

## Special Newsletter: 1 June 2021

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Dear colleague

The amendments to the Firearms Control Act, as proposed by the Secretariat of Police, has dominated the news recently. Therefore, this newsletter deals exclusively about this matter.

### **Draft Amendment Bill**

A notice was published in the Government Gazette on 21 May – ostensibly by the Minister of Police - to inform us of their intention to amend the Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000). The heading of the notice implied that it originated from the office of the minister, but it did not specify who had placed the notice. It might have been the Civilian Secretariat of Police since all comments were to be submitted to their office.

A copy of the draft amendment bill has not yet been published in the Government Gazette, but it is available to download on the website of the Civilian Secretariat of Police.

Following the notice, various individuals, groups, and organisations have responded passionately on this matter, while SA Hunters has not yet stated its official viewpoint. We merely informed members that the draft amendment bill has not been published officially, and that SA Hunters would comment in due course.

The notice in the Government Gazette is available [here](#). A copy of the draft amendment act is available on the Civilian Secretariat for Police's website [here](#).

At a meeting of the Board of SA Hunters on Thursday 27 May 2021, it was decided to embark on a communication process during June to inform members and the public about various aspects of SA Hunters' activities, i.e.:

1. **Providing factual and relevant information to members and the public** regarding aspects of the amendment bill, as well as the process to submit comment on the proposed bill.
2. **Calling for action from members and the public** to sign petitions and submit their own comments on the draft amendment bill to the Secretariat of Police. Various similar requests will follow during June to involve members.
3. **Preparing detailed comment on the draft amendment bill** which SA Hunters will make available to members.
4. **Cooperating with other role-players** and making our information and viewpoints available to any other party with the same objectives, i.e., to oppose some of the amendments in the draft amendment bill. SA Hunters will be collaborating with Agri SA, TLU, die United Firearms Forum en Safe Citizen. The Association will also cooperate with and support other parties, should they ask.
5. **The purpose of this process**, as approved by the Board, is to inform members and to muster their support vir specific action. The Board also agreed to place a number of advertisements in the media and to obtain an opportunity to explain the implications of the bill on television news. It will also focus on SA Hunters' reaction on the draft amendment bill.

SA Hunters will launch this process in June with official notices to members by e-mail and social media (Facebook en Twitter). This information will also be accessible to the public.

We ask members to support this process and to distribute our messages far and wide.

A Zoom meeting with regional coordinators and branch chairpersons to inform them about the process was scheduled for Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 18:00.

On 1 June, the first message will be distributed that deals specifically with the **right to own a firearm**. Is it a privilege or a right to own a firearm in South Africa? It has bearing on the content of the amendment bill that self-defence would not be accepted as a motivation for a firearm licence. SA Hunters' opinion is available [here](#).

[Herewith](#) the opinion by Lennit Max (former commanding officer of SAPS in the Western Cape and former special advisor to Min. Cele.

This is the first notice of a series of communiques that SA Hunters will distribute to members in June.

Kind regards

Fred Camphor  
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