

“Our dream is for a gun free South Africa” – Minister of Police, E.N. Mthethwa

These words were uttered by Minister of Police Nathi Mthethwa on 2 November 2010 as he briefed a press conference in Pretoria on changes to be made at the Central Firearms Registry (CFR). The Minister called the press conference to present the turn-around strategy to be adopted to improve the functioning of the Central Firearms Registry. This turn-around strategy comes as a result of an inquiry undertaken by the Civilian Secretariat for Police to investigate challenges facing the CFR.

The Minister told the press conference that gun ownership and use will be controlled and monitored as the law dictates, but that in the long term “our dream is for a gun free South Africa”.

Gun Free South Africa is delighted to hear such bold statements of support and we look forward to the day when this dream becomes reality. Until such time as South Africa is gun free it is vital that every measure is put in place to ensure the strictest implementation of the Firearms Control Act (FCA). Effective implementation of the FCA is heavily dependent upon the smooth running of the Central Firearms Registry (CFR). The changes to the CFR announced by the Minister are a step in the right direction.

We as GFSA request:

- That all the necessary licensing checks and balances are adhered to while dealing with the backlog of firearm license applications and renewals. Pressure to deal with this licensing backlog should not mean that the legal requirements of the FCA are in any way watered down.
- That this turn-around strategy include a commitment to provide disaggregated firearm data to civil society and research bodies. The problem of gun violence can only be properly tackled when we have better access to this important information.

We look forward to a country free from gun violence and stricter gun control is an important mechanism to achieve this.

For further information please contact:

GFSA

Natalie Jaynes - +27 82 962 7504