



SOUTH AFRICAN GUNOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Advocating for the protection & promotion of legal firearm rights

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA)

Date: 26th November 2025

SAGA REJECTS THE DRAFT FIREARMS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL 2025 IN ITS ENTIRETY

We will use every legal, civic and democratic mechanism available to prevent this Bill from becoming law

SAGA confirms that the Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill of 2025 has now been formally released. NEDLAC circulated the Bill yesterday providing the first complete text against which stakeholders can assess the scope, intent and implications of government's proposed changes to South Africa's firearm laws.

Note that the Bill is in Draft form and has not as yet been gazetted, but it shows that government is intent on restricting private firearm ownership, despite there being no logical or rational reason to do so.

The South African Gunowners' Association rejects the Firearms Control Amendment Bill of 2025 in its entirety. This Bill together with the previous 2021 Bill represents the most sweeping attack on civilian firearm ownership since the Firearms Control Act was introduced in 2000. It does not improve public safety. It actively undermines it by targeting the lawful, responsible and vetted firearm owning public rather than the criminal elements driving violent crime in South Africa.

After a detailed section by section analysis, SAGA has concluded that the Bill is fundamentally unworkable, constitutionally unsound and strategically reckless. The Bill transforms firearm ownership from a legitimate and practical tool of personal protection into a narrow privilege controlled by political discretion. The Amendment Bill raises unnecessary administrative barriers, expands the power of officials to seize firearms without proper due process and introduces conditions that make lawful ownership extremely difficult for ordinary citizens.



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The most damaging change is the complete rewrite of Section 13, which governs the right to own a firearm for self-defence. The new version of Section 13 demands proof of exceptional circumstances, historic attacks, long term risk, geographical vulnerability and the absence of alternative security measures. It empowers the SAPS and Minister to determine who may or may not qualify. This approach is entirely detached from the real world environment of violent crime that South Africans face every day.

Ordinary citizens, particularly women, rural residents will be placed in greater danger if this Bill passes. Criminals will not be affected. Only the law abiding will be punished.

SAGA rejects the Bill without reservation. There is no part of this Amendment Bill that can be salvaged. The document is rooted in an ideological vision that has nothing to do with safety, crime reduction or practical policing. It reduces lawful defensive capacity, weakens rural protection, restricts sporting and hunting activities, damages the collector community and elevates bureaucratic control above individual safety.

SAGA will use every lawful method to prevent this Bill from becoming law

This includes:

- Full parliamentary submissions
- Public mobilisation of firearm owners across South Africa
- Collaboration with legal experts, civil rights organisations and safety stakeholders
- Strategic media campaigns and public advocacy
- Preparation for immediate legal action should the Bill be forced through Parliament

SAGA has represented the interests of South African firearm owners for more than Forty years. Our commitment to the safety, dignity and rights of law-abiding citizens is non-negotiable. This Bill threatens those rights in a direct and unacceptable manner.

We call on all South Africans to reject the Bill in total. South Africa needs practical solutions to violent crime, not symbolic legislation that disarms the responsible public while doing nothing to stop criminals.

South Africans deserve security. This Bill delivers the opposite.

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