

# Professional **Driving** Academy



## of South Africa | [www.prodrive.co.za](http://www.prodrive.co.za)

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## Prospectus

As South Africans, we express concern about the high “accident” rate in the country, but always look at *others* rather than our own driving standards.

Yet it is true to say that the average driver acknowledges that they would not pass their driving licence test if re-tested tomorrow.

They might be less inclined to believe that they probably break multiple laws in just one short drive.



As South Africans, perhaps we need to look at our *own* driving standard before we point fingers at anyone else.

For example, a great favourite is to talk about taxi drivers, admittedly with good reason, yet many South Africans drive almost as badly, if not worse, than *many* taxi drivers, and are arrogant about it as well.

While we can joke about it, we love pointing fingers - but dare anyone accuse us of having a low driving standard or breaking the law!



Perhaps it is time for us to all focus on improving our *own* driving standard before we accuse others of having a low driving standard.

Let's face it, in order to protect ourselves from other bad drivers, poor weather conditions, distractions such as ringing phones, loads shifting, the challenge of driving huge trucks with very heavy loads around mountain passes, while impatient drivers overtake and cut us off and expect us to be able to stop a fully-loaded extra-heavy duty truck almost instantly, and in our personal lives, squabbling children in the car, demanding passengers and pedestrians wondering across the roads, to say nothing of those out to rob us, hijack us or commit similar crimes, we could *all* do with defensive driver training and not only that – what about just knowing, understanding, respecting and applying the law, whether we drive a company truck or extra-heavy duty truck, horse and trailer, or our own private motor bike, car, quad bike, tractor, or tow a trailer, car, caravan, horse box, boat or any number of other wonderful, exciting pieces of equipment? The road traffic law is the law. It applies to every single driver in the country, from the Prime Minister's chauffeur to the smallest, oldest most dilapidated vehicle on the road.



Every South African owes our country a high standard of excellence if we wish to effectively address road carnage and inculcate and instil an attitude of law compliance across the board in South Africa.

I order to play my own small part in this, as a driving instructor, I offer:

- Experience
- Qualifications
- Dedication
- Integrity
- Professionalism and expertise

*Experience:*

- As a qualified driving instructor for 35 years, I have been privileged to:
  - Work with brand new drivers, training them to pass their learners and driving licences.
  - Offer defensive driver training not only for beginner drivers as the *minimum level of safety for all drivers*, but for the Corporate Market, people from many different countries based near the various Embassies in Pretoria and to general members of the licenced responsibly-minded driving public.
  - Assess, coach and re-train drivers with disabilities in adapted, automatic vehicles.
  - I have been involved for some years in assessing and evaluating the driving standard of those who have suffered a serious health set-back and other traumatic brain injuries, such as strokes.
  - Since no official training for driving instructors exists in South Africa at this stage (or ever has previously), I have offered driving instructor training workshops for the last roughly ten or more years, working actively to set high standards in the driving school industry, and striving to have our industry regulated fairly while vigorously opposing corruption, of which I hear reports on an almost daily basis.
  - Assisting foreign drivers to become au fait with driving competently and safely in South Africa without committing deadly blunders, such as turning right first in front of oncoming traffic.



*Qualifications: Resume and certification available on request.*

- A qualified Advanced Instructor since 1979.
- Won “Woman Driver of the Year” for the Institute for Advanced Drivers.
- Chairperson for SAIDI Gauteng since 2001.
- National President SAIDI – The Southern African Institute of Driving Instructors since 2009.

- Worked for QASA evaluating and re-training drivers with disabilities in automatic adapted vehicles from 2010 in their Driving Ambitions programme.
- Working with Rolling Rehab under occupational therapists Caroline Rule and Justine Kolling (and many other therapists), assessing and evaluating the driving of people who have suffered traumatic brain injuries, such as strokes.
- Secretary NDSF – National Driving School Forum since 2010.
- Represent SAIDI at Government level meetings to represent our industry at the Technical Committee level; NDOT; Provincial; RTMC; SA iRap and the Swedish Embassy on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013.
- Have been instrumental in limited Taxi Driver training in Eersterust, Soshanguve and Mabopane, although not as much as I would like.



