



SUPERVISING: Gauteng police commissioner Lieutenant-General Mzwandile Petros at the smelting of about 4 000 confiscated illegal firearms and 54 000 knives yesterday.

PICTURE: GIYANI BALOI

Thousands of weapons and knives used in crimes end up as scrap

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THOUSANDS of knives and firearms seized during robberies and murders were hauled to the furnaces of ArcelorMittal in Vereeniging yesterday and melted for scrap.

The SAPS arranges a mass destruction of knives and firearms in its custody once every three months, after the weapons – most of which were used in crimes – have been exhibited in court.

Yesterday, Gauteng commissioner Lieutenant-General Mzwandile Petros oversaw the recycling of 4 000 firearms and 54 000 knives.

“The purpose of this is to send the message that if a firearm is taken away, it will be destroyed and not recirculated to others,” he said. In addition to illegal firearms, many of the weapons were voluntarily surrendered by gun owners who chose to give them up rather than renew their licences.