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National Road  
Safety  
Commission  
(NRSC)

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FORUM WITH  
POLITICAL  
PARTIES ON  
ROAD SAFETY  
CODES

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6th May, 2008

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# **NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION**

## **ROAD SAFETY CODE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES DURING THE GENERAL ELECTIONS (PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY)**

### **a) THE JOURNEY**

1. Every journey however short must be planned for the following
  - a. Time to set off
  - b. Selection of routes
  - c. Set off early to avoid temptation to hurry
  - d. Rest places and periods must be planned.
  
2. Drivers must drive defensively. Emphasis be placed on the following;
  - i. Driving to avoid danger e.g. Keeping safe distance between lead vehicle and follow-up vehicle
  - ii. Avoid use of mobile phone or hands-free phones. They distract attention and increase the risk of accident.
  - iii. Lowering speed as road, weather and visibility conditions determine e.g. at night.
  - iv. Use and apply anticipation skills. Drivers must think of what might be in the bend or in the dark.
  - v. Drivers should not assume other driver's signals are correct.
  - vi. Follow the Mirror, signal, manoeuvre procedures with regard to every manoeuvre.
  - vii. Keep to the posted speed limits on the road.
  - viii. Keep and maintain safe following distance.
  - ix. Be alert particularly at intersections

- x. Watch dashboard for signs for trouble
- xi. Use your senses to check for possible problems (look, smell, feel and listen)
- xii. On dusty roads, drivers must reduce speed and increase following distance
- xiii. Take a break for at least 30 minutes after driving continuously for 4 hours or when you experience any of the following:
  - a. You keep yawning
  - b. Your eyes feel sore or heavy
  - c. You start hallucinating
  - d. Your vehicle wanders over the road

**b) THE VEHICLE**

1. The vehicle irrespective of whether they belong to individuals, the Party (ies) or are hired must be road worthy and bear R/worthy certificate.
2. The vehicle must have valid insurance certificate
3. The vehicle must in visually be inspected for the following minimum requirements:
  - a. Tyres – tread and pressure (Tyres must be inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's specification. This is important when travelling long distance
  - b. Brake lights
  - c. Steering
  - d. Indicator lights
  - e. Headlights

- f. Cargo securement devices (where load or cargo are carried on the vehicle)
- g. Wind screen and windscreen wipers.
- h. Horn
- i. Mirrors (both interior and exterior)
- j. Seat belt functioning

c)            **DRIVERS**

- 1. Driver's Licences should be screened to ensure that each Driver has a valid licence.
- 2. The class of Driver's Licence must be matched to the class of vehicle the holder is licensed to drive (when in doubt enquiries should be made at the nearest DVLA Office)
- 3. Drivers whose driving licenses showed that they must wear glasses while driving must be made to wear them.
- 4. Drivers must be fit and not impaired.

d)            **WHEN DRIVING IN A CONVOY DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. Keep and maintain a safe following distance
- 2. Continue to watch the brake lights of the vehicle ahead
- 3. Never overtake the vehicle ahead
- 4. Maintain a constant speed that allows you to maintain separation distance
- 5. Increase in speed would reduce the separation distance thereby increasing chances of crash.

e)

**AVOID TRAVELLING IN THE NIGHT BUT IF IT IS UNAVOIDABLE DO THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Avoid beginning your journey to your destination after 9.00 p.m.
2. Identify and determine towns or locations particularly filling stations for drivers to stop, clean their windshield, and headlights for during the course of driving when night falls, traffic film would have accumulated on both the windscreen and the headlights. Cleaning would improve powers of observation.
3. Check headlights to make sure they are working
4. Drivers should not look directly at lights of approaching vehicles
5. Never overtake at night when vehicles are approaching from opposite direction for you cannot judge the exact location and distance of the approaching traffic and the time it can reach you and vice versa.
6. Drivers must slow down as they drive in the night
7. Drivers must drive within the range of their headlights
8. Driving between 9.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m. can be risky, as that is the hour the body needs rest.
9. It is difficult to see objects at night and therefore motorists must be alert and observant.

f)

**TRANSPORTATION OF PARTY SUPPORTERS**

1. Party supporters who are travelling in large numbers must be bussed
2. Riding in open pick ups, and trucks is risky and unsafe and should be avoided.

3. Supporters who ride in open pick-ups would not be compensated in the event of an accident as the insurance covers only three persons.
4. Where seat belts are provided in cars, 4 wheel drives and buses, occupants must be prevailed upon to wear them.
5. Riders of motorcycles should not carry more than one person on the motorcycle
6. Both riders and pillion riders must wear crash helmet.
7. Party supporters in buses should as much as possible desist from singing or making noises that would affect the sense of listening of the Driver and his level of concentration.
8. As much as possible supporters should not do anything to distract the attention and alertness of the driver.
9. The Bus(es) should not be overloaded
10. Drivers should avoid racing or attempts to show that they are better drivers
11. Drivers should avoid unnecessary hooting

**g) APPOINTMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

1. Political parties must appoint responsible persons as Champions to drive and implement the Code.
2. Champions must be appointed for the following:
  - a. Ensuring that issues relating to the vehicle are complied with.
  - b. Issues relating to transportation of supporters to rallies and Campaign sites.
  - c. Issues relating to the Drivers particularly monitoring them so that they don't drink whilst

the rally is going on. Also looking for a place for them to rest during the campaign.

**h) CHECKLIST**

1. Vehicles must be inspected prior to every journey.
2. Insurance and Roadworthy Certificates must be valid
3. Both inward and outward journeys must be planned in respect of time to leave and rest stops.
4. Driving at night should as much as possible be avoided.
5. If any journey should be undertaken at night, drivers must be prevailed upon to reduce speed, be alert and observant
6. Drivers must be fit for every journey.
7. Drivers must not drive for more than 450km per day.