



## SAGA Media Release – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

# Opinion | Protecting the Political Class at any cost while disarming the Public at all costs: South Africa's Security Double Standard Laid Bare

*Issued by the SAGA Board of Trustees*

### Political Elites' Security vs Citizen Disarmament

South African political leaders continue to insist that private firearm ownership is “dangerous,” “unnecessary,” and incompatible *with public safety*. Yet the same elites - from Cabinet and Parliament to allied bureaucracies - live permanently under layers of armed, taxpayer-funded protection.

They preach civilian disarmament while sheltering behind guns, convoys and VIP guards - contemptuous, deliberate hypocrisy.

### Billions for the Few — Exposure for the Many

Acting Police Minister Cachalia has confirmed that the state spent R3.7 billion on VIP and static protection in the 2024/25 financial year, with expenditure projected to increase by **approximately 10% and exceed R4 billion in 2026/27**.

Historical expenditure trends:

- 2024/25 - R3.7 billion actual expenditure
- 2026/27 - estimated **R4.06 billion** (projected from SAPS responses)

Projected 2026/27 protection breakdown:

- **R2.46 billion** for **VIP protection** (political principals)
- **R1.60 billion** for **static protection of official residences** and sites

These funds sustain the Protection and Security Services (PSS) and Presidential Protection Services (PPS) - the so-called “blue-light brigades” - ensuring politicians enjoy immediate, layered, armed security as a matter of entitlement.



This expansion occurs in parallel with the advancement of a deeply flawed Firearm Control Amendment Bill (FCAB) intended to:

- Restrict lawful firearm ownership
- Increase administrative obstruction, and
- Criminalise ordinary citizens attempting to protect themselves

## **Two-Tier Security System**

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South Africa clearly operates two distinct classes of safety:

### **A. Protected Class**

Politicians, senior bureaucrats and connected elites - insulated by armed guards, armoured vehicles, static protection and preferential SAPS response. All funded by taxpayers.

### **B. Exposed Class**

Everyone else - instructed to disarm, to “trust SAPS” and to comply, while:

- Police response times collapse
- Thousands of SAPS firearms leak into criminal hands
- Violent offenders evade conviction, and
- Whistleblowers remain dangerously exposed

This is not equality before the law - it is state-sanctioned security inequality.

## **Executive Bloat Drives Protection Excess**

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This surge in protection spending cannot be separated from South Africa's bloated executive - one of the largest in the democratic world.

With approximately **75 executive members, 32 ministers and 43 deputy ministers**

- every additional political appointment automatically generates:

- Dedicated close-protection units
- Blue-light convoys
- Secured residences
- Permanent static guarding

Critics have repeatedly highlighted the growing costs of this expanded executive and its associated benefits as **unsustainable and fundamentally misaligned with genuine public safety priorities**.

## **Armed Elites, Disarmed Citizens**

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Government's firearms narrative is blunt and repetitive: *civilian firearm ownership is ineffective, unnecessary and dangerous*.

Yet government's own conduct proves the opposite:

- Armed protection works - for politicians
- Rapid response matters - when it protects elites
- Deterrence matters & firearms save lives - when those lives belong to the political class



The Firearms Control Amendment Bill seeks to deny ordinary South Africans the very protection logic the State applies lavishly to itself. If armed protection is essential for political elites, then the right to defence cannot be denied to everyone else.

### **Latest Input from the Police Portfolio Committee Chair**

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Recent public remarks by Ian Cameron MP, Chairperson of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Police, underscore growing concern about the direction of firearm and security regulation in South Africa:

#### *On the FCAB and law-abiding citizens*

Cameron has warned that the FCAB, as currently proposed, risks disarming law-abiding citizens without meaningfully addressing the real drivers of violent crime - including illegal firearms and systemic policing failures. The Bill targets tools rather than enforcement, deterrence and accountability.

#### *On NEDLAC and exclusion from the process*

Cameron has criticised the FCAB process, warning that key stakeholders are being excluded from meaningful participation through forums such as NEDLAC and has urged that lawful firearm owners and affected communities be properly heard.

#### *On broader security regulation*

He has further cautioned against restrictive amendments that would undermine private security - a sector employing over half a million South Africans and playing a critical role in filling the state's policing vacuum.

### **SAGA's Position — and the Moment Before Us**

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South Africans are not interested in blue lights, convoys, or elite protection units. They are demanding:

- Right to effective self-defence
- Rational, constitutional & evidence-based law
- An end to, citizen disarmament paired with political militarisation

A state that disarms its citizens while armouring its leadership has no moral or ethical authority to lecture the public about safety.

The hypocrisy is not subtle. The double standard is undeniable. **Lawful firearm owners have exhausted their patience.** This is the moment to engage, resist legislatively, object formally, litigate where necessary and - above all - be very vocal.

*South Africans are watching and this time, they are paying acute attention.*



**SAGA**

*A trusted voice in the firearms sector for over four decades*



Saga@saga.org.za - [www.saga.org.za](http://www.saga.org.za)  
Tel 031-562-9951, Box 35203, Northway 4065

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