



CITIZEN CORNER

A CIRCULAR BY POLICE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

ROAD RULES TO KNOW UNDER THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

The Road Traffic Act, 2018 and the **Road Traffic Regulations, 2022** were enforced on February 1, 2023. The new Road Traffic Act gives power to the Regulations to impose sanctions for road breaches. We will share a few 'Road Rules' that you may or may not know.

Daytime Running Lamps

Have you noticed lately that the latest motor vehicles have running lights in the daylight? Well, get used to it! The Road Rules require that any motor vehicle which is a 2024 model or later must be fitted with Daytime running lamps. These lamps must automatically come on once the vehicle is switched on. They are allowed to shine a white, yellow or amber light in order for other road users to see the vehicle.

Blue Coloured Lights

Do you like a variety of coloured lights to beam from your vehicle...especially blue lights? The law deems the operating of a vehicle with one or more lamps that

produces a blue light as illegal! This breach brings a fine of up to \$30,000. Flashing blue lights are reserved for designated government vehicles, for instance the police or government approved security vehicles and are usually accompanied with sirens.



Warning Devices

Did you know that the law forbids a person from using a vehicle which makes a sound similar to emergency vehicles? Thus, any vehicle which is not approved by the government as a police or emergency vehicle, and is found making such sounds will be in breach of the road rules.

Body Parts Outside of Vehicles

Are you in the habit of hanging your arms outside of a moving motor vehicle, whether you are

the driver or passenger? Well, where part of the body of a driver or passenger of a motor vehicle is hanging outside of a vehicle, it is considered an offence which attracts a fine of \$10,000.

Use of Phones while driving

Is it against the law to talk on a cell phone while driving? Yes! The law forbids drivers from using their cell phones while driving. However, the law allows for the cell phone to be attached to a fixture in the vehicle, or the phone can be used as a hands free device. Otherwise, to be safe, the driver could park the vehicle and make or take a call.

Filling up at the Gas Tank

Did you know that turning off the vehicle's engine when filling it with gas is not just a safe practice? It is now the law! The law forbids a person from filling their vehicle with petrol while the engine is still running. Those found in the act can be fined \$5,000.