



MINISTRY OF POLICE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The Honorable Ms. TR Modise
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
CAPE TOWN
8000

Dear Ms Modise

**DECLARATION OF AMNESTY IN TERMS OF SECTION 139 OF THE FIREARMS
CONTROL ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 60 OF 2000)**

In terms of section 139 of the Firearms Control Act, the Minister of Police may, by notice in the *Gazette* declare an amnesty if—

- (a) The amnesty may result in the reduction of the number of illegally possessed firearms in South Africa; and
- (b) It is in the public interest to do so.

Section 139(2) of the Firearms Control Act also provides that an amnesty—

- (a) Will only be valid if it is approved by Parliament;
- (b) Must specify the period during which persons may apply for amnesty; and
- (c) Must specify the conditions under which amnesty may be granted.

A draft Notice for a declaration of a firearms amnesty was tabled by my predecessor, the former Minister of Police, the Honorable, FA Mbabula during the latter part of 2017

and that the same was, in turn submitted by your predecessor to the Portfolio Committee of Police for a report.

The Portfolio Committee of Police was however unable to consider the draft Notice prior to 1 February 2018; being the proposed date on which the amnesty period was set to commence.

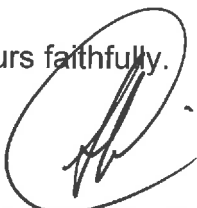
I am advised that following further interaction with the Committee during February 2018, last mentioned, in principle approved the draft Notice and the Amnesty to commence on 1 June 2018. I am also advised that the Committee required that my predecessor table a new letter with the National Assembly containing the new date, prior to approval thereof.

While I am in support of the declaration of an amnesty on the conditions that were in principle already agreed to by the Portfolio Committee of Police, I further wish to add that an application contemplated in section 134(4) of the said Act shall not apply to illegal firearms where documentary proof of previous ownership cannot be produced.

Accordingly it is proposed that the new dates for amnesty be 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

It will be appreciated if the amended draft notice can be forwarded to the Portfolio Committee of Police for consideration.

Yours faithfully.



MINISTER OF POLICE

BH CELE MP

Date:

15/08/2019