



## Confederation of Hunters Associations of SA

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### PRESS RELEASE BY THE CONFEDERATION OF HUNTING ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE'S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING A COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE CENTRAL FIREARMS REGISTRY.

The Hunter's Confederation would like to congratulate the Minister for the candid, comprehensive and decisive manner in which he has addressed the public on the findings of his special investigation into the Central Firearms Registry (CFR)

When invitation was received from the Secretary of Police to submit presentations, and in particular when the tight timelines she indicated to us were noted it made us cautiously optimistic that at last the matter was being taken seriously. The Hunter's Confederation responded with a concise set of problems & solutions. Having studied the Minister's remarks we now believe we have slightly more reason for optimism!

In particular what we consider a breath of fresh air is the unqualified admittance that the department is functionally disastrous. The further statements which indicate a set of strong interventions to rectify matters listing specific practical solutions makes this more than a broad policy statement. We believe that the government's reinstatement of the Civilian Secretariat of Police which had collapsed under the Mbeki/Selebi era is to our mind central in this new action orientated, pragmatic approach.

We absolutely understand the current cynicism of many of our partner-stakeholders which permeates the various group meetings, having shared with them the frustrations that have lead to the current state of affairs, but have decided that "new brooms" need to be given fair opportunity to "sweep clean". In this regard The Hunter's Confederation opts first and foremost for proactive engagement with the "new order" within the department. We will remain vigilant though, and will not hesitate to act decisively should specific reason occur where member or group interests are threatened.

The Hunter's Confederation supports responsible firearm ownership and so supports legislation that allows legitimate access to firearms by responsible proven people while at the same time prevents illegitimate access to firearms

If words turn into deeds and the Secretariat indeed engages us in the Partnerships her office is mandated to create then we are cautiously optimistic that the Minister's stated turn-around time of 9 months is achievable. Of course it is imperative that the exercise does not only deal with the backlog, but in fact brings the entire system in line with the original undertakings made by the leadership of the FCR to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee in terms of

