

Briefing to the Select Committee on Security and Justice

03 June 2020

Presentation:
Notice of submission for approval
of another Declaration of Amnesty



ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA

Creating a safe and secure, crime free environment, that is conducive for
social and economic stability, supporting a better life for all.

#PatrioticandSelflessService





Presentation Overview

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Purpose

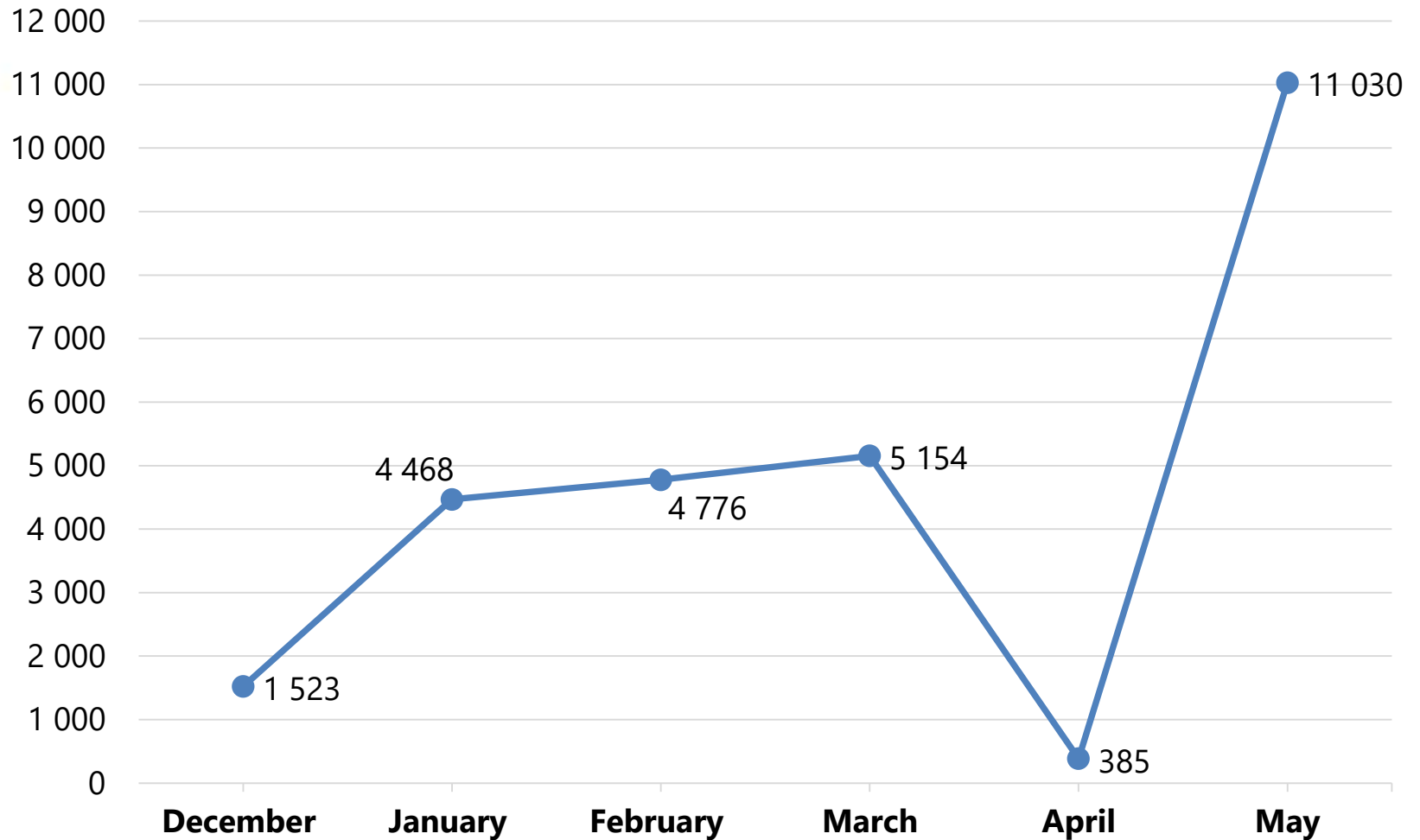
To brief the Select Committee on Security and Justice, on the progress of Amnesty 2019/20 and to seek support for another amnesty for a period of six (6) months.



