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FLEET MANAGEMENT POLICY

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SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy and procedures document as well as Code of Practice, the following definitions shall apply:

- 1.1 COUNCIL : Means a Municipal Council established in terms of the Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1997
- 1.2 DAMAGE : Means any form of damage caused on a council vehicle due to any incident.
- 1.3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : Means a committee of Council established in terms of the Municipal structures Act No.117 of 1997.
- 1.4 FAULT :Means any fault of, but not limited to, mechanical, electrical and electronic nature.
- 1.5 MAYOR : Means the political office-bearer elected in terms of the Municipal structures Act No. 117 of 1997.
- 1.6 MINISTERIAL DETERMINATION : Means a determination of the amount of monthly travelling allowance payable to Councillors including the Mayor in terms of The Remuneration of Public Office-Bearers Act No 20 of 1997
- 1.7 MUNICIPALITY : Means an institution established in terms of the Municipal Structures Act No. 117.
- 1.8 MUNICIPAL MANAGER : Means the person employed as Municipal Manager in terms of section 56 of the Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000 or a designee.
- 1.9 SAFE PLACE :Means any place with a reasonable level of security where a council vehicle may be parked at night.
- 1.10 VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS :Means both standard and extra vehicle fittings.
- 1.11 MUNICIPAL VEHICLE: :All vehicles and civil engineering plant,

equipment (self-driven or otherwise), motorcycles, boats, trailers, stationary engines, etc. operated on overall management of or on lease or hire from:

- i) The Fleet Management Services Division
- ii) An external service provider

1.12 SERVICE PROVIDER

- i) In respect of municipal-owned vehicles, it shall be the Supply Chain Unit.
- ii) In respect of non-owned municipal vehicles, it shall be the relevant external service provider.

1.13. DRIVER

All persons engaged in the operation of vehicles and plant, being:

- i) OCCASIONAL DRIVER: Is not a permanent driver but is required to use a municipal vehicle on an *ad hoc* basis to perform his/her duties.
- ii) PROFESSIONAL DRIVER: Employed specifically to drive municipal vehicles for general transport purposes.
- iii) OPERATOR: Employed specifically to operate civil engineering plant.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

The municipality as an institution needs to execute duties as mandated by the Constitution of 1996. It is the Budget and Treasury responsibility to make it a point that the fleet of the municipality is run in an efficient and effective manner.

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To ensure that the users of the municipal vehicle fleet comply with a uniform code of good practise in respect of fleet management.
- 2.2 To ensure that municipal vehicles are optimally and effectively used for the rendering of municipal services.
- 2.3 To ensure cost effective and efficient usage of available funding in respect of fuel and maintenance.
- 2.4 To minimize possible abuse/misuse of municipal vehicles.
- 2.5 To ensure safe driving and usage practices in respect of vehicle fleet.

SECTION 3: DRIVER CODE OF PRACTICE

Knowledge and responsible handling of the numerous pieces of machinery at the work site mean less downtime, reduced maintenance and less frustration to site supervisors, drivers and operators, all factors contributing to improved efficiencies and increased productivity within the various functional areas.

3.1 Responsibility of drivers and operators

The full cooperation of all employees concerned is required to ensure that the municipal fleet management system functions efficiently at all times. All drivers and operators are expected to accept and exercise the responsibilities associated with the operation of vehicles, as described in this policy and procedures document.

Participants in other motor schemes are not allowed to drive a municipal vehicle but may be transported in a council vehicle, in exceptional cases, after obtaining authorisation in writing from the Municipal Manager.

3.2 Usage

3.2.1 The vehicle shall only be driven by an appropriately licensed and duly authorised employee on official duty, furthermore tested by ULM Traffic Department and approval letter sent to SCM for filling.

3.2.2 The driver must be licensed in terms of the National Road Traffic Act (NRTA) for the particular class of vehicle under his/her control.

