



**Road Traffic**  
Management Corporation

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The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)  
is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a  
Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

## TRAFFIC OFFICER'S CAREER INFORMATION



SAFE

SECURE

RESPONSIBLE

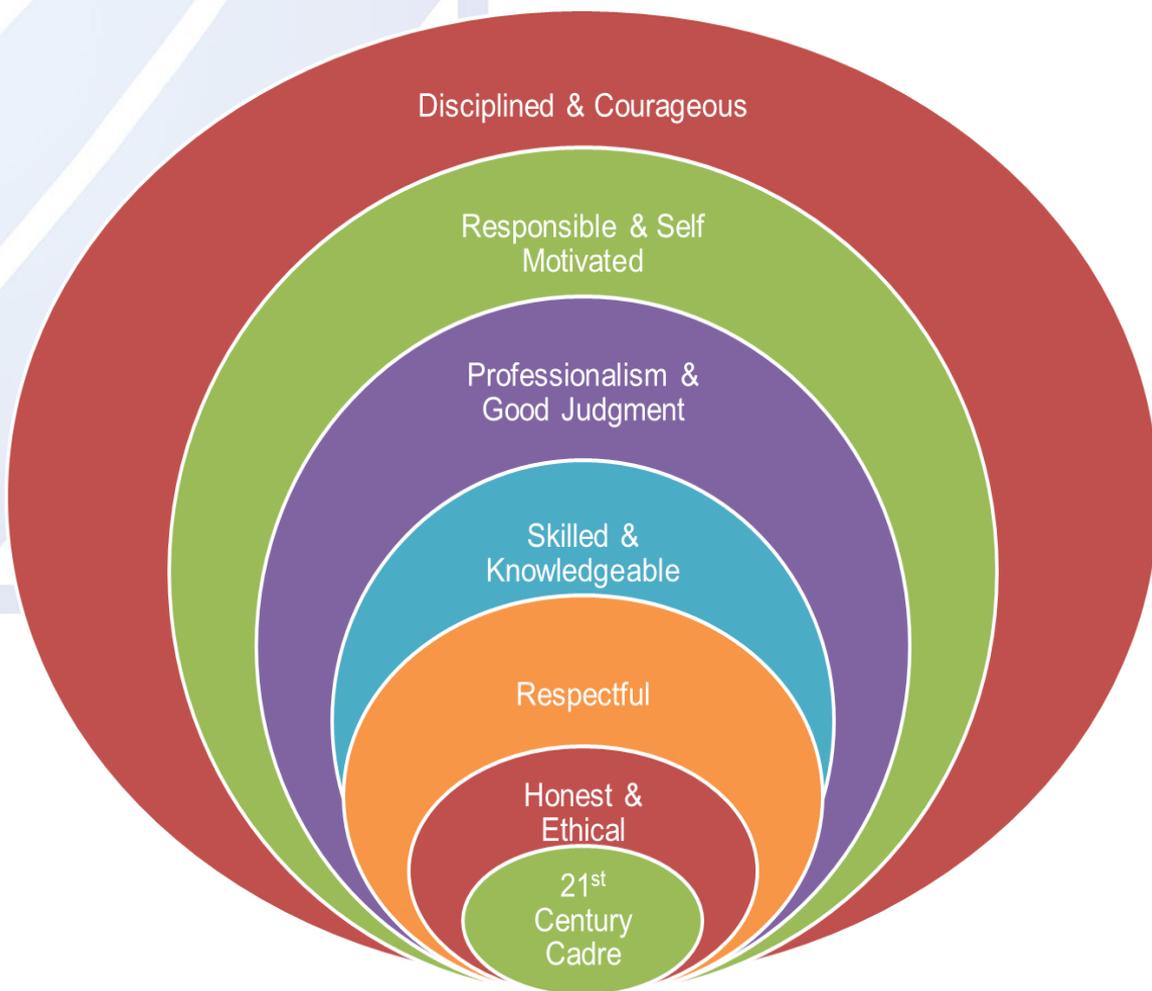


**Board of Directors:** Ms N Mufamadi (Chairperson), Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge CD(SA), Dr E Thebe, Adv. X Stemela, Ms L Magalo, Prof C Twala, Mr NJ Kudzingana, Adv. J Makgatho\*  
**Chief Executive Officer:** Advocate MS Msibi  
**Company Secretary:** Ms S Petse  
*\*Departmental Representative*

