



SAGA Media Release – 22 April 2025

Opinion Piece: PSiRA Draft Amendments – a Green Light to Criminals & a Wake-Up Call to the Law-Abiding.

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Crime Pays & Criminals Win!

South Africans are no strangers to crime, however what many do not realise – perhaps because it is hidden behind bureaucratic language and legislative jargon – is that the next big win for criminals is being handed to them on a silver platter, courtesy of the draft PSiRA amendments.

This is not hyperbole or an exaggeration - this is a warning.

What's Really in These Draft Regulations?

The amendments seek to drastically limit the types of firearms that security personnel can use, restrict who can carry them, and duplicate existing Firearms Control Act (FCA) regulations with an avalanche of red tape, micro-management, and overreach.

On paper, it is called “regulation.” In reality, it is systematic disarmament of the private security sector – a sector that protects banks, businesses, schools, homes, farms, and families.

The real winners? Armed criminals. Gangsters. Syndicates. Hijackers. CIT robbers.

How the Criminal Element Stands to Benefit

Let us be clear: violent criminals will NOT be disarming. In fact, they are better armed, better organized, and more ruthless than ever before. These amendments:

- Strip guards and armed responders of semi-automatic rifles – the very tools needed to counter gang-style and paramilitary attacks on cash-in-transit vans,

farms, and homes while criminals use fully automatic military style weapons and high explosives.

- Hamstring smaller security firms who cannot afford endless compliance costs or who rely on practical, fit-for-purpose firearms in dangerous areas.
- Overburden legal firearm users with paperwork and threats of punishment, while leaving illegal gun ownership untouched and unchallenged.
- Ensure slower, less effective responses to real-time threats, because armed protection units will be fewer, weaker, and operating under constant threat of bureaucratic sanction.

In short: these regulations shift the balance of power toward the criminal!

A Law-Abiding Nation Asleep at the Wheel

What is troubling is how quiet the public and the security sector have been.

The average South African – especially the law-abiding firearm owner – should be sounding the alarm and shouting from the roof tops. However, many are not. Maybe it is fatigue. Maybe it is disbelief. Maybe it is the naive hope that “*someone else will deal with it*” and “*it doesn’t affect me.*”

However, if these PSiRA amendments become law, that apathy will turn to regret because; When your armed response company can no longer send properly equipped officers; When your neighbourhood guard is restricted to a shotgun while facing automatic rifles; When your farm protection service is dissolved under regulatory weight, you will realise that your silence was consent.

Gun-Free Zones = CRIME Zones

It’s not rocket science – disarming trained, law-abiding professionals in public spaces creates **targets**, not safety. **Gun-free zones do not stop criminals.** They **invite** them. Why? Because criminals, by definition, **do not care about the law.** Stripping professionals of their firearms under the illusion of “safety” only empowers those who break the rules and punishes those who follow them.

South Africa already has some of the toughest firearm regulations on earth under the Firearms Control Act (FCA) – including licensing, mandatory training, fingerprinting, background checks, and regular renewals. The proposed PSiRA amendments do not make us safer. They bury proven, functional law under layers of ideological red tape, weakening our national security framework and turning protective services into sitting ducks. This is not regulation – it is sabotage and will cost lives.

A Call to Action: Wake Up, Speak Up, Push Back

If you are a gun owner, a citizen believing in ownership rights, a taxpayer, a business owner, a farmer, or simply a concerned parent – this is your moment.

Object by submitting your comments. Join SAGA or your local firearm advocacy group. Contact your ward councillor. Demand clarity. Demand accountability. Demand withdrawal of these amendments (see attached the SAGA Special Appeal with objection checklist).

The only people celebrating these changes are criminals armed with **illegal guns** and these same people have **zero respect** for your life or property.

Help us help you by addressing your concerns and objections, with a rejection of these proposals, addressed to:

The Director PSIRA, Pretoria at Regulations@psira.co.za

PLUS join the campaign at www.FreeSA.org.za/protecting-public-safety-through-private-security

You have been warned! NOW is the time to act! Apathy kills!

A black poster with white and green text. At the top, it says 'YOUR SAFETY IS AT RISK'. Below that, 'New PSIRA regulations threaten the private security sector.' and 'Join SAGA to fight back.' followed by 'SCAN TO JOIN THE FIGHT'. There are two QR codes: one for 'Join SAGA For Individual Members' and another for 'Join SAGA CORPORATE'. At the bottom, it says 'This affects YOU — your business, your family, your safety.' and '40 SAGA YEARS' next to the website 'shop.saga.org.za'.

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Acknowledgements:

- Research via Co-pilot
- Draft Private Security Industry Regulation Act, Amendment Notice 3088 of 2025
 - Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 & Regulations, as amended