

## **COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF SA HUNTERS REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COURT JUDGEMENT IN GOSA'S URGENT APPLICATION**

Members of SA Hunters were informed by SMS of the recent High Court judgement in the urgent application by Gun Owners of South Africa ('GOSA') against the National Police Commissioner and the Minister of Police.

This application follows on the final judgement by the Constitutional Court in the case between SA Hunters and the Minister of Police, of which members had been informed previously.

Some of the arguments in GOSA's application are based on certain views and opinions included in the judgement in the case between SA Hunters and SAPS.

In addition, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police confirmed that the Minister of Police had requested the Committee to approve his proposal for the implementation of a six-month firearms amnesty in terms of the Firearms Control Act.

The Portfolio Committee further confirmed that the request for an amnesty would be debated on 16 August 2018, and would be referred to the General Assembly for approval.

SA Hunters and its legal team are considering the current state of affairs in view of recent development, and will communicate the outcome with members as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, SA Hunters advises members as follows:

1. The GOSA judgement is in response to an interim application that will be valid until the main application is heard and finalised in court.
2. Should the court rule in favour of GOSA, this interim ruling might become a final judgement, but it could also be set aside. Meanwhile, everyone must adhere to the interim judgement.
3. In terms of the interim court order, the SAPS may under no circumstances request the handing in of any firearm of which the licence had expired and for which a renewal application had not been submitted to the Police, until GOSA's court application has been finalised. This court order effectively stops the current process of surrendering firearms of which the licences had expired.
4. The interim court order allows persons that can provide valid reasons for the late renewal of firearm licences to apply for a renewal licence on form SAP 518(a); while for the time being, their current licences would be regarded as valid until the renewal application has been considered.
5. SA Hunters encourages members that have such valid reasons for not renewing licences in time, to submit renewal applications as soon as possible. If their local SAPS DFO is unable or unwilling to accept such an application, members should record the following information for future reference: Name of station, date, place, and time; and the name, rank and number of the relevant police officer.
6. For all other members (i.e. those that do not have valid reasons for not renewing in time) the proposed amnesty could offer a way out to get their firearm licences in order.
7. SA Hunters will follow up with any further information in this regard.