Background

- ❑ Firearm Amnesty was approved by Parliament on 21 November 2019 for the period of six (6) from 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2020.
- ❑ The amnesty was premised on the following Five (5) objectives:
 - To reduce the number of illegally possessed firearms in circulation in South Africa.
 - To provide firearm owners with the opportunity to hand in unwanted firearms.
 - To prevent crime and violence and to promote safety.
 - To address the fundamental causes of crime in order to effectively protect our communities.
 - To ensure people living in South Africa feel and have no fear of crime.
- ❑ The partial achievement of the set objectives and numerous requests from members of the public prompted a submission for another amnesty.
- ❑ The presentation will include the comparison of amnesty 2019/2020 with the previous amnesties.

Monthly Comparisons of surrendered Firearms (1 December 2019 to 29 May 2020)

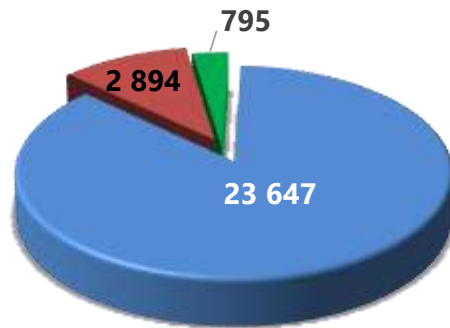


As on 2020-05-29 at 23:59

Firearms and Ammunition surrendered As on 2020-05-29 at 23:59

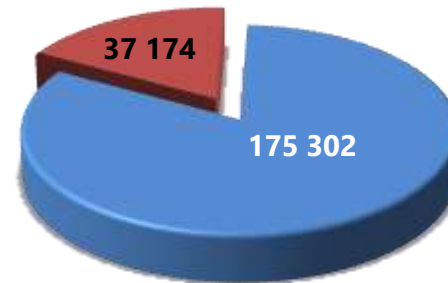


Surrendered Firearms
(27 336)



- Amnesty (86,51%)
- Voluntary Surrendered (10,58%)
- Estate Firearm (2,91%)

Surrendered Ammunition
(212 476)

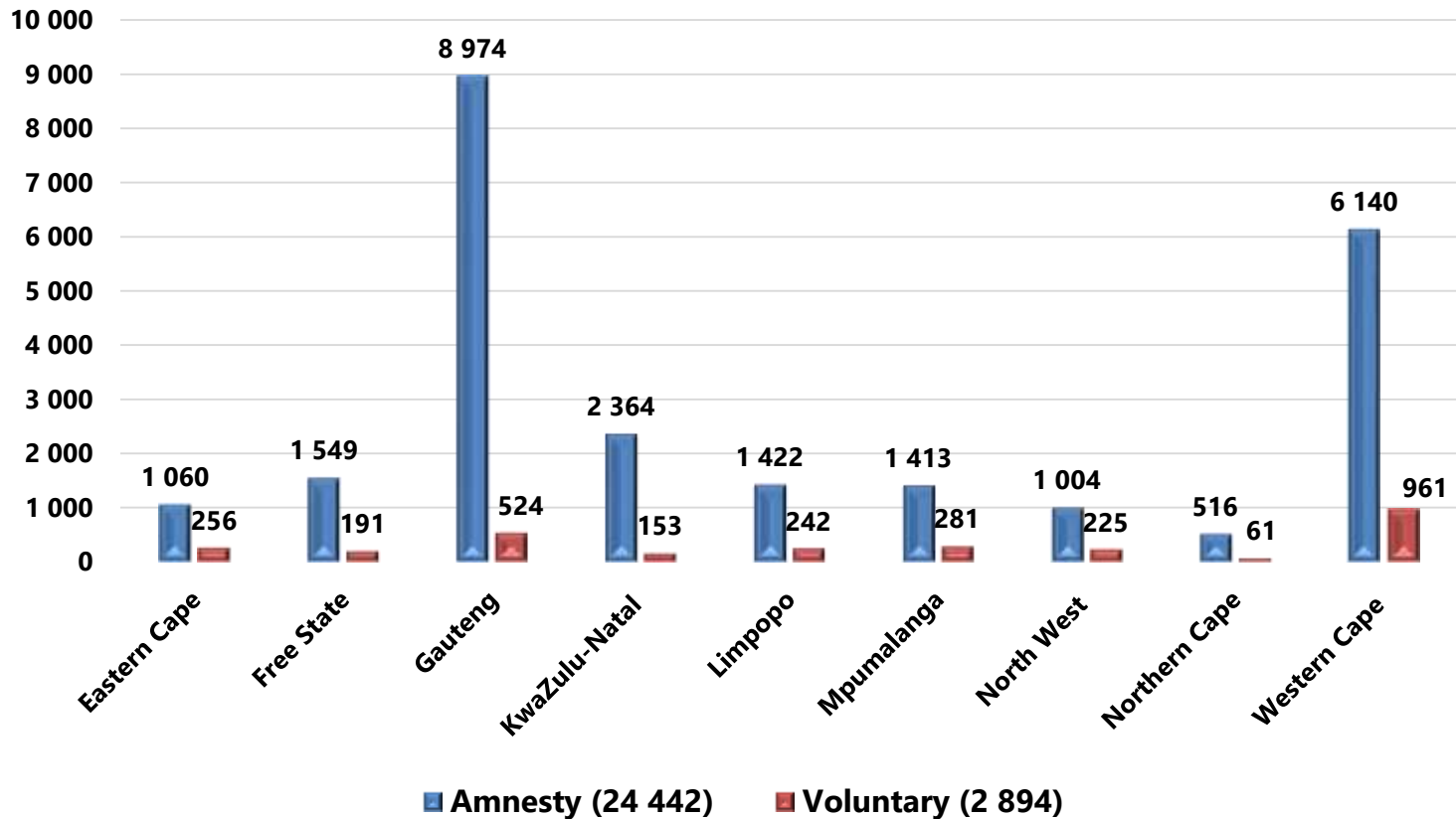


- Amnesty (79%)
- Voluntary Surrendered (21%)

Number of firearm components (i.e. barrels, frames and receivers) surrendered: **798**

Firearms surrendered per province

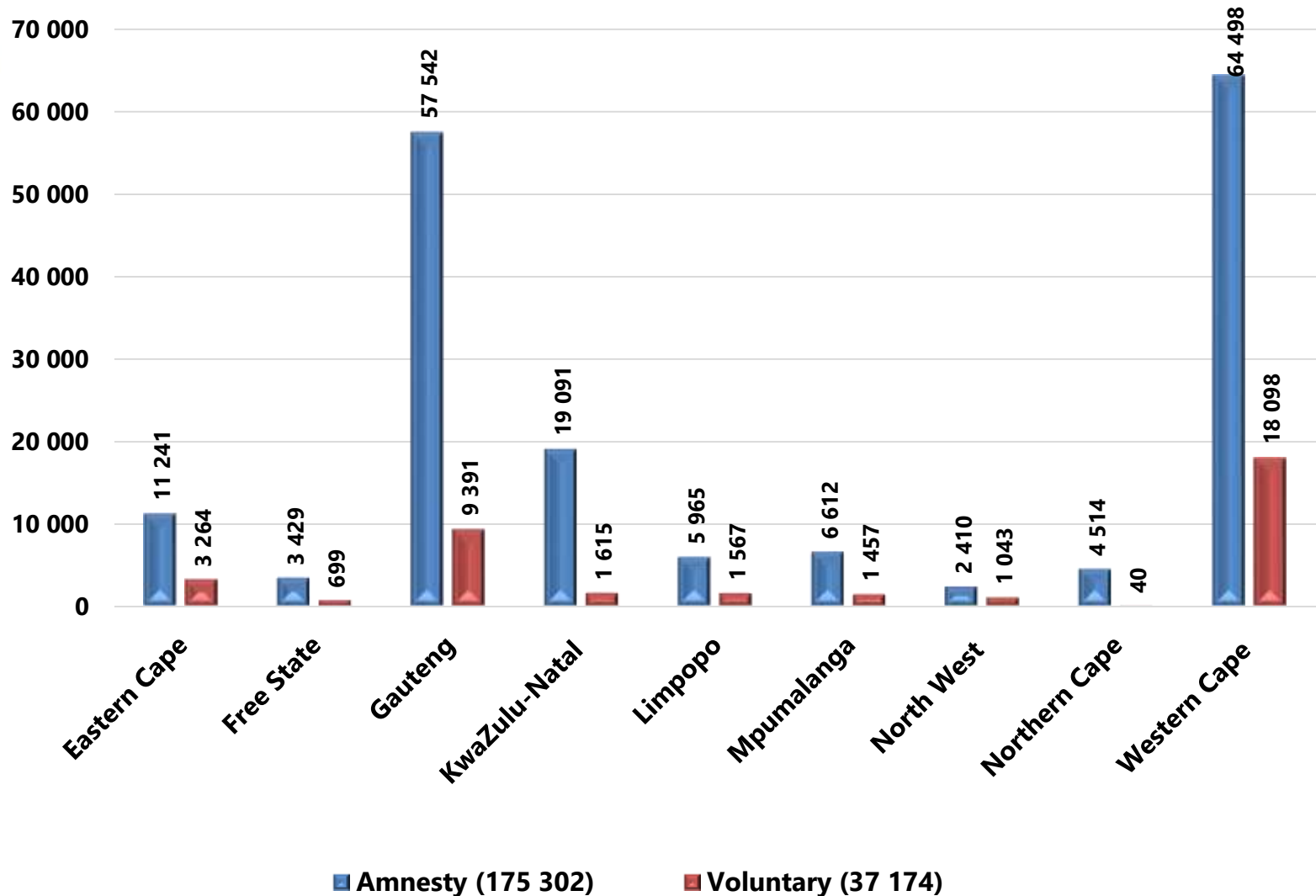
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A total of **27 336** includes **795** Estate firearms

Ammunition surrendered per province

As on 2020-05-29 at 23:59





Integrated Ballistic Information System (IBIS) Testing of Amnesty Firearms



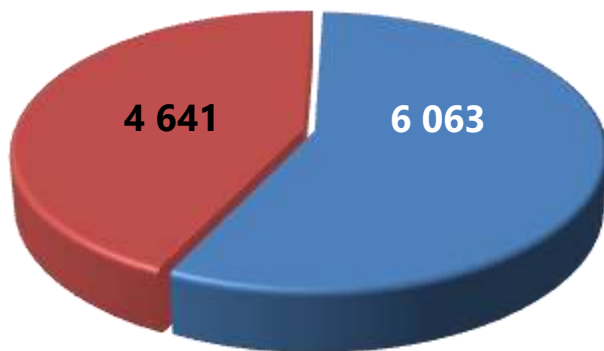
Provinces	Number of cartridge cases received at Forensic Science Laboratory
Gauteng	3 814
Mpumalanga	705
Eastern Cape	277
KwaZulu-Natal	454
Free State	215
Western Cape	762
Northern Cape	157
Limpopo	265
North West	242
Total	6 891



Licence Applications for Surrendered Firearms



Firearms Applications Received (**10 704**)



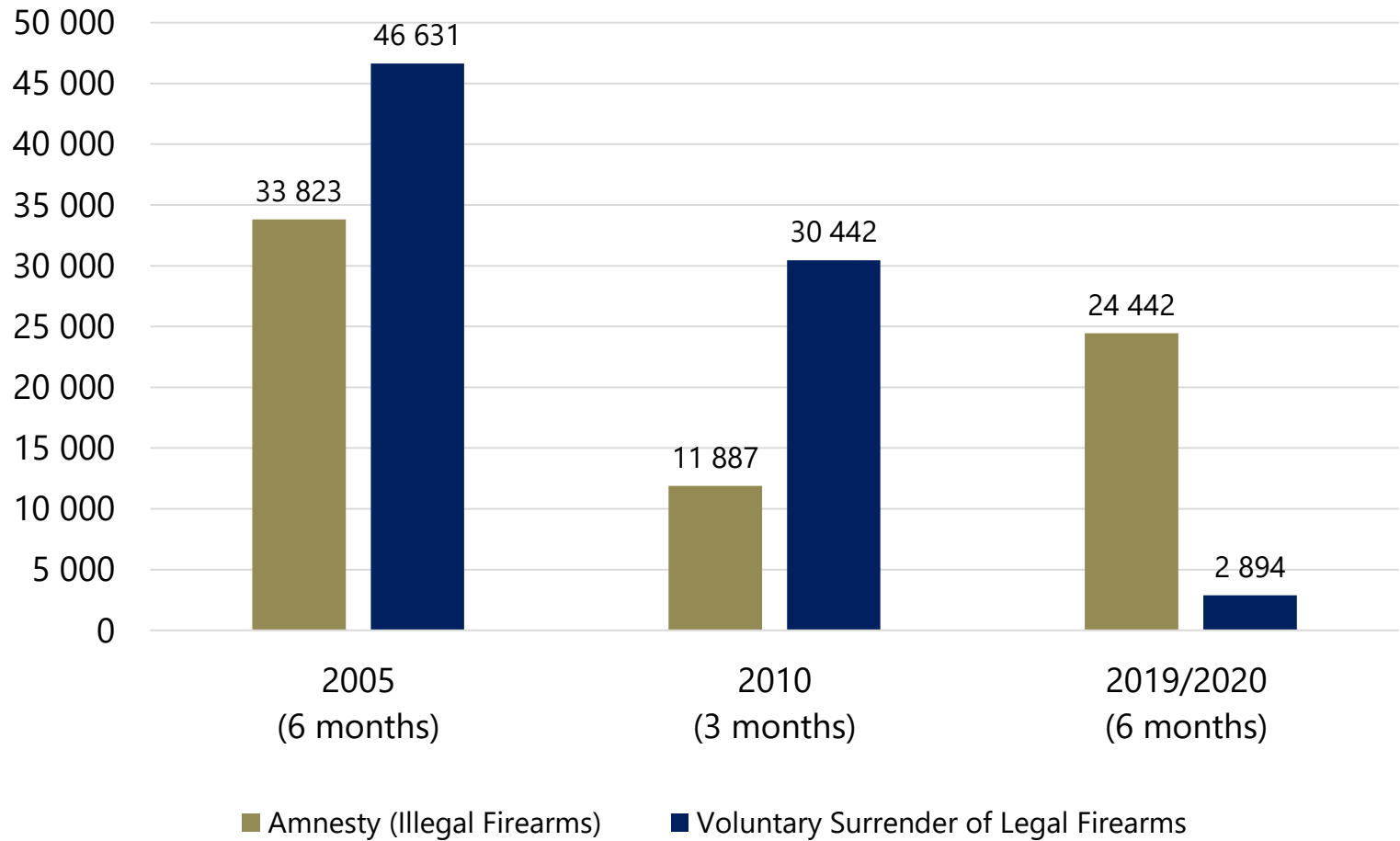
- Applications at National (56,65%)
- Applications at Provinces (43,35%)

Province	Total received	Send to National	Still in Province
Eastern Cape	791	123	668
Free State	777	196	581
Gauteng	2 781	2 430	351
KwaZulu-Natal	1 319	523	796
Limpopo	880	358	522
Mpumalanga	1041	616	425
North West	453	353	100
Northern Cape	264	74	190
Western Cape	2 398	1 390	1 008
Totals	10 704	6 063	4 641

147 Amnesty related firearm applications have been finalised by CFR. Consultation with Forensic Science Laboratory was done in order to expedite the process.



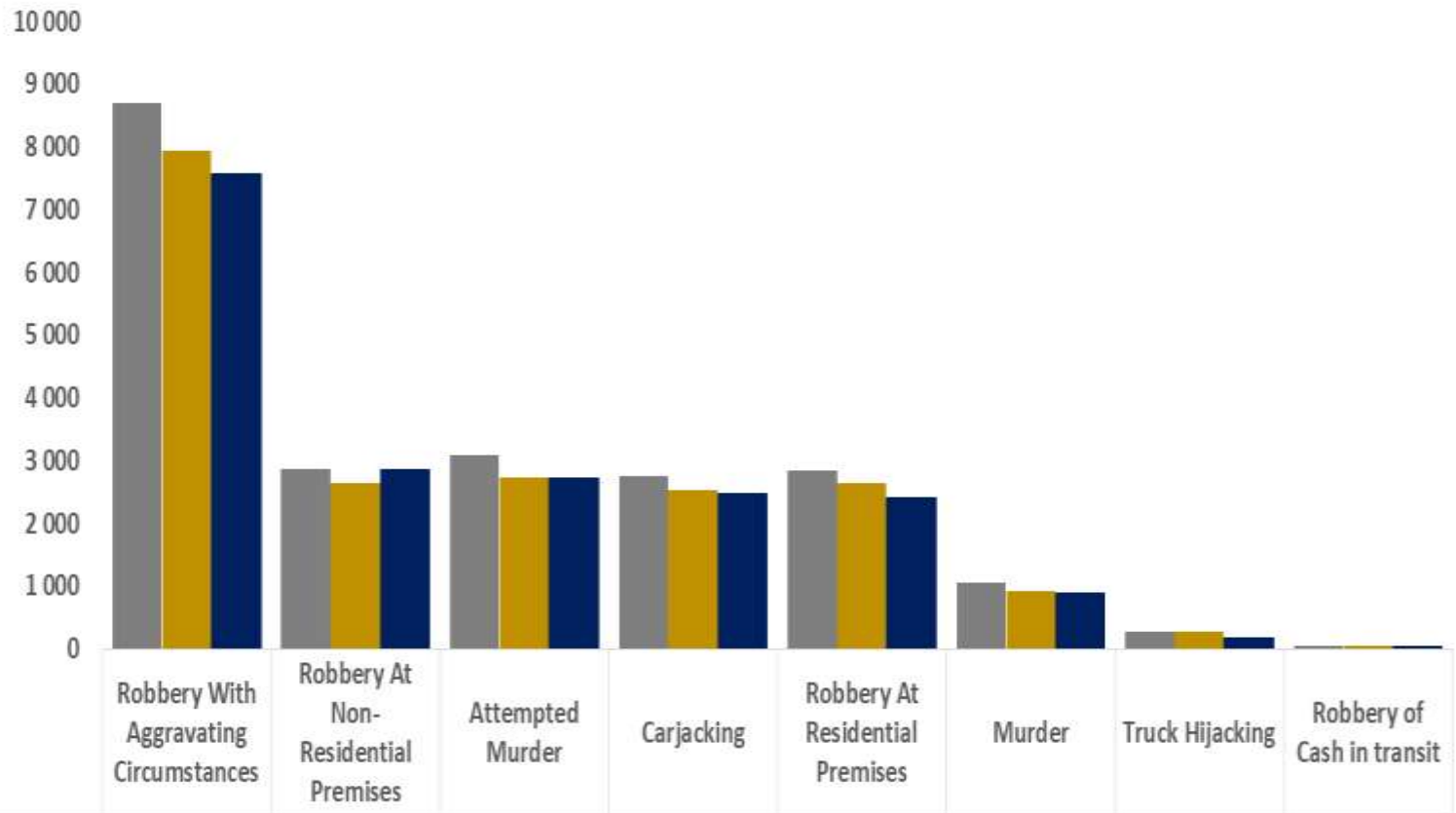
Comparison of Amnesties



Contact crimes committed with firearms 2010 amnesty period



2010 Amnesty (Four months : 11 January 2010 to 11 April 2010)

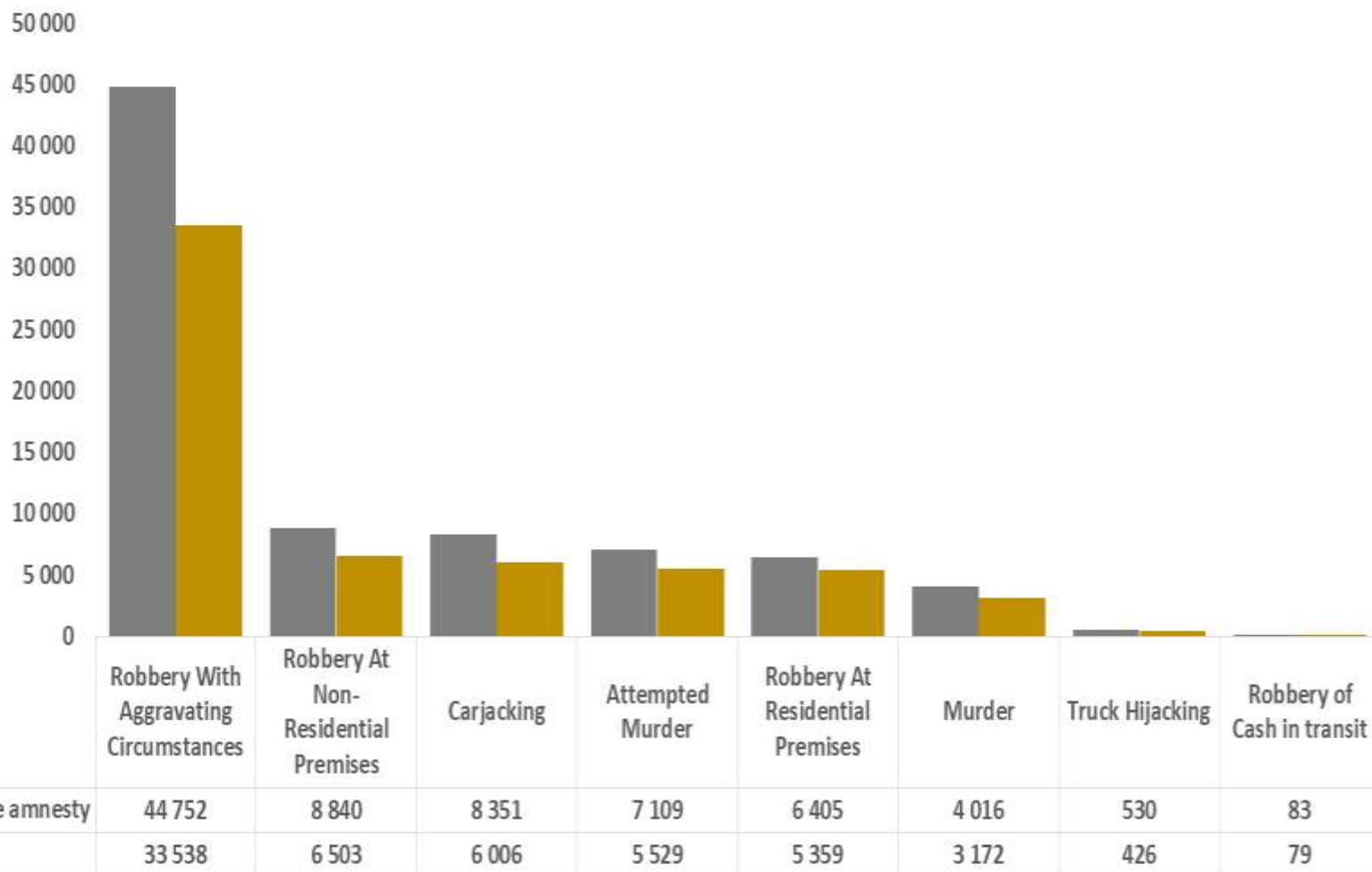


	Robbery With Aggravating Circumstances	Robbery At Non-Residential Premises	Attempted Murder	Carjacking	Robbery At Residential Premises	Murder	Truck Hijacking	Robbery of Cash in transit
■ Four months before amnesty	8 714	2 859	3 094	2 749	2 842	1 054	274	59
■ Four months of amnesty	7 940	2 640	2 726	2 543	2 643	929	275	50
■ Four months after amnesty	7 582	2 853	2 719	2 475	2 410	902	185	48

