



SAGA Media Release

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OPINION | A Dangerous Delusion: The Deputy Police Minister's Defence of PSiRA Proposals FAIL on all levels

by Shaun Lyle, SAGA Trustee

BACKGROUND

Deputy Minister of Police, Cassel Mathale, recently addressed Parliament, defending the deeply flawed PSiRA firearm proposals. He claimed, "SAPS is not failing the public" and argued that the new regulations will "enhance accountability" in the private security sector.

This is pure propaganda, not policy. The proposals tabled by Minister of Police, Senzo Mchunu in March 2025, include among others, many more irrational points such as:

- **Prohibit armed private security from operating in everyday public spaces** – like shopping centres, places of worship, transport hubs, and residential communities – unless they jump through SAPS hoops for "special authorisation";
- **Ban the use of effective firearms and calibres** currently relied on by security officers to counter heavily armed criminals;
- **Outlaw or restrict non-lethal tools** such as pepper spray, batons, and less-lethal launchers, effectively leaving guards unable to act in the very moments they're needed most.

Mathale calls this "professionalisation". We call it a weaponised bureaucracy – a transparent attempt to disarm South Africans through the back door of security, while leaving the public defenceless.

REBUTTAL: MISINFORMATION, OVERREACH & CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEMPT

South Africa is one of the most violent countries on earth. That's not political commentary, it's a statistical fact. SAPS is underfunded, overburdened, and riddled with corruption.

Thousands of police-issued firearms have gone "missing". SAPS response times can stretch into hours, if not days. Crime victims are often told to "open a docket and wait." If SAPS *were* working, there wouldn't be over 11,000 registered security

companies and 2.5 million legally armed civilians propping up a collapsing system and failed state.

Overreach, Not Reform: These PSiRA proposals are not about public safety. They are about control and seek to:

- Strip lawful, competent security personnel of their tools and dignity,
- Centralise oversight under a politically aligned regulator,
- Create red tape that only large, politically connected firms can navigate.

It's regulatory sabotage aimed at weakening civil society's ability to defend itself.

Unlawful and Unconstitutional: PSiRA has no legal mandate to regulate firearms. That role belongs solely to the Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000). As firearm rights attorney, Martin Hood, put it:

“These proposals represent not just overreach, but a dangerous collapse of legal logic and authority. They must be withdrawn in full.”

These proposals violate:

- Section 12: Freedom and security of the person,
- Section 22: Freedom to choose a trade or profession, and
- Rule of law – by duplicating and contradicting national legislation.

The Security Sector Speaks: SAGA, FreeSA, Martin Hood & Associates, and thousands of professionals in the private security space have submitted formal objections. Why? Because:

- Thousands of guards and CPOs could be disqualified overnight,
- Small companies will be crippled by costs,
- Clients will be left vulnerable by sudden regulatory disarmament.

Where is the Evidence Deputy Minister?: Despite the Minister alleging the assessment was evidence based there is NO data or evidence presented to show these changes will improve safety. In fact, the majority of firearm-related incidents involving security companies are linked to SAPS mismanagement or criminal impersonation, not licensed, trained professionals.

So why is the State punishing those doing the job SAPS refuses – or fails – to do?

Who is Objecting: The push back and objections come from all sectors of civil society and business:

1. Security sector
2. Retail sector
3. Mining sector
4. Insurance industry
5. Firearm associations & owners
6. General public and business owners

Plus, a whole range of others. There is absolutely NO support for these regulations outside of PSiRA and the Ministry of Police!

Why SAGA and South Africans Say NO

- SAPS is failing and private security fills the gap.
- PSiRA has no authority to regulate firearms.
- Economic sabotage is not reform.
- Public safety will suffer if you disarm protectors.

What Real Reform Looks Like

If the state truly wanted reform, it would:

- Fix the Central Firearms Registry, not bypass it,
- Audit SAPS's own lost firearms, not harass professionals,
- Enforce the Firearms Control Act, not invent new red tape,
- And collaborate with the security sector, not declare war on it.

CONCLUSION: SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT BE DISARMED BY DECREE

This is an attempted bureaucratic gun grab – pushed through PSiRA instead of Parliament. It is unconstitutional, unsupported by evidence, and unwanted by every serious player in the industry.

We say **NO to PSiRA overreach**. We say **NO to ideological disarmament** and we say **YES to security, freedom, and the right to lawful defence**.

SAGA and its alliance partners and allies will fight this in the public square, Parliament, and in court if required. This fight affects all South Africans in the most negative way. We must make our demands heard.

YOUR SAFETY IS AT RISK

New PSiRA regulations threaten the private security sector.

Join SAGA to fight back.

SCAN TO JOIN THE FIGHT

Join SAGA For Individual Members

Join SAGA CORPORATE

This affects **you** – your business, your family, your safety.

40 **shop.saga.org.za**

Email: saga@saga.org.za
Internet: www.saga.org.za
Telephone: 031-562-9951
WhatsApp 066-003-9226
Facebook: GunLobbySAGA
Box 35203, Northway 4065

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