



## **DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES CIRCULAR NO 4 OF 2022**

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 all 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 fitted with or motorist that uses blue flashing lights or sirens is guilty of an offence.
- II. Diplomats are hereby advised that genuine South African Police vehicles are fitted with blue lights and the registration number plate will end with the letter "B". The SAPS no longer utilise 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 a well-lit or populated area, e.g. a service station, to establish if they are being stopped by genuine police. Diplomats are advised to call the SAPS emergency number for any further clarity.
- III. The Diplomatic Policing Unit (DPU) emergency numbers are:

24-hour mobile number:	082 778 9656
24-hour control room number:	012 421 8063
- IV. 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 in violation of the Road Traffic Act, 1996 (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  
3 November 2022

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accredited to the Republic of South Africa  
PRETORIA