



**Media Release – 1 October 2025**

# **SAGA ALERT 5b | Governments Irrational, Illogical & Short-sighted War on Self-Defence - the Enemy Is Now at the Gate!**

*Issued by the SAGA Board of Trustees*

## **Parliament Asked and the Minister of Police Dodged**

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On 9 September 2025, DA MP Ian Cameron, Chair of Portfolio Committee on Police (PCoP) asked the obvious (refer annexure):

### **Why is NEDLAC - a wage-bargaining forum - driving firearm law?**

The Acting Police Minister's reply was pure evasion, he **admitted**:

- Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) is the drafter.
- NEDLAC "requested" the Bill.
- **118,000 submissions** had been received objecting to the subsequently withdrawn 2021 amendment Bill.

However, he refused to admit the only truth that matters: **those submissions destroyed the Bill's legitimacy**. He also ducked the core outrage — why NEDLAC now acts as gatekeeper to our constitutional rights. This is blatant and **direct attack on self-defence, lawful firearm ownership and our fundamental right to safety & security**.

## **Portfolio Committee on Police Chairmans Assessment**

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PCoP Chairperson Ian Cameron suggests the Acting Police Ministers reply was vague and seemingly evasive. Especially as the draft amendment Bill is exactly the same one from 2021.



**Yes**, the same version overwhelmingly rejected by the public during 2021 'participation' processes. Adding insult to injury NEDLAC has been sitting on this Bill for over three months without any engagement with the relevant stakeholders.

PCoP Chair raises key unanswered issues:

- No explanation as to why the public's clear rejection in 2021 is being ignored.
- No disclosure of how many state-owned firearms are still missing.
- No evidence that licensed firearm owners are the problem, despite SAPS' own statistics showing illegal weapons, many lost or stolen from state entities, drive many significant incidents of gun violence.
- No progress on fixing the Central Firearms Register, which remains mired in corruption and dysfunction.

We agree that points to a deeper concern; that senior managers and processes like NEDLAC appear to be shaping a misleading narrative for the Minister, pushing forward a failed piece of legislation under the guise of reform. **This is NOT reform this is CONTROL by divisive and undemocratic means!**

## **Draconian Amendments**

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The Firearms Control Amendment Bill is not "reform" — rather a full-frontal assault on every aspect of lawful firearm ownership.

It again proposes to:

- **Ban self-defence licences** outright.
- **Cut licence validity to 5 years**, swamping an already broken CFR.
- **Limit how many firearms you can own**, regardless of need.
- **Severely cap ammunition and ban reloading** — killing off affordable sport shooting and hunting.
- **Shut down firearm collecting** and erase South Africa's heritage.
- **Cripple sport shooting** by restricting the guns that may be used.
- **Pile on new red tape and penalties** for lawful firearm owners, while criminals walk free.

## **What the People Actually Said**

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The public's message was unmistakable: we will NOT be disarmed while criminals run rampant, SAPS bleeds corruption and political elites live behind taxpayer-funded armed security.

The record is ironclad:

- **Self-defence must remain** a valid reason to own a firearm.
- SAPS has failed to control **illegal guns and crime** — we will not tolerate punishing the law-abiding?



- Citizens have the **right and duty to protect their families.**
- Government's hypocrisy is obscene: **ministers cocooned by armed guards, citizens told to "comply"** even if they die.

Public voices still echo:

- *"Take away your bodyguards before you take away my gun."*
- *"We will be sold to the criminals if we are disarmed."*
- *"Licence the person, not the firearm."*

This is not a "gun lobby" this is South Africa farmers, nurses, small business owners, security guards, single mothers - ordinary people.

## Constitutional Betrayal

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By laundering gun control through NEDLAC instead of Parliament, the Civilian Secretariat of Police is:

1. **Bypassing parliamentary sovereignty.**
2. **Crushing meaningful public participation** (Doctors for Life v Speaker, 2006).
3. **Politicising security** by dumping it in an "economic forum."

Lawful firearm ownership is **not a bargaining chip**. It is a matter of life, liberty and survival.