*Dedication:*

- I am passionate about reducing death on South African roads.
- We are all concerned about close to 18 000 people dying on South African roads annually, despite official statistics indicating it is 14 000.
- This statistic makes no allowance for injuries. Having worked closely with people with disabilities, I am sure I am not alone in abhorring the adjustments and financial and social deprivations imposed on the victims of crashes and their families due to the disabilities of lost limbs and agonising injuries.
- I cannot pretend that it does not affect me deeply when I am constantly faced with the general low standard of driving everywhere; the rebellion against existing laws; the anarchy; the arrogance and general lawlessness which are so prevalent in the country.
- Clearly the end of imperialism forced previous colonies to survive on their own. With minimal support, left to their own devices, the people of the country started to flex their muscles, developing and increasing characteristics such as poverty, high birth-rates and economic dependence on other countries.
- Under this general euphoric feeling of independence, freed from the shackles of other countries' laws, our *own* laws have sadly also been rejected as something to be ignored and disrespected, thereby reducing South Africa to a third-world country, where the population feels entitled to break any laws with impunity. Corruption and lawlessness have deservedly earned us the world's contempt of a "banana republic."
- A greedy grabbing "me first, me last and me all over again" attitude prevails in so many areas of society, and is never so blatantly obvious than on our roads which is a direct cause of our shocking road fatalities.
- As a passionate South African, I feel responsible to contribute in some small way to turn the tide and bring about a law-abiding society, specifically on South African roads.

- The media in newspaper and radios and television constantly reports tragic events unfolding across the country. Social media, like Twitter and Facebook report, minute by minute, repeated horrific life-shattering events taking place all over this land of ours.
- We are shaken by these revelations. The media is hugely instrumental in making us aware of just how low we have sunk as a Nation, and just how bad the situation is on our roads.
- It is inconceivable that masses of people are wiped out in an instant, such as in the Pinetown incident; that babies and children are flung from vehicles; that limbs are torn from bodies, and heads are smashed into glass windscreens leaving people unable to cope with life independently to the extent that we hear. Some of us cannot bear to watch the news any longer.
- *This is no time to turn away!*
- I believe that it is only when the majority of the population becomes individually and collectively disgusted by the moral degradation and utter lawlessness which presently prevails in the country, that we will become far more conscious of an intense desire for a cleansing process in order to shake off the shame and achieve genuine self-respect and value for the rights of all members of society.
- There is no better place for this to start than on our roads, by self-regulation, instead of evading understaffed law enforcement officials who rightfully should catch us when we break the law, *by applying each law meticulously ourselves and requiring others to do the same*, in accordance with our highly respected Constitution, which has won the acclaim of the whole World, that we will bring about the balance of an ordered society and become the major Nation South Africa was always destined to be.



#### *Integrity:*

SAIDI has a motto "Integrity is our driving force."

As a devout Christian, passionate South African and a SAIDI member since 1979, corruption and dishonesty are abhorrent to me.

While it is so common now that it is laughingly joked about by many, it is a scourge on the name of South Africa. No passionate South African should be comfortable living with this shame!

*Let us, together, strive to restore respect for the law in every area on our roads, not considering any infraction a small thing.*



#### *Professionalism and expertise:*

##### ***Theoretical Driver Training:***

In order to establish the shortcomings and gaps in the knowledge and understanding of the law in any driver, a brief test consisting of only a few questions, is offered to those seeking greater expertise as drivers in South Africa. Most drivers are shocked to discover how little they actually know! If they are not, they should be. This test can be applied for online, free of charge. Contact [Info@prodrive.co.za](mailto:Info@prodrive.co.za).



To diplomatically improve on their knowledge, I offer the following fully-comprehensive Power Point training programmes in a fun-charged atmosphere, which makes learning easy, but *thorough*:



1. *Learners Licence* training based on the Learners Licence test written by Steve Venter, previously of the HSRC, is available for new drivers, if they will be writing the written learners licence test.
2. Access to the official recommended *computerised learners licence draft test training* material is available on our websites: See: [www.saidinational.org](http://www.saidinational.org) and [www.prodrive.co.za](http://www.prodrive.co.za).