3.2.3 **Before authorization is given to drive a municipal vehicle, the driver must complete the vehicle policy acceptance form.**

3.2.4 All municipal vehicles and mobile plant must be issued with a logbook. The driver/operator is required to record all his/her daily trips in the logbook.

3.3 Professional driving permits

Professional drivers must ensure that their PrDPs are current at all times and are renewed prior to the expiry date.

3.4 Public image

All municipal vehicles shall be driven in a SAFE and COURTEOUS manner, which will promote the municipality's PUBLIC IMAGE.

3.5 Careful handling

Municipal vehicles shall at all times be driven and handled with proper care and attention to obtain the best mechanical service and avoid infringements of the law.

3.6 Inspections of vehicles

Pre- and post-inspections are to be carried out by drivers/operators and Logistics Officer on a trip and/or daily basis.

3.7 Safety

All users of municipal vehicles must ensure that they comply with the safety prescriptions contained in terms of the National Road Traffic Act (NRTA) and other safety measures set by the municipality.

3.8 Transgressions

Failure to comply with the content of this policy and any other additional instructions issued by the SCM manager renders the offending employee liable to disciplinary action.

SECTION 4: PROPER USE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES

4.1 Municipal transport is provided strictly for official services only and is not to be used for private purposes. Council will provide transport to on-duty employees in accordance with its normal operational requirements, as well as in specific circumstances set out below, approved by the relevant manager.

- a) Shifts
- b) Overtime
- c) Standby
- d) Remote sites (no public transport)
- e) Training courses
- f) Meetings
- g) Union business
- h) Temporary or permanent relocation
- i) Emergency use
- j) Unplanned roadside assistance
- k) Injuries on duty
- l) Employee wellness-related needs
- m) Recreational/ sporting events

4.2 Professional drivers are required to have Professional Driving Permits (PrDPs) to drive the following vehicle categories:

- Heavy goods > 3500 kg GVM
- Articulated > 3500 kg GVM
- Breakdown vehicle
- Bus seating more than 55

- Mini-bus seating more than 12
- Refuse compactor
- Water tanker
- Vacuum tanker
- Mechanical horse > 3500 kg GVM

4.3 Passengers, inclusive of municipal staff, are not permitted to ride on or inside any municipal vehicle except for the execution of municipal duties.

4.4 When a municipal vehicle is to be used outside the Umzimvubu Municipal area, approval must be authorised by the designated manager in advance before undertaking a trip.

4.5 Pool vehicles must be booked with responsible official (retain bookings to compare with log sheets). All bookings must be done in advance to eliminate double bookings.

4.6 No Council vehicle may be used for informal driver training, such as by other Council drivers, or for the related testing to obtain a driver's license. Assessment for a "Council License" once in possession of a driver's license may be done using a Council vehicle, provided assessment is conducted by an appropriate risk-management official.

4.7 Council vehicles may be used to transport staff, delegates, visitors, students or members of the public for official Council business or official purposes, but no unauthorised passengers are permitted. Authorisation for this "deviation" from the norm must be approved by Municipal Manager.

4.8 Contractors and consultants may not make use of Council transport, unless specifically provided for in their contract with Council.

4.9 Inspections

4.9.1 Pre- and post-inspections are to be carried out by both drivers/operators and Logistics Officer on a trip and/or daily basis in order to ensure that the vehicle is in a roadworthy and clean condition.

4.9.2 Any damage/defects found by the driver and Logistics Officer must be reported to the line manager/Law Enforcement for investigation. The last user of a vehicle will be held responsible for any unreported damage/defects/loss.

4.9.3 All municipal vehicles must be available for periodical inspection by Supply Chain Management unit.

4.9.4 The usage of vehicles must be reflected by entries in the logbooks dedicated to individual vehicles.

4.9.5 Log book entries must be checked by Logistics Officer and Assistant

Manager: SCM on a weekly basis.

