



SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

Firearms Summit 24-25 March 2015

Portfolio Committee on Police in Partnership with the Civilian Secretariat for Police

A very successful Firearms Summit has just been attended by representatives from most of the stakeholders in the firearms environment, a large SAPS contingent including the CFR, the Appeal Board, etc as well as organisations such as Business Against Crime, various trauma and violence centres, some unions, local police departments, and so on. Of course there were also representatives of various gun-control advocacy groups present.

The Portfolio Committee on Police hosted and facilitated the Summit in a professional and organised manner. All delegates were provided many opportunities to ask questions and provide input. This in itself was crucial as the Committee was able to hear both sides of the matter and asked good questions.

The problem of violent crime in our country and how to deal with all the aspects thereof was the main thread of the Summit. The use of illegal firearms in this violent crime being a key focus. Other related factors were also discussed such as the use of knives and other objects; the role of drugs and alcohol; poverty, unemployment etc. The firearms legislation and how it is implemented, and future changes were also heavily discussed.

Day one was opened by the Chairman of the Portfolio Committee, Hon F Beukman. This was followed by the first presentation: Comparative Firearms Regulations Regime in the SADC Coun-

tries by Guy Lamb (SAVI). Thereafter Ms Reneva Fourie of the Civilian Secretariat for Police talked on: Situational Analysis: The use of legal and illegal firearms in the commission of crime in South Africa.

The first panel discussion was on: The Impact of Gun Culture on Society. Presenters were, Prof S van As (Red Cross Children's Hospital), Dr G Bloch (Education expert) and Dr L Benjamin (Psychologist).

The second panel discussion was on: Strategies for Reducing Illegal Firearms in Society. Panellists were, Ms A Kirsten (GFSA), Mr M Hood (SASIA) and Adv N Arendse (SAFA).

Day Two started with the National Commissioner of Police, Gen R Phiyega who spoke on Implementing the Firearms Control Act. This was followed by the Minister of Police, Nkosinathi Nhleko. Thereafter the Deputy Minister of Police, M Soty presented Findings and Recommendations from the Oversight Visit to the Central Firearms Registry (CFR).

These presentations were followed by Mr Manabela Chauke, from PSIRA who spoke on Managing Private Security Company Firearms.

Overall the Summit was a success because the right stakeholders were present, information was provided that helped provide a clear picture of the various problems being faced and suggestions were made as to how to improve matters.

The goodwill from all was evident and a general commitment to work together going forward was made.

This ongoing co-operation is highlighted in a letter received on 27 March 2015 from the Portfolio Committee of Police

Dear Delegates ,
By direction of Hon. Francois Beukman, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, please accept our thanks and appreciation for attending the National Firearms Summit 2015. Your participation and robust discussions will no doubt have a positive impact on the work of the Portfolio Committee on Police in future.

Please do not hesitate to take up the invitation extended by the Hon. Chairperson to contact the Committee with your concerns and/or proposals, especially once Parliament publishes the Firearms Control Amendment Bill, 2015 for public submissions.

SAGA intends to continue with the good interactions from the Summit to continue to promote legitimate firearms ownership for law-abiding citizens.

See also SAGA Media Statement issue on 27 March 2015 on our website at www.saga.org.za



Firearms Control Act Amendment Bill 2015

Submissions on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill, 2015 need to be made by tomorrow, 31 March 2015. Please refer to our Submission Notes already circulated to members.

SAGA's submission will be available in due course.

Submit to:
The Civilian Secretariat for Police
Attention: Mr A Soman – Director,
Legislation

By post to:
Private Bag X92
Pretoria
0001

Or to a street address:
7th Floor, Van Erkom Building
217 Pretorius Street
Pretoria
0001

Or by Email to:
somana@saps.gov.za

Advertising Standards Authority Ruling



Unfortunately the Final Appeal Committee of the ASA has ruled in favour of GFSA on their Appeal to the ASA Appeal Committee ruling. This means that GFSA is entitled to continue with their advertisements by stating *inter alia* that had your gun been stolen and used in a crime, you were in fact also there when the crime was committed, if fact, a participant to the crime. We shall be considering our options after consultations with our attorney.

Here is an extract from the ruling.

In the matter between: Gun Free South Africa - Appellant versus South African Gunowners Association - Respondent

[6] The Respondent submitted to the Final Appeal Committee that it only sought a ruling in respect of article 4.2.1, namely, that the advertisement was misleading. As regards ASA's jurisdiction over the Appellant, it is the view of the Final Appeal Committee that the ASA does indeed have jurisdiction over the Appellant. This is be-

cause the agents the Appellant used to create and have the advertisement placed in the Sunday Times were members of ASA. The Appellant also raised the non-joinder of these agencies, and argued that the matter could not proceed without them. This point was never raised before the Directorate or the ASA Standards Committee; it cannot therefore be raised for the first time at this stage.

