



Gun Owners of South Africa

Wapeneienaars van Suid-Afrika

5 July 2010

Dear Ms J Irish-Qhobosheane,

Thank you so much for your invitation to contribute to the discussion as to what is or may be wrong with the FCA and the implementation thereof.

We are greatly encouraged and heartened by your professional and open-minded attitude towards this contentious issue.

GOSA feels that we have a valuable contribution to make in this regard and welcomes the opportunity to be part of the discussions.

We would also like to give you and the Minister credit for recognising that this discussion needs to take place at a level other than at the CFR or SAPS management level. Both the CFR and the SAPS have effectively destroyed their own credibility and any pretence at impartiality through their various actions and misdeeds these last few years in this regard.

Given the unfortunate position we now find ourselves in it is primarily the opinion of GOSA that an internal enquiry or task team approach would not be sufficient to instil lost confidence in a system which is perceived by the vast majority of legal gunowners and even the average person on the street as capricious and mendacious.

We believe that were this issue to be faced by any other department or organ of State, the correct approach would be to appoint an outside body who is above reproach to conduct a detailed forensic audit of the Act and the implementation thereof which could definitively establish the expected impact of the Act on crime (the Act is touted, after all as a crime-fighting measure), and also rebuild the confidence of the public in the functioning of a critical component of our Police Force.

So, in short, the viability of the Act and the CFR's implementation thereof needs to be objectively and independently established in order to prove that the FCA can and should be made to work, but at the same time it would serve to head off the virtual barrage of negative judgements currently being made against the SAPS in this specific regard if the desirability of the FCA could be established through an irreproachable study of the impact of the FCA on violent crime.

Regards

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