

The Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA

Tel: +27 922 5600 Box: 1614 Uitenhage 6230 Cell: 082 523 8201 Fax: 086 614 5354 E-mail: manager@chasa.co.za Website: www.chasa.co.za SAPS Accreditation Number: 1300018

Cele Fights the Citizens of SA rather than Criminals 15 January 2020

New 24 reports under the headline "Cele on guns: Amended Firearms Control Act cannot allow individuals to own more than one gun" that our police minister seems hell bent on reducing the number of legally held firearms in South Africa. The full report, with accompanying video, should concern every law-abiding citizen whether firearm owner or not. Rhetoric such has his has previously been proclaimed by such luminaries as Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Pol Pot, Idi Amin and Kim Jung-III.

What is more concerning is that the minister acknowledges that they are working on new legislation, but makes no mention that this has been the case since 2011 already, and that for at least the past four years not one effort has been made by elements within his department to engage legitimate and accredited firearm stakeholder groups in this process. SAPS Legal, the Central Firearm Registry, the Civilian Secretariat for Police and the many police ministers and national commissioners have all singularly evaded their legal and civil responsibility to engage legitimate stakeholders at all, let alone in good faith. There has been some limited, but appreciated, engagement from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Police in the 5th Parliament, and we are cautiously optimistic that the committee of the 6th Parliament will continue this. But we wait to see.

Crime in South Africa is so endemic and entrenched as to be obscene. There are countries at war that are safer to live in on statistical data. The reality is that SAPS itself has been infiltrated at every level by criminality and those members who are not personally involved must be totally demoralised and marginalised so as to be neutered. Cele leads this fiasco, and clearly has no idea where to even begin fighting crime. It is thus his deflective position to wage war against the law-abiding citizens of this land instead. Legal firearm ownership requires the most thorough scrutiny, training and compliance. It is virtually impossible for anyone who is trying to eke a living at the lower income bracket to manage firearm ownership, which of itself is unfair as they are often the most vulnerable to violent attacks by thugs. Law abiding firearm owners are mostly those in employment or in business and creating employment and producing and distributing the goods & food we all need. It is time these folks point out to this minister that his theatrics and rhetoric are misguided and that he has a duty to focus on fixing crime, from the top down. Media events on hollow happenings will no longer disguise his failures as a leader, and deflecting the real issues particularly against those of us who pay his salary just won't cut it anymore.

The police themselves need urgent assistance and guidance regarding firearm use and care. There are clearly too many chiefs and not enough Indians in the SAPS structures, yet they continue to be embarrassed by high level losses of firearms, ammunition and other state assets. While their foot-soldiers struggle under a poorly resourced regime, their senior officers are bungling the simplest of parade duty at high-profile funerals of a doyen and luminary of South African society, belittling the sacrifices of true soldiers and veterans. There's an old saying that a fish stinks first from its head. Perhaps its time the most critical institution of South Africa's safety, security and future well-being, its Police Service, gets a fresh head.