4.9.6 The Assistant Manager: SCM may from time to time enquire to the driver

about the use of vehicle after hours as the telematics system provide such

information.

SECTION 5: VEHICLE KEYS

5.1 Employees in charge of vehicles shall ensure at all times that the ignition, door lock, fuel cap, gear-lock and other keys of the vehicle in use are suitably safeguarded against loss or theft. All vehicle keys must be kept in SCM unit, unless prior arrangements have been made.

SECTION 6: DAMAGE, LOSSES AND THEFT

6.1 An employee who takes over a municipal vehicle must ensure that any damage or loss is immediately brought to the notice of his/her supervisor/line manager in writing. Unless he/she complies with this instruction, he/she will be deemed to have received the vehicle in good order.

6.2 Unlawful fitment/removal or exchange of fuel or any component of a municipal vehicle will be subjected to the strictest discipline, as prescribed in the prevailing Conditions of Service.

6.3 In the event of a hijacking or armed robbery, the line manager must ensure that the affected staff member(s) is/are given the necessary counselling.

6.4 Any municipal vehicle may be subjected to a search by security personnel/delegated officials from supervisory level upwards.

SECTION 7: SAFE CUSTODY OF MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT AND OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

7.1. In respect of official vehicles taken home by employees, specific authority from the line manager or the Supply Chain must unit be obtained before an employee will be permitted to safeguard any official vehicle at a private residence.

7.2. The driver/employee must take all possible and practical precautions for the safeguarding of municipal property in municipal vehicles when he or she temporarily absents himself/herself from the vehicle. The non-observance of this directive will render the driver/employee liable for any loss to the municipality.

SECTION 8: GARAGING AND PARKING OF MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT

8.1. In the case of overnight parking, vehicles on tour or municipal vehicles being used for official after-hour purposes, the most suitable arrangements must be made for safe parking facilities with the relevant line manager.

SECTION 9: SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEES FROM DRIVING MUNICIPAL VEHICLES

9.1. In the event of a municipal vehicle being or having been subjected to flagrant misuse or irregular use, or the vehicle being maliciously damaged by the driver; or

9.2. where evidence exists that a driver is or was guilty of recklessness or negligent conduct whilst driving a municipal vehicle, or such a vehicle was involved in an accident whilst so driven; or

9.3. where a driver of a municipal vehicle has been found guilty of driving such a vehicle –
 a) under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics, or
 b) whilst the concentration of alcohol in his or her blood was more than that allowed according to legislation,
 such a driver shall be suspended immediately from driving municipal vehicles until such time as a disciplinary tribunal has been concluded.

9.4. In the event of a driver developing any disease or disability which will render him/her incapable of controlling a vehicle effectively and subject to a report from a medical practitioner, to the satisfaction of the Municipal Manager, he/she will be suspended temporarily or permanently from driving a municipal vehicle.

SECTION 10: GOVERNORS

10.1 Where a governor is fitted to any municipal power-driven machinery, it is there for the specific purpose of providing protection against over speeding/overloading/abuse of the mechanical systems. Governors are not to be tampered with.

SECTION 11: SPEEDOMETERS, ODOMETERS AND HOUR METER

11.1 Speedometers and meters should not be tampered with. Where a speedometer is fitted to a vehicle, the National Road Traffic Act requires it to be in good working order.

SECTION 12: FUEL AND OIL

12.1 Where employees in charge of municipal vehicles require fuel and/or oil, they shall obtain supplies from the nearest filling station.

12.2 Where fuel is required in containers to refuel small plant, the relevant line manager must authorise the request against a separate requisition.

SECTION 13: MAINTAINING THE APPEARANCE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT

13.1 Every driver/operator and relevant line manager must ensure that the vehicles are in a clean and hygienic condition.

SECTION 14: SERVICING AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES

14.1 All vehicles shall be serviced and repaired in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the operational plan for fleet management.

