

MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION (SABOA)

10 Golden Rules of Road Safety

The Southern African Bus Operators Association recommends and encourages its members, as well as bus and coach operators in general, to incorporate the “10 Golden Rules of Road Safety” in their existing Road Safety plans and initiatives. Adhering to these 10 rules will assist bus and coach operators to enhance safety in the industry.

The 10 Golden Rules of Road Safety may form part of the internal Driver Training programmes of companies and may even be made available in a small booklet form to drivers. Regular reference to the 10 Golden Rules and visual displays in company depots would create a culture of adherence which would positively change driving behaviour.

Should these rules be practiced by all drivers and regularly emphasised by management, a decrease in driver related accidents is expected.

The 10 Golden Rules are as follows:

1. The Speed Rule

- Never exceed the speed limits and adapt speed to the road and traffic conditions.
- Reduce speed at night, in traffic and in poor visibility conditions.
- Reduce speed when approaching crossings, traffic lights, stop streets and pedestrian crossings. This will also apply when pedestrians and animals are observed in or next to the road.

2. The Following Distance Rule

- Never tailgate another vehicle and practice the 3 second rule every time you are driving.

3. The Overtaking Rule

- Never overtake another vehicle unless it is safe to do so and always adhere to the traffic rules
- Don't speed to overtake or follow too closely before overtaking.
- Do not cut in front of other vehicle after overtaking and use the indicator showing your intentions.
- Never overtake more than one vehicle at a time.
- Rather be patient than take a risk.

4. The Observation and Concentration Rule

- Always concentrate and observe the road by scanning the road for activities in front and next to the road you are travelling on. Regularly look in the rear view mirror to see the road and traffic behind you.
- Do not perform other activities while driving, such as talking on a cell phone or fiddling with objects.
- Refrain from engaging in conversations with passengers.
- Always expect the unexpected.

5. The Do Not Talk on a Cell Phone Rule

- Never talk or text while driving.

6. The Do Not Drive under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs Rule

- This is illegal and it places lives at risk.

7. The Passenger Control Rule

- Never allow passengers to distract you or block your view by standing in front of your mirrors or any other place restricting your view while driving.

8. The Always Obey Traffic Regulations Rule

- This will ensure legal, considerate and safe driving.

9. The Pedestrian, Cyclist and Animal Observation Rule

- Always be prepared for any actions by pedestrians, cyclists and animals on or next to the road.

10. The Intersection and Junction Rule

- Always approach an intersection and junction with caution and expect the unexpected.
- Reduce speed when approaching an intersection.
- Always observe the actions of other road users.

SABOA believes that the above “ten Golden Rules of Road Safety” will contribute to make the roads of South Africa a safer place and encourage all road users to turn into disciplined and considerate drivers.

ISSUED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

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