

The #SafeCitizen Campaign
Building hope for law-abiding citizens



October 11, 2022

Mr. Takalani Ramaru
Acting Secretary of Police

CC:

Minister of Police c/o Private Secretary GaehlerSMK@saps.gov.za
Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson

Dear Mr. Ramaru,

Termination of the MOU between the Civilian Secretariat for Police and Safe Citizen

Despite our consistent efforts to be committed and involved with the objectives of the MOU, we find that nothing of material value to our members and the public at large has been accomplished. We have been politely engaged with and listened to but have no clue as to the position of your team on the various issues discussed, nor any indication from the government as to where the leadership of the police stands on those issues.

As this letter is being written, the operational ability of the South African Police Service is in tatters. Sporadic successes in connection with high-profile crimes do not meet the standard of 'protect and serve', nor do they give effect to the vision of the police in the NDP. At this juncture in public safety and security in South Africa a rational person would expect the police to be drawing law-abiding citizens as close as possible, forging alliances, and building on the support that saved the day in KZN in July 2021.

When I founded Safe Citizen, and vigorously pursued the MOU with CSP, I was warned by long-standing members of the firearms fraternity that it would come to naught. Even though I was aware that senior members of national firearms associations had tried for over a decade to engage the police around the very firearms issues that are now at a acute juncture, I was convinced that a supportive and positive, instead of critical, engagement would bear fruit. After two years I am compelled to conclude that my detractors were right. Neither the police, nor the CSP have any intention of facilitating meaningful engagement.

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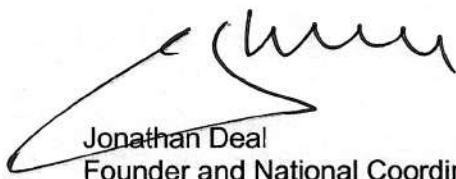
It should by now be clear to all citizens that this government, to whom the police answer, is pursuing an ideological agenda to disarm, or at the very least, severely curtail possession of firearms by private citizens. There can be no other possible explanation for the failure of the police to address the pressing issues surrounding lawful firearm owners. There can be no plausible explanation for your failure as the Acting Secretary, after all our letters to you, to bring the power of your office to bear and bring resourced and committed civil groups to the table with the police leadership. And there can be no other reason for the drafting and release of an unrealistic and unenforceable amendment bill that, were it to become law, would achieve the exact opposite of its ill-considered objectives.

Our previously stated concerns bear repeating; the government will never get control of the crime situation in this country unless it partners with law abiding citizens via established associations and civil-society groups. South Africans have a right to live in safety and be free from violence, and the path to achieving that lies not in punishing those who lawfully possess firearms but rather working with such persons to make communities uncomfortable for criminals.

It has now been well established that the police and other government agencies are themselves responsible in most cases, for the proliferation of unlicensed firearms in the hands of criminals, and that even if all private firearms were confiscated, you would never recover the millions of unlicensed guns, nor halt the flow of military small arms across our borders. Given the political tensions, the state of the economy, looming food shortages, a power grid perpetually close to collapse, rampant crime, runaway unemployment, and the inability of the police to protect the public, the pursuit by this government of any policy of civilian disarmament, such as the firearms amendment bill, will create a security crisis of epic proportions. So too, will the approach of doing nothing to fix the problems.

In closing, I place on record that the Chief Director of Intersectoral Communication, Mr. Ben Ntuli has tried his best to work with us and bring change and hope.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Deal
Founder and National Coordinator