*I have prepared the following training programmes for licenced drivers of all categories. These training programmes are the most comprehensive training programmes available in the country and are suitable for Police training; Traffic Training Colleges; and every sector of the Transport Industry as well as responsibly-minded individuals.*

- 1) *Attitudes of drivers* – most people, no matter how carefully raised, experience some form of undesirable influence over their lives when growing up, which can have a long-term negative impact.
  - a. For example, children who grow up with an alcoholic parent can be fearful and very angry due to terror and injustices experienced. This is potentially a *possible* cause of so many cases of road rage.
  - b. Others have witnessed terrible crashes which haunt them in their most vulnerable moments. Many drivers conceal these awful images which have troubled them for years.
  - c. This programme strives to examine the many aspects of damage done to the *majority* of the population in one form or another, which, contrary to popular opinion, cannot be dismissed as being of negligible influence.
  - d. Only when we look honestly at the negative influences which have affected our own lives, will we begin to understand the person we see in the mirror and our sometimes strange, seemingly unaccountable reactions to situations we are confronted with. The Bible says, “Know thyself.”
  - e. When we do, we will achieve far more control over ourselves and our reactions behind the wheel, especially when under pressure.



- 2) *Regulatory and warning signs* – every single actual road sign has been scanned out of the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996 and is constantly updated when necessary. Animations, photographs, funny emails and help every driver to understand and appreciate (and learn to apply) the law, possibly for the first time.



- 3) *Informative and Guidance signs*, are also fully-comprehensively worked into an extensive training programme.



- 4) All-important *painted road markings, traffic signals, flag and hand signals* are explained in great detail to rapidly improve the standard of every driver.



- 5) All the *Rules of the Road* were scanned from the NRTA, and built into a Power Point training programme. Animations and photographs highlight essential details to assist drivers to apply the law correctly. While some SAIDI Members have spent time examining these laws closely together, which is part of what makes SAIDI members the safe route to go when selecting a driving instructor, other driving instructors have *never* received this standard of training in South Africa, nor has the public.



- 6) *K53 training for driving instructors* – No *official* training has ever been made available to South African driving instructors in the history of the country. This workshop and practical training has assisted many well-trained instructors to qualify and produce thousands of safe, well-trained new drivers in their businesses. In some Provinces, such as Limpopo and Mpumalanga, they have been *prevented* from being tested and qualifying for reasons we cannot fathom, by MEC's who refuse to reply to queries in this regard, yet that has not prevented them from producing driver after driver of an exceptionally high standard.



- 7) A theoretical *defensive driver Power Point training* programme, based on Advanced driving principles, is available and is guaranteed to improve every driver's standard of driving. It is a *must* for every South African driver and for visitors to our country to ensure their survival and safety when traversing our road system.



### ***Practical Driver Training:***

- 1) Before a driver can be assisted to improve his or her driving standard, it is only fair that a fully-comprehensive written driving assessment be carried out under favourable conditions, including a quiet residential area, busy suburban and Metropolitan areas roads, major Provincial roads and freeway conditions.



- 2) Based on the results of that assessment, various adjustments, recommendations, improvements and additional fully-comprehensive advanced and defensive training may be recommended. This does not include skid-pan work.



- 3) The driver should be given a copy of the written assessment in order to correct as many of the driving errors as possible by him or herself.



- 4) Coaching to attain the required standard is then recommended in accordance with individual requirements.



- 5) It is common to spend an entire day (or more, as necessary) from 9:00 to 16:00 working through each and every aspect of concern together until the driver is able to understand what was wrong with the original standard, understand what is required to achieve the desired standard, and practise together by demonstration, diagrams and clear explanations to achieve whatever needs to be done to improve.



- 6) Some people take longer than others, in which case a second written report can be offered explaining what difficulties are impeding the progress of the driver.



- 7) A second day can be spent perfecting skills, or a series of two-hour training sessions might prove to be more acceptable to a particular client or company.



- 8) Following this, a period of development should be permitted while the driver struggles to overcome long-entrenched bad driving habits etc. and learns to apply the new recommended techniques. This period should preferably not be longer than one month from the day spent in the vehicle doing defensive training.



- 9) After this, a second written assessment may be carried out to celebrate the new, improved driving standard of each driver.



- 10) From that stage the driver should be highly trained, competent and skilled to cope with all sorts of challenges in a legal, self-controlled mature way.



Professional Driving Academy of South Africa is always available to assist if any additional queries, concerns or new requirements are raised and will assist you to achieve the required results quickly, painlessly and satisfactorily.

Prices for the various training modules can be obtained on request to [Pat@prodrive.co.za](mailto:Pat@prodrive.co.za).

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