



PROT/5/P7

PROTOCOL CIRCULAR NO P21 OF 2013

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa and has the honour to inform Missions of the following directive from the South African Police Services (SAPS).

- I. The usage of blue (white, red or any other colour) flashing lights and sirens by non-law enforcement agency vehicles or non-emergency vehicles is prohibited. Blue flashing lights and sirens are restricted for use only by emergency and South African law-enforcement agency vehicles. Any vehicle that is fitted with or motorist that uses blue flashing lights or sirens is guilty of an offence.
- II. There is concern that some Missions are in possession of SAPS blue lights. These blue lights must be urgently returned to the Directorate: Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges under cover of a Note Verbale.
- III. Diplomats are hereby advised that genuine South African Police vehicles are fitted with blue lights as shown in the attached photographs and the registration number plate will end with the letter "B". The SAPS no longer uses loose magnetic roof blue lights. When in doubt and as a precaution against being stopped by "bogus" police, motorists are advised to put on their hazard lights and to proceed with a normal speed to the nearest

South African Police Station or to a well-lit or populated area to establish if they are being stopped by genuine police. Diplomats are advised to also call the SAPS emergency number to establish if they are being stopped by real police.

IV. The Diplomatic Policing Unit (DPU) emergency numbers are:

24 hour mobile number:	082 778 9656
24 hour control room numbers:	012 400 6590 / 012 400 6591
Alternative number:	012 400 6412

V. Law enforcement officers will stop any vehicle that is fitted with lights and sirens, will issue a fine and will report the matter to DIRCO for further attention.

The Department further wishes to inform Missions that in terms of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, Article 41.1. Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. There have been a number of cases of violation of the Road Traffic Act, 1966 (Act No 93 of 1996). Missions are reminded to take note of the Policy on the Management of Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges which is available on the DIRCO website under State Protocol.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.



PRETORIA
23 July 2013

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations
accredited to the Republic of South Africa
PRETORIA





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