

Dear Sir or Madam:

COMMENTS / OBJECTIONS AS TO FCA AMENDMENT BILL –
GOVT GAZETTE No 437 OF 21 May 2021

Name and Surname:

ID Number:

Email Address:

Address:

Comments:

Currently the Police is unable to effectively implement and enforce the Firearms Control Act, yet the Minister is now aiming to increase the work with frivolous amendments that create unnecessary barriers to legal firearm ownership in South Africa. Specific areas of concern include:

➤ **RENEWAL OF LICENCES:**

The proposed change in the validity period of a licence prior to renewal is worrying due to the additional workload it will create for the Police. In Section 27 an amendment is proposed for all licences to be valid for only 5 years, except for a licence for business use which will only be valid for 2 years.

This is completely senseless and will add unnecessary work to an already overworked Police force. I strongly propose the validity period of licences remain unchanged, or even be extended rather than shortened.

➤ **SELF-DEFENCE:**

Removal of self-defence as motivation for a firearm is of huge concern. Violent crime as proven by SAPS statistics, rises on a daily basis with illegal firearms usually the culprit, yet law-abiding citizens' last line of defence (owning a firearm for self-defence) will be removed. Contrary to Minister Cele's claims that the removal of firearms for self-defence will help to reduce violent crime, it will simply leave us vulnerable. The Police cannot protect us – so why remove our ability to do it ourselves?

➤ **COLLECTORS:**

Private collectors hold collections valued at over R750 million and the removal of these licences will deem these collections worthless. Furthermore, it will be a sad day for South Africa's heritage if these unique artefacts are to be destroyed, especially considering that collectable firearms are often not suitable for criminal use.

➤ **DEDICATED HUNTERS & SPORT SHOOTERS:**

As a dedicated hunter, the reduction of the number of rifles I may own (limited to 6 – only two more than an occasional hunter), is a direct impediment on my chosen hobby/sporting discipline. One cannot help to wonder why the hunting and sport shooting sector is specifically targeted, while criminals continue to act with impunity. Why does government not focus on a holistic anti-crime and judicial strategy to curb crime in this country, instead of targeting law-abiding legal firearm owners? Hunters are widely recognised as the most responsible and compliant firearm owners, yet our way of life is impacted with these proposals. I object against this proposed amendment of the act.

**Additional
Comments:**