



**PRESENTATION TO THE
SAFETY AND SECURITY
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE
25th June 2021**

**BY SAGA
CHAIRPERSON
DAMIAN ENSLIN**



WHO IS SAGA

- The South African Gunowner's Association was formed in 1985 as a direct response to the then National Party government's restrictive firearm policies.
- We believe that over-restrictive legislation and regulations are unfair to the law abiding and responsible citizen.
- We believe in the right of every law abiding citizen's right to choose to own a firearm for self-defense, sports shooting, hunting, collecting or for business purposes.
- We negotiate with government and other bodies for practical and logical reforms.
- We actively promote the safe handling and safe storage of firearms and are unequivocally opposed to firearm misuse.
- We work to improve the negative image of firearms by taking positive action.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FIREARMS FOR SELF DEFENCE

Firearms are effective tools for law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families against an unlawful and imminent attack.

- Firearms in the hands of the law abiding citizens can equalize the playing field, with a weaker victim being able to defend himself or herself against a stronger attacker.
- Firearms can act as a crime deterrent as criminals prefer to prey on the unarmed victim.
- Law-abiding citizens who carry firearms don't need to live in fear because they can take responsibility for their own safety.

Often a violent attack is avoided merely because of the possession of the firearm.

Firearms in the hands of law abiding citizens can save lives.

SPORTS SHOOTING



1. Builds physical discipline
2. Arm strength
3. Focus
4. Eyesight
5. Increases mental discipline
6. Advances personal responsibility
7. Promotes liberty
8. Develops courage and confidence
9. Instills self discipline
10. Physical balance
11. Economic opportunities
12. Social activities

HUNTING

- 7600 trophy hunters visited South Africa in 2016. On average they spent R262 000. Based on these numbers trophy hunting contributed close to R2bn to the South African economy in 2016.
- Local Biltong hunters spent on average R58 000 per hunt. When multiplied with the number of frequent biltong hunters in South Africa (200 000), it totals R11.66bn.
- What makes the spending of local hunters so important is that hunting mainly occurs in rural areas.
- In addition, hunting creates jobs, particularly in rural areas where employment is most needed.
- Typical employment created directly includes guides, professional hunters, skimmers, trackers, catering, housekeeping, maintenance, conservation management, anti-poaching and taxidermy, to name a few.
- Species conservation
- There is more wildlife in South Africa than there was 50 or 60 years ago. There are now estimated 19 million head of game in the country compared to the 1950 when there were less than half a million individuals left.



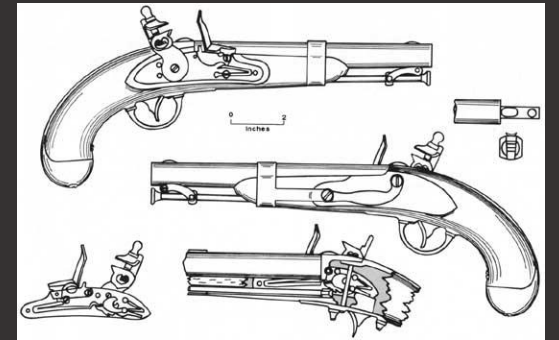
FIREARM COLLECTING

A large proportion of the firearms owned by collectors have historic and have heritage value to South Africa.

Due to there being so few museums that hold registered public collections of firearms, it falls upon this pool of private firearm collectors to preserve this aspect of our country's heritage.

Collectors invest hundreds of thousands and in some cases millions of Rands investing and collecting historical or rare firearms.