[8] The ASA Standards Committee held that the Appellant was correct in contending that the advertisement fell to be considered in terms of article 2.4 of Section I of the Code. The Committee went on to state that what was required of it was to consider whether the advertisement was an expression of opinion. It then concluded that it was not an expression of opinion; that it had not been couched as such by, for example, presenting it in the form of a question. With respect, we disagree. The advertisement was expressing itself on a very controversial matter; namely, gun ownership in a country plagued by violent crime.

We are of the view that the words in the advertisement are an expression of opinion. They cannot be understood to be stating as a fact that, whenever a stolen firearm is used to commit a crime, the

owner thereof was in fact also physically present at the scene of the crime; an average reader would not understand the advertisement that way. The advertisement is an opinion on a matter of controversy and of public policy, advocating a particular stance in relation to the possession of guns.

Accordingly, in terms of article 2.4 of Section I of the Code, it falls outside the purview of the authority of the ASA. While the ASA does have jurisdiction over the Appellant for the reasons already given above, it does not, by virtue of the said article 2.4, have jurisdiction in relation to the advertisement itself. Another way of approaching the matter, which would still lead to the same conclusion, is to say that the advertisement constitutes non-commercial advertising, with the Appellant merely expressing an opinion, advocating something specific, namely, "hand over your gun." The appeal should therefore succeed.

Dated this 4th day of March 2015

Judge B M Ngoepe, Chair
Mr John Little, Member,
Ms Diane Terblanche, Member
Mr N Nkomo, Member
Mr M Gendel, Member

Training Provider Certificates

In a SAPS circular issued by Lieutenant General, Deputy National Commissioner: Policing, dated 6 March 2015, the fraudulent and illegal issuing of proficiency certificates by institutions not properly accredited is noted.

Extracted from the circular:

4. All Training Provider Certificates presented to the SAPS at Station level, and in particular to DFO's, must with immediate effect, only be accepted if accompanied by a PFTC Statement of Results (SoR).

5. Previous Training Certificates completed before 2015 remain valid and may still be accepted if presented together with the relevant SASSETA Certificate or the PFTC Statement of Results (SoR). Only SASSETA Certificates dated 2014 or earlier may be accepted by a DFO.

6. No institution may issue a Firearm Training Certificate for the purposes of applying for a Competency Certificate or Firearm License if it is not accredited with the PFTC.

10.....A list of PFTC Accredited Training Providers is available on the PFTC website www.pftc.co.za under "Downloads". This list is updated weekly and will reflect Accredited Training Providers, as well as suspended and de-accredited Training Providers.

To see the full circular please go to our website at www.saga.org.za

Commemorative Insignia 30 Years of SAGA

Special commemorative insignia has been sourced and ordered to celebrate SAGA's 30th Year. This insignia will only be available while stocks last. **Order yours today** using the form below or just email what you would like to saga@saga.org.za. All prices include postage and packaging.

Cloth Patch:

This specially designed cloth patch will replace our normal cloth patch during our 30th year. The simple laurels add a real touch of class and acknowledge this milestone in SAGA's history. The patch can be stitched or ironed on. Price: R25



Beanie:

A warm SAGA green knitted beanie with matching tone "SAGA" embroidered on the front. Great for those chilly days on the shooting range, or in the hunting field. Easy to keep in your shooting bag or box and a good price too! One size fits all. Price: R50



Memory Stick:

Something more useful would be hard to find. This 4Gb memory stick is laser engraved with SAGA 30 Year branding and comes in a handy plastic storage case with a lanyard. Perfect for everyday use. Price: R85



Biltong Knife:

We now have stunning black-handled Victorinox Biltong Knives with a specially designed 30 Year logo tastefully etched onto the blade. If you have one of our normal red-handled Victorinox biltong knives then you will appreciate how useful and hardworking they are. These knives will replace our red-handled knives during our 30th year. Price: R165



Long Sleeve Shirts:

A lot of members have asked for a long sleeve shirt and so here it is. In olive green, these ripstop fabric long sleeve shirts are made locally and have a toned 30 Year logo embroidered above the front left chest pocket. These shirts look good and will be well worn. Sizes available are: Medium to 4XL. Price: R300



Drimac Jacket:

Drimac is a brand everyone knows and this jacket is our top-of-the-range insignia item for the year. Quality you can be sure of, the jackets are a smart bottle green with a toned colour 30 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest. Sizes available are: Medium to 4XL. Price: R430



Our usual insignia will continue to be available but is not branded for the 30-year commemoration.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets



Insignia Order Form

30 YEAR INSIGNIA	Price	No.	Size	Amount
Patch	R25			
Beanie	R50			
Memory Stick	R85			
Biltong Knife (Black)	R165			
Long Sleeve Shirt	R300			
Drimac	R430			
STANDARD INSIGNIA	Price	No.	Size	Amount
Metal Lapel Badge	R25			
Cap	R60			
Biltong Knife (Red)	R165			
Short Sleeve Shirt	R265			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	R			
NAME:				
ADDRESS:				
EMAIL:				
TELEPHONE:				
MEMBER No.:				
PAYMENT:	EFT or Credit Card or Cheque			

