

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL (DURBAN AREA)

12-12-2023

Tips for public servants driving state vehicles in KwaZulu-Natal

Working as a public servant and driving state vehicles may require venturing into areas known for higher crime rates or hijacking incidents. It is thus crucial for public servants to be aware of their surroundings and follow safety precautions to minimise the risk of encountering a hijacking situation. The following guidelines should be kept in mind when driving state vehicles in hijacking hotspots and will enhance personal safety and the security of the state vehicle and its content:

- **Stay alert and vigilant:** Always be aware of the surroundings and pay attention to any suspicious activities or individuals.
- **Maintain distance:** Keep a safe following distance from the car in front of you to allow enough space to maneuver and escape, if necessary.
- **Lock doors and roll up windows:** Ensure that all doors are locked and windows rolled up whilst driving, especially in high-risk areas or at night.
- **Avoid isolated areas:** Whenever possible, plan routes to avoid driving through isolated or poorly lit areas, which are often targeted by criminals.
- **Memorise emergency numbers:** Memorise emergency contact numbers in KwaZulu-Natal, such as the local police department and emergency response units, for quick access in case of a hijacking.
- **Stay calm and avoid confrontation:** If confronted by hijackers, remain calm and cooperate with their demands. Avoid any aggressive or confrontational behaviour that may escalate the situation.
- **Hands visible and compliant:** Keep your hands visible at all times, preferably on the steering wheel, to demonstrate compliance and minimise any potential misunderstanding or trigger for harm.
- **Follow instructions:** Comply with the hijackers' instructions and do as instructed without attempting any sudden movements or actions that may be perceived as a threat.
- **Take mental notes:** Pay attention to details that may aid law enforcement later, such as physical characteristics of hijackers, vehicle details, and landmarks or unique features of the location.
- **Report immediately:** Once safe, report the incident to authorities as soon as possible, providing accurate information about the incident to assist in the investigation.

High-risk areas in KwaZulu-Natal

- **Durban City Centre:** Exercise caution when driving through crowded areas of Durban, particularly during peak traffic times.

- **Inanda Road (M25):** This road has a history of hijackings - remain vigilant and extra aware when traveling along this route.
- **Umgeni Road (M19):** Take precautions while driving along Umgeni Road, especially in the vicinity of Springfield Park and Riverside.
- **N2 Freeway:** Be cautious when using the N2 highway, particularly in areas such as Umlazi, Marian Hill, and Isipingo.

The safety of individuals should always be prioritised, and it is advisable to consult the PSA when in need of advice or assistance. Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact the following Organising/Marketing Officers:

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