same boat and nervousness may cause him to make the same tell-tale moves.

You don't know for sure that he is armed, but the chances of that being the case have certainly increased and he may be just trying to get his nerve up and make a move. It may be an indication that you need to get closer to cover, exit the scene or notify authorities. One thing's for sure, though, it is an indication that you really need to keep an eye on this guy.

One real concern for the armed citizen is the stranger who approaches you with one hand in his pocket, or behind his back or otherwise concealed. I would not let this person get very close to me. I may be able to stop him by engaging him in conversation, or I may want to put some sort of cover between us. Either way, he is going to have my full attention until I determine what is going on and what the threat level might be. Situations like this are also a good argument for carrying some sort of less-lethal defensive tool in addition to the firearm.

There is no doubt that keeping a potential threat under observation is an important defensive technique. And watching their hands is a big part in developing advance notice of what is about to occur.



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November	03-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	17-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
December	24-Nov-25	01-Dec-25	05-Dec-25	10-Dec-25
January '26	15-Jan-26	23-Jan-26	26-Jan-26	30-Jan-26

Self-Defense Questions to Ask Yourself

by Jo Deering
9 October 2025

So you've made the decision to own or even carry a firearm as a means of personal protection. Congratulations for taking charge of your own safety! Now, if you're new to the self-defense community – or even if you've been around a while but haven't really given things much thought – there are a series of questions I want you to ask yourself.

And be honest here. Some of these are really tough issues you will wrestle with, and some might reveal weaknesses or holes in your plan (or your personal resolve) that you've been ignoring. We'll sort these questions into three categories: Questions to ask yourself now, while you're calm and you have plenty of time to think them through; questions you ask routinely and repeatedly as you move through the world; and one ultimate question you should contemplate regularly.

Questions to Ponder Over Time

Am I really willing to take potentially lethal action to save lives? It's easy to say "of course," but take time to seriously contemplate the messy, traumatizing physical reality of using lethal force on another human being.

If yes, under what conditions? How do you feel about using lethal force to save your own life? To save your children's lives? To save a stranger? To protect your possessions? (Hint: That one is generally a "no.")

What are my lines in the sand? Every situation is fluid, so you can't decide ahead of time on one single "OK, now I'll pull my gun" trigger. But you can determine what you won't allow. For example, you might decide you will not allow yourself to be moved to an alternate location, and you'll fight to the death to prevent that from happening. You might (almost certainly will) decide that you won't surrender your vehicle to a carjacker with your children in the backseat. You might (should) decide that your purse, your unoccupied vehicle or your phone is not worth a lethal-force fight.

Am I prepared for the potential legal aftermath? If you use your firearm in self-defense, there will be at least some involvement with the police afterward, and possible involvement with the court system that could stretch out for years. How do you plan to pay for that? It might be wise to consider a self-defense-specific legal plan.

Is my physical fitness limiting my self-defense options, and if so, what can I do about it? If the answer is yes, do what you can to improve your situation. If the answer is no – you're dealing with a disability or something else that limits your ability to run or to react physically – then spend some time contemplating the self-defense options you do have.

Do I have basic first-aid skills? Knowing how to use a tourniquet, pack a wound and perform CPR will prepare you for a lot more than just self-defense situations.

What defines "my circus" and "my monkeys?" You've heard the expression, "Not my circus, not my monkeys." This sums up my personal self-defense philosophy – if it's not my business, I'm not going to make it my business. Every situation is different, but put some time into thinking about whether you're out to save the innocent or to simply get home to your family at night.

Routine Questions to Ask Repeatedly

These questions help you maintain that much-talked-about situational awareness, keeping you in condition yellow.

Who is around me and what are they doing? No need to make a big thing of this or memorize the face of every person you pass, but do notice who's in your vicinity and screen them for any weirdness that pings your radar.

Where are the exits and the cover? Have a plan to exit any space other than the way you came in, as much as possible. That might include windows and a plan to break them if needed. Also note any cover and concealment. This scan should only take you a couple of seconds, and it forms the basis of a plan in case anything goes sideways.

Continued...Self-Defense Questions to Ask Yourself

What's abnormal in this situation? Ask yourself if anyone or anything around you doesn't make sense for the circumstances. Who's wearing a heavy jacket in summer? Is a normally busy place strangely quiet? Who's wandering aimlessly in a place where people normally head straight from one spot to another (like parking lots)? Who doesn't fit the circumstances e.g. a childless guy at the playground, etc.

If something was going to go wrong here, what would it be? Many acts of violence are just random (or seemingly so), but some can be predicted with a little forethought. If you're at a bar, the most likely form of violence is probably someone getting drunk and taking a swing at someone else, with you getting caught in the middle. If you're at a political protest, a crowded music festival, the bank, etc take a second to think about the most likely way violence would kick off. This helps you avoid normalcy bias and shortens your reaction time if something happens.

And the Ultimate Self-Defense Question

This question is one you should ask every day, and the answer might change every day.

It's simple, but profound:

If I knew I'd be defending my life tomorrow, what would I do today to prepare for it?

This is a heavy question. The trick is to use it as motivation, not as a guilt trip. There's always more we could be doing, and if personal de-

fense was the only thing we had to worry about, we'd spend all day training instead of taking care of our families, ourselves, our homes, our jobs, and everything else we have to prioritize in life. That's obviously unrealistic.

But you can use this question as motivation to do just a little bit more. Maybe I'll do 10 minutes of dry-fire practice. Maybe I'll unload my gun and practice drawing it from my purse or from underneath my t-shirt. I might clean the gun because I've been putting that off and it's past time, anyway. Perhaps I'll invest in a box of quality self-defense ammo instead of the cheap stuff, take a trip to the range instead of watching Netflix on Sunday afternoon, or start a new savings account so I can afford that training course I've been wanting to take for years but keep putting off. In extreme cases, I might even change my plans and decide to go to the movie that ends at 8:30 instead of the one that will have me out past midnight on the questionable side of town.

And if you're like me and you carry the gun sometimes or most of the time but not all the time, asking the question "If I knew I'd be defending my life tomorrow, what would I do today to prepare?" can help remind you to carry more often. After all, the first rule of a gunfight is "Don't get in one," but the second rule of a gunfight is "Have a gun."

Extracted and shortened from:
https://www.nrawomen.com/content/self-defense-questions-to-ask-yourself?utm_source=newsletter



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Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener which allows one-handed opening, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



PVC Patch with Velcro Backing

PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro like jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90

Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an

inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information.

Price: R660

Order on our website:
<https://shop.saga.org.za/>

