



# Private Sector Commission of Guyana Ltd.

157 Waterloo Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: 592-225-0977, 225-5347, 225-5339

Website: [www.psc.gy](http://www.psc.gy)

E-mail: [office@psc.org.gy](mailto:office@psc.org.gy)

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024

## Private Sector Commission Press Release on Increased Vehicular Accidents

The Private Sector Commission (PSC) is appalled and fully supports President Ali at the continuing carnage on our nation's roads and the resultant, unabated senseless loss of life which follows almost every day.

The Private Sector Commission, while recognizing that the challenge is caused by the reckless and, therefore, dangerous driving of individually licensed drivers and the absence of control and consequential punishment, the Commission makes the following recommendations for the immediate attention of our government and which we have shared with the Minister of Home Affairs for consideration.

These recommendations are not made in any order of priority but in the hope of urgent implementation:

### **General Recommendations**

- ❖ The government appoints a specially trained team of traffic law enforcement officers charged with the responsibility of traffic law enforcement.
- ❖ Assign a specially trained police mobile traffic enforcement team for the purpose of detecting and enforcing traffic law offenses such as:

Parking on blind corners, parking within the regulated distance from a corner, parking to obstruct the free flow of traffic, parking opposite another vehicle so as to obstruct traffic, parking in a declared prohibited zone, exceeding the prescribed speed limit, failing to dip headlights in the face of oncoming traffic, particularly in a built-up traffic zone, as within the city, failing to stop on approach to a marked pedestrian crossing with a pedestrian waiting to cross, failure to use traffic indicator on approach to changing direction, such as turning a corner.

- ❖ Placement and 24/7 monitoring of cameras at every traffic light, roundabout and road intersection to enforce the traffic laws.
- ❖ Regularly test the speed cameras for accuracy to ensure against court challenges for speed offenses.
- ❖ Enforce control against and prosecute owners of animals roaming freely on roads and highways.
- ❖ The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) ensures the issuance of driver's licenses only for drivers who have passed a practical road test administered by the police.

### **Traffic Law Enforcement**

- ❖ Suspend driving licences for a minimum of one (1) year for third time repeat traffic offenders within any one (1) year.
- ❖ Introduce and implement shame and blame penalties for traffic law violations such as mandatory community service or city cleaning duties.
- ❖ Equip all traffic police officers with body cameras.
- ❖ Statistically record the number of traffic offenders charged viz-a-viz, traffic offenses actually prosecuted in court.

### **Licensing and Experience**

- ❖ Substantially increase fines and sentences for traffic offenses, including suspension of licenses as above.
- ❖ Amend the Motor Vehicle Act to increase the minimum age to 21 years for commercial vehicle driver's licenses (trucks, buses, and taxis).

### **Insurance and Compliance**

- ❖ Call on insurance companies to:
  - Align premiums with international best practices, increasing rates for high-risk drivers.
  - Offer credits and reduced premiums for drivers with clean records.
- ❖ Ensure that vehicles are not insurable unless drivers pass mandatory behaviour and safety assessments. Create a blacklist system for non-compliant drivers.

### **Technology and Monitoring**

- ❖ Require mandatory installation of tracking devices on commercial vehicles, enabling owners to monitor speed and driving behaviour.
- ❖ Implement systems that analyze driving behaviour metrics (acceleration, braking, and turning) to improve compliance and driver training.

### **Addressing Systemic Causes**

- ❖ Engage the Ministry of Labour to regulate working hours and pay structures for drivers to reduce fatigue and incentivize speeding.
- ❖ Ensure better management and equipment at sandpits to address delays resulting in truck drivers speeding to make up for lost time.

### **Accountability of Vehicle Owners**

- ❖ Require owners of commercial vehicles (trucks, minibuses, taxis) to employ licenced and trained drivers and to install speed tracker systems on their vehicles.
- ❖ Hold commercial vehicle owners accountable for their fleets' safety records.

### **Emergency Vehicle Use**

- ❖ Prosecute owners and drivers of vehicles using emergency lights and sirens illegally.

The Private Sector Commission will continue its mission in support of His Excellency the President to ensure the public practice of safe and responsible driving on our country's roads.

**End Statement**