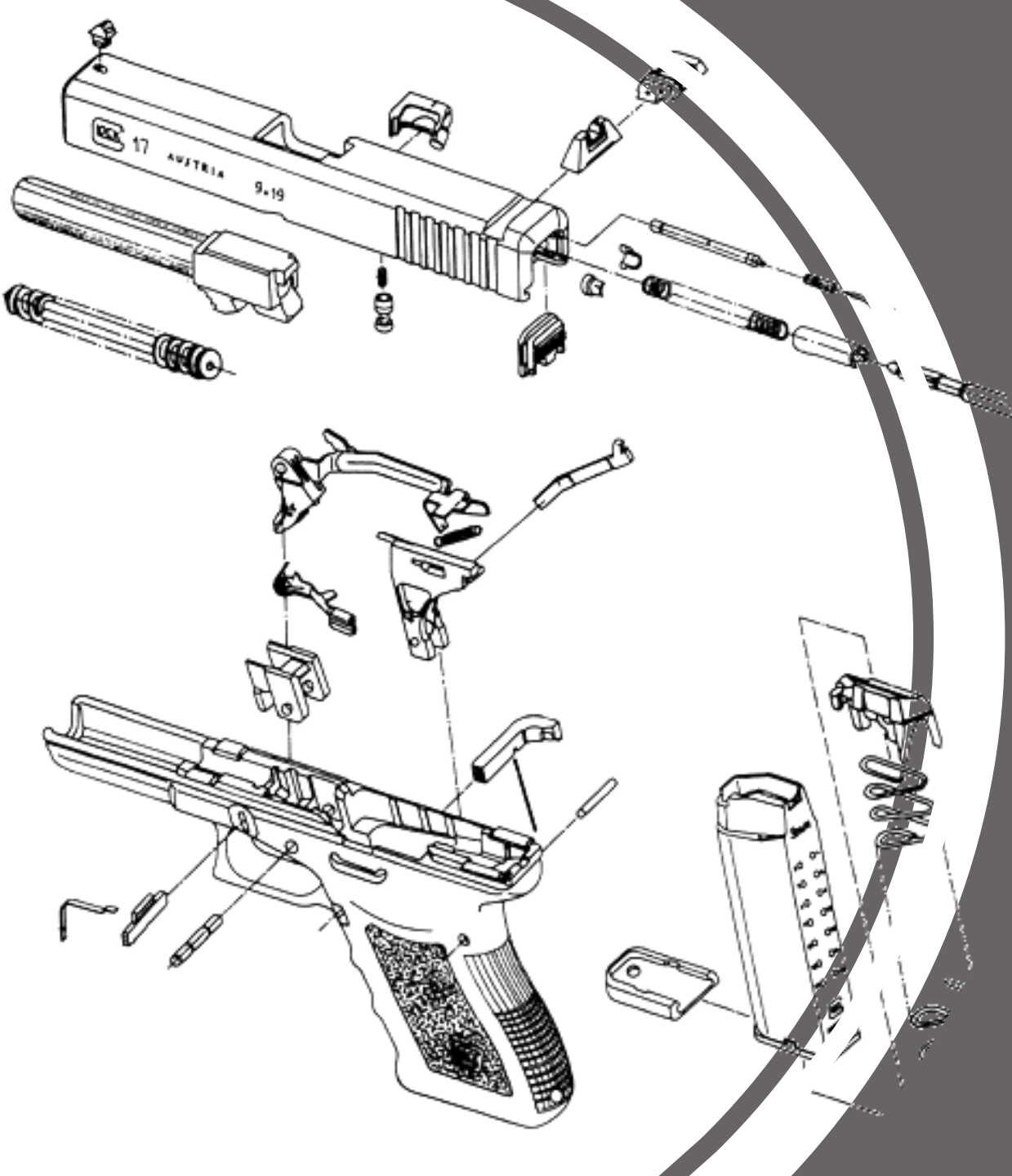
To build these collections, firearms represent a significant asset class and financial investment.





FIREARMS FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES

- There is a considerable amount of industry surrounding firearms being used for business purposes, from local manufacturers, gun smiths, to firearm dealerships, security companies, training providers, armourers to the film industry, corporate / fun shooting experiences, professional hunting and game ranging.
- All of the above businesses employ and create jobs and income for hundreds of thousands of people, either employed in or servicing the various fields, such as sports shooting, hunting, collecting of firearms, film industry, and which results in billions of Rands for the economy.



THE DRAFT FIREARMS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

Important changes to take note of :

- Removal of licenses for self defence.
- Reduction of firearms license period to five years.
- Reduction in number of allowed licenses.
- Removal of licences for collecting firearms
- Limiting amount of ammunition per license.
- Reloading of ammunition to be made unlawful.
- Minimum age limit for use of firearms
- Restrictions on the type of firearms that businesses may own

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WITH THE BILL

- The Bill affects a number of Constitutional Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, as contained in the Bill of Rights.
- Foremost of these is the right to life. The Constitution guarantees all citizens, certain other rights which, read in conjunction with each other, clearly indicate the illogical nature of the proposed draft Bill as set out.
- The Right to Equality
- The Right to Life
- The Right to Freedom and security of the person
- The Right to Freedom of artistic creativity
- The Right to Freedom of association
- The Right to Freedom of trade, occupation and profession
- The Right to Property

CONCLUSION

- SAGA objects to the Bill in its entirety, as the provisions are unreasonable and irrational.
- It must be noted that no stakeholders or role players have been consulted with respect to the drafting of the Bill.
- The focus of the Bill has been on law abiding citizens and not combating crime.
- A future provision of the FCA should be to license the person and register the firearm.
- The Police should focus on criminals and illegal firearms.
- This Bill will result in a major economic impact on many business and industries and on the economy South Africa.
- The Bill will leave law abiding citizens without a means to defend themselves.
- SAGA submits that the Committee should take a stance on the matter and consider making its own submission to the Civilian Secretariate on Police.

A 3D rendering of a puzzle. The background is composed of many grey puzzle pieces. One piece, located in the center-right area, is red and is slightly raised from the others, casting a shadow. The word 'THANKS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle-left of the image.

THANKS

SAGA WISHES TO THANK THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE
COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF APPEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE