



EFF STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE ILLICIT FIREARM TRADE

Friday, 23 July 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) warns, with resounding urgency, that in communities around the country our children face the abhorrent reality of being forced to conceal illicit firearms due to gang violence.

In particular, the Cape Flats has become synonymous with children brandishing firearms or being forced to conceal weapons. The rampant gang violence has also led to alarmingly high school dropouts. This results in children being recruited and forced into the ranks of ruthless gangsterism.

In the Cape Flats, a harrowing revelation lies in the feeble pursuit of justice. While the police may apprehend the perpetrators, the vast majority evade prosecution. Astonishing figures reveal that between January 2021 and October 2022, a staggering 674 arrests were made in connection with firearms and ammunition offenses, yet a paltry 6 resulted in convictions. This profound miscarriage of justice compounds the already bleak reality faced by the Cape Flats.

Over 50% of the firearms ravaging Mitchell's Plain have been pilfered from legal owners or even brazenly looted from law enforcement itself. Of no surprise, the ANC Government has failed to confiscate these weapons.

Within the Western Cape, the Cape Flats stands as a testament to systematic and deeply racist provincial and local governing. The Democratic Alliance (DA) government is content to foster an atmosphere of black on black violence like its founders from the Apartheid National Party. Its response has been marked by

excessive measures calling for military intervention fully aware that their training is ill-suited to address socio-economic issues that are the root of gangsterism.

Of course the ANC Government is incapable of ending the escalating dire conditions of our children. Its own President, Cyril Ramaphosa is stashing millions of illegal foreign dollars in his mattresses that may very well be proceeds of this very illegal firearm trade. The constitutional institutions that are mandated to hold the criminal Ramaphosa accountable by determining the origins of his illegal dollars are captured criminal syndicates.

This deadly reality extends beyond the confines of the Western Cape. It is a horrific reflection of the national landscape that is plagued by a disturbing surge in crimes against children. Our children are perishing at an accelerating rate under the current Governments. In 2024, it is in your hands to elect leadership that delivers a safe, policed, and weapon free environment where your children can thrive.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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