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# SAAADA Media Statement

*SAAADA, the South African Arms and Ammunition Dealers' Association, represents firearms dealers, importers, manufactures, gunsmiths, and related trades (broadly, the Firearms Trade) in matters of common interest. These include legislation and the functions of government such as SAPS, Customs, SABS, theDTI and more.*

Corruption is an issue that bedevils much of South Africa, and sadly the SAPS has the inglorious honour of topping the tables as the most corrupt part of South African society. A corrupt police official cannot operate alone; the willing cooperation of other people is required. For various reasons some members of the public are complicit in encouraging and rewarding corrupt conduct by officials.

As illustrated in court papers submitted by SAAADA in June 2018, the Central Firearms Registry (CFR) has lost control of firearms in South Africa and has created (or allowed) an environment of extreme bureaucratic inefficiency in most aspects of firearms licensing and control.

Since early 2018, the Central Firearms Registry (CFR) has wilfully disengaged dialogue with all the role players in the firearms fraternity, including dealers, gunsmiths, hunters, sport shooters, collectors and more. SAPS constantly change procedures without consulting stakeholders and without even disclosing those changes, making for an extremely complex and inefficient regulatory environment. This complex vacuum increases the chance of firearm owners and firearm dealers inadvertently contravening the law.

SAAADA does not condone criminal activity but must highlight that simple, clear, understandable processes are easy to implement within the firearm control environment, never requiring a work-around.

It is against this backdrop of corruption, complex legislation, and CFR's dialogue vacuum that SAAADA congratulates the Hawks on their decisive action to root out illegal firearms and related corrupt activities. We welcome and applaud the following arrests at the end of October 2020, that were recently publicised in the media.

- Two station commanders, both senior SAPS Brigadiers, were arrested in the areas of Edenvale, Kempton Park and Norwood in Gauteng for alleged involvement in fraudulently issuing firearm licenses.
- A 41-year old business owner was arrested near Bloemfontein for allegedly replacing old rifle barrels with new barrels without authority from CFR.

The South African Arms and Ammunition Dealers' Association again calls on the Minister of Police and the South African Police Service to engage in meaningful dialogue with the firearms community, so that we may work together towards a peaceful South Africa where citizens live safely, benefit from economic activity and are free to practice their legitimate and lawful pursuits. Our expertise is available to SAPS to simplify and clarify all processes related to the control of firearms.

Jonathan Fouché  
Chairman