

INTRODUCTION

THE SAFE DRIVER

- 1 A good driver is not merely one who is skillful in handling his/her vehicle competently but more importantly is one who is safe. In addition to being skillful, a good driver must also be patient, considerate and courteous. He/She must have a sense of responsibility for the safety of other road users and the ability to concentrate, anticipate and react appropriately while driving.
- 2 Safe driving calls for total awareness of what other road users are doing and the ability to “communicate” with them. The correct attitude towards driving will make the road a safer and more pleasant place for pedestrians and motorists alike.
- 3 During the initial stages of learning, it is essential that learner drivers cultivate the right qualities and learn the right techniques. Mistakes which are repeated will become habits which cannot be easily corrected.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

- 4 Traffic accidents cause suffering, hardship and loss of lives. The motor vehicle, if not handled correctly, is potentially a lethal machine. Therefore, it must be driven with the awareness of the dangers that it can pose to life and limb.
- 5 Driving is a chain process involving perception, judgement and reaction. Since most accidents are due to poor perception and poor judgement on the part of drivers, accidents can thus be easily avoided if drivers were to anticipate and react in the proper manner. Proper planning and observation (perception), correct analysis and decisions (judgement of varying road traffic situations) are therefore essential if you were to avoid accidents.

SYSTEMATIC LEARNING

- 6 Learning rates differ from person to person. Therefore, the number of training hours needed before one develops the right skills and attitude differs greatly from one individual to another. Learner drivers should adopt a planned approach. They must engage competent instructors who can phase each lesson systematically to suit their own development in the course of learning. They should practise regularly and relentlessly. There are no short cuts to becoming a competent and careful driver.