## Enough Is Enough – Ons is Gatvol!

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SAGA demands:

- **Full publication** of all submissions, past and present.
- **Immediate disclosure** of NEDLAC's firearm task team members.
- **A categorical guarantee** that self-defence remains a licence category.
- **Withdrawal** of the FCAB in its entirety.

Let Government be warned: if you try and ram through this Bill against 96% public opposition, you do NOT serve the people. You serve ideology and this time, the pushback will make 2021 amendment process look like a warm up - a walk in the park.

## Conclusion

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South Africans are done with the lies. Done with trusting a police service and state that **convicts less than 1 in 10 violent criminals**. Done with 'leaders' who speed past in blue-light convoys while their citizens are told to lie down and die unarmed. Done with "consultations" where the results are shredded before the ink is dry and where the outcome predetermined.

The Firearms Control Amendment Bill is not reform it is 2021 all over again. It is not about safety. It is not democratic. It is **disarmament — by decree, by stealth, by betrayal.**



We will not surrender. We will not go quietly. **We reject outright this process and the people implicated with this rehashed amendment Bill.**

## Our Call to Action

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***What can you do to help in this fight and in doing so, make a huge difference?***

Reach out to family, friends, colleagues & neighbours **firearm owners or NOT** and convince them to JOIN Saga (QR codes below).

Encourage everyone you know to support our South African firearms sector and its associations - numbers matter!

*Endorsed by the SAGA Board of Trustees,  
a trusted voice in the firearms sector for over four decades.*



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### References & Acknowledgements:

1. Drafted by SMS Lyle, endorsed by the SAGA Board of Trustees.
2. Firearm Control Amendment Bill, 2021
3. Dear Sa -Firearms Control Amendment Act, 21 May to 4 August 2021
4. National assembly written reply To Ian Cameron, PCoP Chairperson - Question 5197 internal question paper 37: 09 September 2025



# Annexure – Portfolio Committee on Police

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### QUESTION 5197

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 37: 09 SEPTEMBER 2025  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 37-2025)

**5197. Mr I Cameron (DA) to ask the Acting Minister of Police:**

Whether, considering that the Firearms Control Act, Act 60 of 2000, falls squarely under the mandate of the SA Police Service, he has been informed that the National Economic Development and Labour Council, a labour and economic forum, has convened a task team to drive changes to firearm laws, including reducing privately owned firearms and tightening self-defence licensing; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps does he intend to take in this regard?

NO5816E

**REPLY:**

As adviser to the Minister for Police ("Minister"), the Secretary for Police Service must in terms of section 8(3)(d) of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No. 2 Of 2011) present legislation in parliament as determined by the Minister. The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service ("CSPS") has drafted the Firearms Control Amendment Bill ("Bill") and remains the drafters of all legislation pertaining to policing.

In terms of section 5(1)(d) of the National Economic, Development and Labour Council Act, 1994 (Act No. 35 of 1994), NEDLAC is to consider any significant changes to social and economic policy and legislation before it is implemented or introduced into Parliament. In determining which draft legislation NEDLAC should consider, the Executive Director or Programming Committee, as the case may be, must take into account the importance of the matter, whether there is any other social dialogue forum that is able to consider the matter, whether consideration within NEDLAC is likely to enhance the development of the legislation, and the capacity of NEDLAC and social partners to engage with the topic.

The draft Bill was published for public comments in the Government Gazette No. 44593 on 21 May 2021. Approximately 118000 submissions were received on the Bill. Upon instruction from the Minister, the Drafting Team on the Bill, conducted several consultation sessions with stakeholders in the firearms industry. NEDLAC also requested the CSPS to table the Bill at NEDLAC for engagement.

Through the engagement with NEDLAC as a stakeholder, the Drafting Team on the Bill, will obtain input from the social partners on areas that affect their constituencies. After consultation with NEDLAC, the draft Bill will be processed through the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Structures to Cabinet, for approval that the Bill be introduced into Parliament. As part of the parliamentary process, Parliament will afford persons and organisations an opportunity to comment on the Bill, through publication of the Bill.

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**MR ST SIBUYI**  
**SECRETARY FOR POLICE SERVICE**  
Date:

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**PROF F CACHALIA**  
**MINISTER OF POLICE**  
Date:

