

FOR MOTORISTS, BY MOTORISTS

Drive

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008



The National Auto Club

Top 10 motoring traps in Metro Manila

By Gus Lagman, AAP President

Traffic signs are designed to guide motorists and ensure the smooth flow of vehicles on the road. In Metro Manila, however, some signs have become so confusing or ill placed that one would think that they are meant to be "trap-fic" signs placed by corrupt policemen to trap unsuspecting motorists.

I have listed here 10 areas where such signs exist. I did not make this list; I got them from friends who want to warn motorists about unscrupulous cops.

Beware of these traps. I have to say, though, that it's been some time since I received this list so there may already be some changes. I just hope they're all for the better. Here they are:

1. Quirino Avenue in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. Moving east, a lot of motorists, including the one who emailed this to me, notice a solid white line separating the left-turning vehicles from those going straight. There's usually heavy traffic in the area and chances are you will be following dozens of cars. Unless you're familiar with the place, you would not notice that the broken white line is not broken anymore and once you cross either to the left or the right, the police up ahead will catch you for swerving.

2. Shaw Boulevard in front of Jose Rizal College. Pass by this place in the morning and you'll notice that it's hard to see the stoplight if you are coming from Kalentong towards Edsa. Many drivers have been apprehended here for unintentionally beating the red light.

3. Quirino Avenue corner Osmeña Highway. If you are going west towards Roxas Boulevard, always use the middle and outermost lanes-or be prepared to be charged for swerving.

4. Bambang street corner Rizal Avenue in Manila. This is a one-way street but the sign is too small or positioned too high for anybody to see. Many of my friends have been caught entering this street the wrong way.

5. Reina Regente in Binondo. Beware of the stoplight right in front of Meisic Mall. Never make a left turn there-or-else! The spot is being guarded by a combination of MMDA blue boys and Manila Police brown boys.

6. Corner of Aurora Boulevard and Edsa. If you're coming from AAP, don't you ever turn right on Edsa. MMDA blue boys will apprehend you and there's no use arguing that you never saw a no-right-turn sign.

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TOYOTA-AAP PARTNERSHIP FOR ROAD SAFETY

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) and the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) continued their partnership as they signed a memorandum of understanding covering the implementation of road safety projects. In particular, TMP and AAP, in cooperation with the National Center for Transportation Studies, are drafting the plans that will make the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City a road traffic safety model. The MOU was signed by (seated from left) TMP senior executive vice president Dr. David Go, TMP president Hiroshi Ito, AAP president Gus Lagman, and AAP vice president Johnny Angeles. Witnessing the event are (standing from left) TMP vice president Rommel Gutierrez, TMP first vice president Jose Ma. Aligada, and AAP directors Angel Kanapi and Mandy Eduque.

Think Before You DRINK



Will you have an accident because you drank too much?

Some 31 years ago, the Department of Transportation of the United States began a campaign called "Think Before You Drink Before You Drive". It was an annual thing that involved television and poster warnings of the dangers of drunk-driving. Its styles may have changed over time, as have the number of deaths caused by this seasonal phenomenon. But some things have stayed the same.

And while posters and TV advertisements might not be as memorable, it seems as many as 20,000 Americans could be extremely thankful for them. That is the number of fatalities estimated to have been avoided over the years, thanks in large part to the campaign.

Varied tactics

In trying to bring drunk-driving deaths down over the years, the US DOT deployed a variety of tactics. In the early days, drunk-driving was not seen as quite the anti-social activity it is today.

The early campaigns used soft sell to address this. 1976's advertisement showed, to a sound track of "Roll Out the Barrel", a woman being carried into an ambulance on a stretcher.

Perhaps it says something about the times, but the trend in the early '80s was quite clearly to appeal to self-interest. "Don't drink and drive because here's how it will affect you," the ads said. "You will lose your driving license, you will have to beg your relatives for a lift, you

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Commemorative plates: Who can use them and how

Commemoratives are becoming "in" again with the recent centennial celebrations of various institutions.

But who can install commemorative plates on their cars? And how should they be installed?

AAP vice president Johnny Angeles said there is an existing set of guidelines on commemorative plates that should be followed. Issued as far back as 1983 by the Bureau of Land Transportation (now Land Transportation Office), Administrative Order 99003 contains the rules and regulations governing commemorative plates and stickers.

According to AO 99003 of the LTO, any group, organization or association must apply first with the Office of the President for authority to use commemorative plates/stickers.

After this authority is issued, the organization should submit a sample design of the plates and windshield stickers to the LTO, the names of persons authorized to use the plates/stickers, and certified copies of the registration papers of the vehicles on which the plates will be installed.

Angeles said that the order mandates commemorative plates to be installed in conspicuous places on the motor vehicle, preferably one in front and the other at the rear, provided that the regular number plates are displayed in the space designated for the purpose.

"The permanent plate shall not be removed to accommodate the commemorative plates and the validating windshield sticker shall be pasted at the left upper side of the front



windshield," he said.

The order, he added, points out that the duration for the use of commemorative plates shall be based on the period of time authorized by the Office of the President. Upon expiration of said authority, the commemorative plates must be immediately detached from the vehicle.

Angeles said users of commemorative plates can be apprehended for removing their permanent plates and installing commemorative plates in their place, failure to display the regular plate, continuing to use expired commemorative plates, illegally transferring commemorative plates from one motor vehicle to another, or illegally using commemorative plates without prior authority. "The penalty for each violation is P5,000 plus the impounding of the motor vehicle in the last two cases."



Check turn-over (for UP Training Room)



After Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC) executed a Deed of Donation on February 2007, as amended, in favor of UP Diliman to renovate a training room and provide complete audio-visual equipment and a RoadSafety Database server and other necessary facilities for road safety-related programs, AAP will undertake the actual renovation of the said training room and provide equipment in accordance with the deed of donation of TMPC to UP Diliman.

The 1M check was turned-over by TMPC to AAP last December 10, 2007 at the Toyota Head Office in Sta. Rosa Laguna. Present were: AAP VP Johnny Angeles and Road Safety Chair Afin Pantaleon, TMPC SVP and Treasurer Dr. David Go, MSO VP Atty. Rommel Gutierrez, First VP Jose Maria Aligada, Section Manager Ed Nicolas, Projects Manager Rosario Sia and UP-NCTS' Engr. Aileen U. Mappala.

Not Business As Usual

By Margaret Jao-Grey

Call 136 if you are flagged down by a traffic enforcer and you don't think you violated a traffic rule. Ask for a traffic adjudicator. The nearest Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) center will send one right away.

Oh, by the way, MMDA chairman Bayani Fernando has this tip for drivers. Ask the traffic enforcer for his mission orders. If he is, say, assigned to Shaw-Edsa and he flags down a car at Edsa-Ortigas, the traffic citation issued is invalid and the MMDA will refund the driver for any payments made.

Source: Business Mirror/ December 10, 2007 issue

Top 10 motoring traps in Metro Manila (Cont'd from page 1)

7. Edsa southbound as you approach Buendia (Gil Puyat Sr. Ave.). An AAP member e-mailed me that as you approach this fork, you may not notice a "No Swerving" sign which is located in such a way that you don't see it until you pass it. MMDA traffic officers stand in the middle to block the sign so that unsuspecting motorists, who decide to change lanes to avoid traffic, fail to see it. In fact, in a shaded area on the left hand side lane that goes under the flyover to Rockwell, MMDA officers sit waiting for "swerving" motorists. The other notorious location is the flyover to Ortigas from the northbound lane of Edsa, where the "No Swerving" sign is obscurely posted at the MRT foothold on your left as you approach the flyover. Warning signs should be posted at least 500 meters before the fork and every 100 meters before to warn motorists of the risks ahead. Otherwise, traffic laws become "punitive" rather than "corrective" and do not protect the public from unscrupulous traffic officers.

8. Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue. There used to be a "No Right Turn On Red Signal" (NRTORS) sign here but it's gone now.

If you're making a right turn when the traffic light is red., beware! There's a bunch of Magsa yellow boys waiting just around the corner. Some of my friends have experienced that no amount of arguing would stop those cops from issuing them a ticket.

9. Macapagal Avenue and Edsa Extension. This is the road going to the Mall of Asia. Again, the NRTORS sign is either too small or so inconspicuous that many hurried motorists have unwittingly violated it.

10. Quezon Avenue intersection going to Edsa. There are two 2-lane roads with a center island and a sign to segregate the Public Utility Vehicles (left) from the private vehicles (right). Try to pass there at night. The sign is barely readable from afar. The sign can only be read when you've already entered either of the lanes. If you entered the wrong lane, the next thing you'll see is an MMDA enforcer flagging you down. Numerous private vehicles that entered the PUV lane have been apprehended, but apparently, jeepneys and other PUVs passing the private car lane are never stopped.

I believe there are more areas in Metro Manila and in major cities in the provinces that can be included in this list. If you know of some, e-mail them to me at info@aap.org.ph and I will include them in AAP's website as a warning to our members.

About the newly installed barriers along Edsa: I could not believe what MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said during a TV interview about the accidents caused by the newly installed barriers along Edsa. He said that since nobody has died anyway, then the barriers are okay. He added that since many of the victims were either under the influence of alcohol or drugs or falling asleep, the accidents should teach them a lesson. Was he saying that these people do not deserve safe roads?

Those barriers, as well as the U-turn concrete barriers, should be lighted at night or at the very least should have reflectorized markings. There should also be warning signs some 300 meters before the barriers. Weeks before these new barriers were installed, there should have been tri-media announcements informing the motoring public about them. Road safety should never be compromised!

Happy motoring!

Think Before You **DRINK**

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will have to wait for two hours for a cab."

It even went for the holy grail of the '80s-the pocket. "Your car insurance would double with a drunk-driving conviction," the ads said, including the memorable line from a drunk-driver seeking a new policy: "But that's more than I paid for the car!"

But by the '90s, the hard sell competed for public attention. With documentary soap operas and gory hospital dramas like ER, and

media doing their best at every turn to shock, the campaigns pulled no punches. So a curly-haired little girl overhears her mother ask her father: "How am I supposed to explain you killed a little boy?"

In another advertisement, shown in 1992, the camera simply looked down on a road accident victim almost as if in an out-of-body experience while paramedics tried unsuccessfully to revive her.

And then there was David, being fed liquid food spoonful by spoonful by his mother, while the soundtrack is of his friends encouraging him to have another pint. "Come on Dave, just one more," both his friends and his mother say.

By 1998, the campaign fully embraced reality TV, showing pictures purporting to be from an accident that happened today. "We'll show you details of another accident tomorrow. Make sure it's not you," it says.

Local efforts

In the Philippines, the government has not done anything substantial to prevent drunk-driving.

Recently, though, Senate President Manuel Villar filed proposed measures that would increase the penalty for motorists caught driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Villar explained that existing laws on car accidents involving drunk drivers are lenient, treating such accidents as caused by reckless imprudence and not by deliberate act. A law must be in place to provide stricter penalties for accidents caused by drunk drivers, he said.

"We want to minimize accidents and deaths due to accidents caused by persons driving any kind of motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs," he explained.

Under the measure, it shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs. A person shall be considered under the influence of alcoholic beverages if it shall be established that he has a blood alcohol concentration level of 0.6 percent or more.

For the first offense, a fine of P1,000 and a one-year suspension of the driver's license shall be meted out. For the second and all subsequent offences, the violator faces a fine of P5,000 and a five-year revocation of his license. If during the suspension period, a violation is committed again, the offender shall be sentenced to one to five years imprisonment.

Important points

Even without the proposed law, however, motorists can help minimize drunk-driving by keeping the following things in mind:

1. Drinking and driving kills. It may not kill the drunk-driver but a pedestrian or the passenger of another car. It could even kill you.

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2. Do not drink if you plan to drive. Real friends don't force their driving friends to drink.

3. Never get into a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking. If your friend is drunk, get his car keys and call a cab to take him home.

4. Alcohol leads to slower reaction times, difficulty in gauging speed and distance, drowsiness and loss of concentration.

5. Late night drinkers may still be over the limit the following morning.

What a green light truly means

The next time you approach an intersection with traffic lights, ask yourself what a green light means.

If your answer is "Go", you are only half right. For full marks, you need to remind yourself that a green light does indeed mean go, but only if it is safe to do so.

Then ask yourself how long has it been green and what color will it change to next? The longer it has been green, the sooner it will change to yellow. And yellow does not mean "Speed up to cross the intersection before the lights change". It means stop. After yellow comes red.

These days, especially with the congestion generated by the holiday season, more and more drivers risk a yellow light or even a red light to get across an intersection.

That, in turn, means that you need an extra "defensive driving" technique. Even though the lights are "with you," always glance both ways as you approach the junction, to make sure that you can get across safely. By taking a moment to look both ways, even when your light is green, you might spot some body who is prepared to risk his safety-and yours-by ignoring the traffic signals.

Even if the light is green in your favor, keep using your rear mirror as well. It may be that somebody is following you too closely. In this situation, your spotting in good time that the green light is about to change to yellow enables you to slow down early, brake more gently and thus reduce the chances of a rear-end collision.

TYPES OF AAP MEMBERSHIP

	Regular Member	Associate Member	Corporate
Annual Fee	P800	P500	P500
Three-Year Fee (Optional)	P2,000	P1,250	No
Joining Fee	P200	P200	No
No. of Cars May be Registered with AAP	2	1	Minimum 10
No. of ERS Per Year	4	3	2
On-the-Spot Membership with Towing	P2,000	P1,700	P1,200
Ambulance Service	Discounted fee/ Unlimited	Discounted fee/ Unlimited	No
LTO Registration Assistance	AAP registered vehicles only	AAP registered vehicle only	AAP registered vehicles only
Traffic Investigation Assistance	AAP registered vehicles only	AAP registered vehicle only	No
Glass Etching Service	AAP registered vehicles only	AAP registered vehicle only	No
Car Insurance Discounts (CTPL/Comprehensive)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Personal Accident Insurance	P 300,000	P 200,000	No
Discounts from Business Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes
International Driving Permit (IDP)	Yes	Need to convert to regular membership	Need to convert to regular membership
International Reciprocity	Yes	Need to convert to regular membership	Need to convert to regular membership
Competition Licenses	Yes	Need to convert to regular membership	Need to convert to regular membership
Discount to Immediate Family Members	20%	20%	No
Voting Rights	Yes	No	No

INFORMATIVE SIGNS



ONE WAY ROAD



GASOLINE STATION



PARKING AREA



FIRST AID, AMBULANCE, HOSPITAL



TELEPHONE

REMINDERS

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR VEHICLE'S REGISTRATION

If you own a vehicle with license plate number ending in 2, you should renew your vehicle registration this February.

The scheduled week of registration shall follow the middle number of your plate:

- 1,2,3 : 1st week
- 4,5, & 6 : 2nd week
- 7 & 8 : 3rd week
- 9 & 0 : 4th week

Keep in mind the schedules above to avoid penalties.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

If your driver's license is expiring and you are celebrating your birthday this February, you should renew your license a week before the date of your birth. Penalties are now imposed on late renewals even if you do it on the same month.

DON'T FORGET!

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Mobile: 0917-504 2288
Email: aaproadsafety@yahoo.com



TOYOTA



EMERGENCY ROADSIDE SERVICE

HOTLINES: 723-0808
726-0191



When you call Emergency Roadside Service (ERS), remember to give the operator the following information:

- * Your name
- * AAP Membership Number
- * Model, color and make of vehicle
- * The license plate number of your vehicle
- * Exact location where the car is stalled (landmark)
- * Location where the car is to be towed
- * Describe what you think is the problem of your vehicle

Always appoint a representative to ride with the ERS team while the vehicle is being towed.

If you are able to start your vehicle before the arrival of the ERS team, please call to cancel your service booking.

Paste member's name and address here

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