



MINISTRY OF POLICE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Mr. Damian Enslin Attorneys  
Chairperson: SA Gunowners' Association  
Saga@saga.org.za

Dear Sirs

**REQUEST FOR THE RENEWAL/EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF FIREARM LICENCES, COMPETENCY CERTIFICATES AS WELL AS THE FIREARM AMNESTY PERIOD DURING THE PERIOD OF LOCKDOWN IN TERMS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002**

Your letter dated 31 March 2020 has reference.

It is realised that the declaration of a state of disaster and the accompanying regulations, which include a lockdown, had a negative effect on many processes, including the renewal of firearm licences and competency certificates.

The Firearms Control Act, 2000, requires the renewal of a licence or competency certificate **at least 90 days before** expiry thereof. Persons who are negatively affected by the lockdown, would be those in respect of whom the **limit of 90 days expires during the lockdown period.**

In liaison with the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, as the Registrar of Firearms, the assurance can be given that applications for the renewal of firearms licences and competency certificates in respect of which the 90 days limit expired during the lockdown period will still be accepted, **as long as the licence has not expired.**

**In respect of licences which have already expired, those cannot be renewed** and a new application for a licence will have to be made through the mechanism of the amnesty, which is still in place until 31 May 2020.

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It is submitted that the Registrar is not empowered in terms of section 28(6) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, to extend the validity period of firearms licences as determined by the Act- a matter which is still the subject of litigation.

You will appreciate that an amnesty can only be declared with the approval of Parliament. In this regard, I am considering to approach Parliament for an approval of a further period of amnesty.

It is trusted that the above will be of assistance to address your concerns.

With kind regards



**MINISTER OF POLICE**  
**GENERAL B.H CELE, MP**

Date: 22/04/2020

LN/NFVG  
Letter to Damian Enslin Attorneys 2020-04-08/is