14.2 Drivers/operators in charge of vehicles must ensure that service arrangements are strictly adhered to.

SECTION 15: BREAKDOWN PROCEDURES

15.1 In the event of a breakdown, vehicles must be handled in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the operational plan for fleet management.

SECTION 16: ROADWORTHINESS OF VEHICLES

16.1 All vehicles requiring a Roadworthy Certificate (RWC) are to be delivered to the fleet mechanical workshop prior to expiry date.

- 16.2 **Every driver/operator and Logistics Officer** of a vehicle must at all times ensure that the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition (including licensing), failing which he/she will be responsible for the payment of any traffic fines imposed and penalties incurred as a result of late licensing.
- 16.3 Any defects discovered with regard to the bodywork, engine and accessories of the vehicle must be reported immediately to the relevant line manager by generating a job card for repairs.
- 16.4 The last driver/operator of a vehicle will be held responsible for any unreported damage/defects/losses.
- 16.5 At any time the traffic officers may request all vehicles to be tested for roadworthiness and suspend the car based on valid reasons for the safety of municipal drivers.

SECTION 17: LOAD ON VEHICLES

- 17.1 The load on any vehicle must not exceed the load recommended by the manufacturers of the vehicle.
- 17.2 Drivers/operators must familiarise themselves with the maximum load capacity of the particular vehicle they are using.
- 17.3 **Hazardous loads**
Only drivers who have been specially trained and who are in possession of the necessary medical clearance are permitted to operate vehicles engaged in the conveyance of hazardous substances (refer section 16.4).

SECTION 18: IDENTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT

18.1 General

Drivers must ensure that the registration plates, fleet numbers, municipal logos and any other markings on the vehicles are always in good order and clearly visible. Municipal vehicles may not display any private signs, mascots, stickers, advertising or advertising material, unless authorised.

18.2 Mass information

Information in respect of carrying capacity is displayed on certain vehicles. In terms of the requirements of the National Road Traffic Act, information relative to the tare mass (T), gross vehicle mass (GVM) and, where applicable, the number of passengers is displayed on buses and goods vehicles.

18.3 **Clearance certificates**

If a clearance certificate (license token) is lost, destroyed or illegible, the fact shall be reported without delay to the Fleet Management Division. Expired tokens must be removed from the vehicle. The relevant department must obtain a renewed clearance certificate from Supply Chain Management. Failure to display current tokens constitutes an offence in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, for which the vehicle driver will be held liable.

18.4 **Hazardous substances**

Vehicles engaged in the conveyance of hazardous substances must display hazard and/or warning signs and panels that inform emergency services how to handle the particular substance being carried, in the event of an accident (refer Section 15.3).

SECTION 19: DUTIES OF DRIVER IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

19.1 In the event of an accident, drivers/operators must follow the procedures set out in the operational plan for fleet management.

SECTION 20: INSURANCE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLE

20.1 **Municipal vehicles**

The municipality provides comprehensive cover through its insurance policy which administers legitimate claims arising from accidents involving municipal vehicles and equipment. Suitably licensed municipal employees driving municipal vehicles are covered to the following extent:

- a) The municipality will provide all-risk cover of loss or damage for its vehicles, as described and provided for in terms of the currently accepted form of automobile/vehicle insurance policies as issued and agreed upon by municipal insurers. Coverage is not included for the loss of or damage to any items owned or possessed by the employee or by any person or body other than the municipality.
- b) The municipality will provide third-party liability insurance covering any driver's liability arising out of the use of the vehicle.
- c) Unauthorised drivers and passengers will not be covered by the Insurance Fund or the Road Accident Fund.

20.2 *Non-municipal employees*

The comprehensive vehicle insurance cover provided by the municipality's Self-insurance Fund provides cover for any municipal vehicle driven by a person qualified to do so and not employed by the municipality, if such action relates to the maintenance or repair of the vehicle involved.

20.3 *External vehicles from service providers*

Insurance claims in respect of vehicles provided by service providers will be dealt with by the relevant external lease agreements.

20.4 *Forfeiture of cover by driver*

The cover and arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 18.1 and 18.2 will not apply as far as the driver of municipal vehicles is concerned in cases where:

- a) he/she was under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a drug with a narcotic effect; or
- b) the concentration of alcohol in his/her blood was more than 0,00 gram per 100 milliliters;
- c) the vehicle was used without authority for other than strictly official purposes;
- d) he/she is not in possession of an appropriate legally valid driver's license
- e) he/she drives or has driven a vehicle without having been properly authorised thereto; or
- f) he/she allows or has allowed the vehicle to be driven by a person not authorised thereto;
- g) he/she was an unauthorised passenger in the vehicle;
- h) he/she is a participant in another motor scheme and is not authorised in writing to be transported in vehicle.

In the event of any one of the clauses mentioned in 18.4(a) to 18.4(h) being applicable, the driver/operator will be liable for all claims and liabilities.

20.5 *Exclusion of third-party cover*

Hitchhiking on municipal vehicles is strictly prohibited

In terms of the Road Accident Fund, passengers transported IN A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE without authority will NOT BE COVERED.

SECTION 21: SAFE DRIVING

21.1 *Traffic regulations*

Traffic fines arising from neglect on the part of the driver will not be paid by the municipality. The driver will be held personally responsible and will not receive any financial assistance from the municipality.

21.2 *Speed limit*

Apart from the necessity of observing the speed limits laid down by the government and local authorities, municipal vehicles must not be driven at speeds that may endanger the lives of occupants and other road users. Speed must be adjusted to suit weather conditions, road conditions and the particular type of vehicle being used.

21.3 *Emergency vehicles*

Law enforcement, traffic and emergency vehicles may only exceed the speed limits when it is essential to do so. In an emergency, the appropriate alarms, warning devices and warning signals must be used. Extreme caution must be exercised by drivers of emergency vehicles.

21.4 *Rules of the road*

All drivers of municipal vehicles must strictly adhere to the rules of the road.

21.5 *Night driving: Correct use of vehicle lights*

All drivers of municipal vehicles must strictly adhere to Regulation 157 of the National Road Traffic Act No. 93 of 1996 which requires, inter alia, that vehicle lights be operational at any time from sunset to sunrise and “at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable weather conditions, persons and vehicles upon the public road are not clearly discernible at a distance of 150 meters”..

21.6 *Penalties*

Transgressions in respect of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the Council’s collectively agreed disciplinary code.

SECTION 22 COMMENCEMENT

This Policy will come into effect on the date of adoption by Council.

SECTION 23 INTERPRETATION OF THIS POLICY

- 23.1 All words contained in this policy shall have an ordinary meaning attached thereto, unless the definition or context indicates otherwise.
- 23.2 The dispute on interpretation of this policy shall be declared in writing by any party concerned.
- 23.3 The Office of the Municipal Manager shall give a final interpretation of this policy in case of written dispute.
- 23.4 If the party concerned is not satisfied with the interpretation, a dispute may then be pursued with the South African Local Government Bargaining Council.

SECTION 24 PERMANENT/TEMPORARY WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF THIS POLICY

- 24.1 This policy may be partly or wholly waived or suspended by the Municipal Council on temporary or permanent basis.
- 24.2 Notwithstanding clause No. 12.1 the Municipal Manager may under circumstances of emergency temporarily waive this policy subject to reporting of such waiver or suspension to Council.

SECTION 25 COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- 25.1 Violation of or non-compliance with this policy will give a just cause for disciplinary steps to be taken.
- 25.2 It will be the responsibility of Council to enforce compliance with this policy.

SECTION 26 AMENDMENT AND/OR ABOLITION OF THIS POLICY

- 26.1 This policy may be amended or repealed by Council as it may deem necessary.

Date of Approval : _____

Council resolution no.: _____