Contact crimes committed with firearms 2019/2020 amnesty period



2019/2020 Amnesty (During amnesty: Five Months and 27 days: 01 December 2019 to 27 May 2020)





Achievement of objectives

To reduce the number of illegally possessed firearms in circulation in South Africa.

- The crime level shows a decline however, the crimes reported with firearms remains unacceptable.
- The number of firearms reported stolen/lost vs number of firearms recovered/surrendered suggest that the number of illegal firearms in circulation is still high

To provide firearm owners with the opportunity to hand in unwanted firearms.

- Even though people came forward in numbers to surrender their illegal/unwanted firearms there is still many who requested for another amnesty to allow them more opportunity for surrendering of firearms.
- Restrictions on movement of people was raised as one of the reasons why many could not participate in the previous amnesty.



Achievement of objectives..cont

To prevent crime and violence and to promote safety.

- A firearm remains an instrument of choice in the commission of serious and violent crimes which has a psychological effect.
- Serious and violent crimes reduced, however hotspots area in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape provinces which are infested with gangs, political killings and taxi violence.

To address the fundamental causes of crime in order to effectively protect our communities.

- Environmental design and easy access to firearms provides opportunities for the commission of crime.

To ensure people living in South Africa feel and have no fear of crime.

- According to victims survey 2018/2019 conducted by Statistics South Africa, there were about 260 000 incidences of home robberies affecting about 1% of all households in South Africa. The most common weapons used in home robbery were guns (54%).



Motivation for another Amnesty

- ❑ Although crime levels show a decline, there are still hotspots that can be address through amnesty.
- ❑ A total of **27 336** firearms were surrendered during 2019/2020 amnesty which is far below the number of firearms surrendered during 2005 Amnesty, declared for the same period of six months.
- ❑ Other factors such as Festive season and COVID-19 contributed to the minimal participation in the 2019/2020 amnesty.
- ❑ Preparations done already for the recent Amnesty has created awareness within members of the public and the momentum to participate has gained traction.



Proposed 2020 Firearm Amnesty

- ❑ It is recommended that another Firearm Amnesty be declared for a period of six (6) months from **1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021** under section 139(2)(c) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 with the conditions as per the draft notice signed by the Minister of Police.
- ❑ The following **28** stations will be exempted from receiving firearms:

Name of Province	Name of Police Station
Eastern Cape (3)	Balfour; Kareedouw and Middeldrift
Gauteng (5)	Bekkersdal; Dunnottar; Ekangala; Lenasia South and Eden Park
Kwa Zulu-Natal (3)	Kranskop; Elandslaagte and Lamontville
Mpumalanga (4)	Accornhoek; Verena; Skukuza and Kabokweni
Northern Cape (13)	Belmont; Heuningvlei; Kuyasa; Lime Acres; Loxton; Middelpolis; Mothibistad; Plooyburg; Van Wyksvlei; Van Zylsrus; Vosburg; Witdraai; Winderson

- ❑ During the process of the previous Amnesty intervention plans were implemented to mitigate the identified risks and some of the police stations were declared ready to receive firearms.



Conclusion

Thousands of firearms and ammunition were surrendered since the declaration of Amnesty in December 2019.

The declaration of another Amnesty will afford the communities another opportunity to surrender illegal and unwanted firearms and/or ammunition in an effort to curb the proliferation of illegal firearms in circulation.

It is believe that another Amnesty if declared will be in the interest of the public since many have shown wiliness to participate.



Thank You



FIREARM AMNESTY 2019/2020
An opportunity not to be missed