



SAGA Media Release – 17 July 2025

OPINION | The Firearms Sector is a Bridge over Troubled Waters!

Issued by the SAGA Board of Trustees

When Institutions Fail, Resilient South Africans Step Forward

As secretive amendments to the Firearms Control Act (FCA) loom once again, SAGA reaffirms a fundamental truth:

“South Africa’s firearms sector is not a liability — it is a strategic national and economic asset.”

Damian Enslin, SAGA Chair

The legal firearms sector fosters accountability, community resilience, economic opportunity, and personal safety. It anchors critical industries, empowers responsible citizenship and drives conservation in a nation where state capacity is rapidly disintegrating.

To attack this sector is to accelerate rural collapse, urban lawlessness, social destabilisation, and economic regression — disarming law-abiding citizens while violent criminals run rampant.

This is not “*public safety*.” This is political dishonesty. Licensed firearm owners build this country — we do not break it.

A Lawful Pillar of South Africa’s Democracy

This sector is not fringe — it is a quiet, disciplined force for good, transcending race, class, and geography. From township to farm, instructor to business owner, this community stands united while politicians divide.

Behind every licensed firearm is a citizen who has passed criminal vetting, stringent training, and competency checks — not the criminals terrorising our country.

“A government that serves its people diligently has no reason to fear an armed, law-abiding citizenry. We do not threaten order — we defend it.”

Shaun Lyle, SAGA Trustee

Facts about the Firearms Sector — A National Economic Asset

South Africa’s lawful firearms ecosystem is a multi-billion-rand engine of jobs, skills, exports, security and conservation:

1. Retail, Wholesale & Manufacturing

- R2–3 billion in direct retail turnover
- R153 million in firearm licensing fees (SAPS, 2023)
- 800+ licensed dealers, 9,000+ direct jobs

2. Training, Clubs & Skills Development

- R1–2 billion annually in training and events
- 700+ accredited training facilities, 900+ ranges, 30+ active associations
- Feeds hospitality, events and skills growth

3. Hunting, Eco-Tourism & Conservation

- R45–47 billion to SA economy; R14.2bn from private hunting (PHASA)
- 70,000+ rural jobs, anti-poaching success, biodiversity funding
- High-value international spend (R400,000+ per hunter trip)

4. Film & Creative Industry

- R150–300 million annually in film firearm services
- Supports the R7bn local film industry with hundreds of specialist jobs
- Elevates SA’s global creative industry footprint

5. Private Security

- R50 billion sector, 577,000 officers, 2 million reservists
- Armed response, guarding, VIP protection — critical for community safety
- Relies on lawful firearm supply and training

6. Defence, Ammunition & Manufacturing

- R50–60 billion, 1%+ of GDP
- Civilian production sustains jobs, local supply chains and exports.

Total Estimated Impact

- Direct Contribution: R150 - 160 billion/year
- Indirect Multiplier: R100 - 120 billion/year
- Jobs Supported: 1.8+ million direct/indirect jobs both formal/informal

South Africa’s Silent Strength: Firearms, Freedom, and Opportunity

With over 2+ million licensed firearm owners and 2.7+ million legal firearms, this is no fringe sector — it is the lifeblood of rural stability, job creation, conservation and self-reliance.

Hostile regulations do not just target gun owners — they threaten livelihoods, community safety, conservation efforts and national pride.

A Sector that Builds Protects and Empowers

The lawful firearms sector is a pillar of community resilience, personal empowerment, and economic growth. It sustains thousands of jobs, drives vital industries from retail to conservation plus equips everyday South Africans with the skills and means to protect their families and communities.

This sector is built on responsibility, discipline and civic pride. It cuts across race, class and geography — uniting people in purpose, promoting social cohesion and strengthening the very foundations of a safer, freer South Africa.

“This is not just about firearms — it’s about families, freedom and the future of our country. It’s about standing together, protecting what matters and building a stronger South Africa for ALL.”

— SAGA Board of Trustees

Together, we defend more than rights — we defend livelihoods, freedom and the dignity of self-reliance. We stand for a future where good people are empowered, communities are safer and opportunity is protected.

Join us. Support your local firearm associations. Defend your community. Help build a stronger, safer and freer South Africa.

Issued by the South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) #WeThePeople #Boost the Economy #FirearmSectorIsAnAsset #FIGHTback #TogetherWeCan



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Annexure: Firearms Sector Direct & Indirect Economic Impact by Category

<i><u>Category</u></i>	<i><u>Estimated RSA Economic Contribution (ZAR)</u></i>	<i><u>Direct RSA Impact</u></i>	<i><u>Indirect/Multiplier Impact</u></i>	<i><u>Estimated Jobs Supported</u></i>
<u>Hunting, Wildlife & Conservation</u>	R45–47 billion pa	Direct spend on hunts, game ranching, conservation levies	Spillovers with a 2.97 multiplier effect into accommodation, guides, taxidermy, rural job creation & environmental conservation.	17,000+ direct jobs, significantly more indirect rural employment
<u>Tourism & Accommodation</u> (linked to hunting & shooting)	Overlap s with hunting- tourism above.	High per capita spend; hunting tourists inject up to R400,000 per trip	Lodges, guides, rural services, conservation levies	Est 70 000 rural tourism jobs (incl 17000 direct jobs above), especially in Northern Cape, Limpopo, Eastern Cape
<u>Firearm Retail, Wholesale, Gear, Gunsmithing & Accessories</u>	R2–3 billion pa (est.)	Direct retail sales (800+ dealers), accessories, optics, gunsmithing services	Supports logistics, SME suppliers, security sector demand	9,000+ direct jobs in retail, gunsmithing, gear and range management
<u>Sports Shooting, Associations, Clubs, Ranges & Training</u>	R1–2 billion pa (est.)	Range fees, club & association memberships, proficiency training (30+ associations & 900+ ranges)	Linked to hospitality, travel, sporting events, accessory sales	Est. 3,000– 4,000 instructors, trainers, support staff, event organisers
<u>Film, Media, Entertainment</u> (Firearms Services aspect)	Spillover up to R1 billion+ pa (est.)	Firearms training, props, stunts in SA productions (Cape Town, Joburg film hubs)	Skills development, tourism draw, export potential	Unknown; contributes to creative industry employment, technical training

<u>Private Security Industry</u>	R50+ billion pa	10,380 security firms (Est)	High demand for firearms training, ammunition, protective equipment	577,000+ formal jobs
<u>Defence, Ammunition & Civilian Manufacturing</u>	R50–60 billion pa (historically 1% of GDP)	Civilian ammunition, local firearm production exports	Industrial value chains, skills retention, research & development	Significant employment in industrial zones (e.g. PMP, Denel), 2,500–4,000+ direct jobs estimated
<u>Cross-Sector Multiplier Effects</u>	R100–120 billion+ (conservative est.)	Not directly assigned	Reported multiplier effect of 2.97x boosting local economies, conservation, security, retail, logistics, skills & hospitality.	Tens of thousands of indirect jobs across SMEs, rural industries, and support services

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