## 1. WHY IS THE CAREER OF A TRAFFIC OFFICER IMPORTANT?

The Road Traffic Management Corporation has committed itself to developing a 21st Century Cadre for Road Traffic Management in South Africa. This Cadre will produce dedicated and skilled Traffic Officers to enforce the rules of the road, protect and serve without fear or favour. They will ensure that all road users, including pedestrians, use our roads in an orderly and safe manner. The key purpose of Traffic Officers is to ensure the safe and free flow of traffic to prevent road crashes and deaths on our roads.

The diagram below illustrates the characteristics of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cadre:



## 2. WHAT DOES ONE DO IN THIS CAREER?

A distinction is made between Provincial Traffic Officers, Municipal Traffic Officers, and the National Traffic Police (NTP). Provincial Traffic Officers perform their duties within the boundaries of Provinces and Municipal Traffic Officers perform their duties within the boundaries of Municipalities; whilst the NTP has National jurisdiction regarding traffic matters. Provincial Traffic Officers are also known as Provincial Inspectors. Traffic Officers enforce compliance with the National Road Traffic Act, National Land Transport Act, Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act, and other relevant legislation. They control traffic, inspect vehicles for roadworthiness, and enforce road traffic signs and rules of the road.

## 3. WHAT WILL THE WORKPLACE BE LIKE?

Provincial Inspectors / Traffic Officers spend most of their working hours outdoors on public roads. A small portion of their time is spent in courtrooms and offices doing administrative duties. They do their patrol duties mainly in motorcars, some on motorcycles, and patrolling on foot.

## 4. WHAT INSTRUMENTS, TOOLS OR MATERIALS WILL ONE WORK WITH?

Speed-measuring apparatus, alcohol test apparatus, measuring tapes, mass-measuring apparatus, summons books, infringement notices, Traffic Officer's Pocket Computer, etc.

## 5. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS OF THIS CAREER?

**Advantages:** Working with people and helping them to comply and obey traffic rules, assisting to reduce the number of road crashes and thus saving lives.

**Drawbacks:** Being able to work with people with various personalities, having to work during holidays and weekends on 24-hour shifts, and performing duties in all weather conditions.

## 6. HOW DO I BECOME A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

You first need to be employed/appointed as a trainee, (permanently or on contract), by a Provincial Department of Transport, a Municipality, or a Government Agency such as the Road

Traffic Management Corporation. These Authorities normally advertise vacant posts in the Open Media.

You therefore need to check your Local and National newspapers regularly. You may also contact any Local or Provincial Authority directly to enquire whether vacancies exist and when posts will be advertised.

## 7. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

- Grade 12 or equivalent (No specific subjects needed).
- No criminal records.
- Code B driving Licence (manual transmission).
- Medical certificate certifying that a person may do strenuous exercises.
- Applicants shall not be older than 35 years of age.
- Must be employed by a Local or Provincial Authority.

## 8. WHERE DO I TRAIN AS A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

Once you are employed as a Traffic Trainee you will be sent to one of the 14 Traffic Training Colleges approved by the Minister of Transport. Only the following Traffic Training Colleges and Metro Police Academies may currently train Traffic Officers in South Africa:

NAME OF TRAFFIC COLLEGE	CITY/ PROVINCE	CONTACT NUMBER	COURSES OFFERED
1. RTMC Road Traffic Training Academy	Boekenhoutskloof Traffic College – Gauteng	067 427 9208	TO; EDL; EoV
2. Limpopo Traffic Training College	Mutale – Limpopo	(015) 967 9300	TO; EDL; EoV
3. KZN Traffic Training College	Pietermaritzburg – KZN	(033) 264 7900	TO; EDL; EoV
4. Lengau Traffic Training College	Bloemfontein – Free State	066 476 2581	TO; EDL; EoV
5. Mangaung Traffic Training College	Bloemfontein – Free State	(051) 412 8106	TO
6. Gene Louw Traffic Training College	Brackenfell – Western Cape	(021) 983 1501	TO; EDL; EoV
7. Durban Metro Police Academy	Durban – KZN	(031) 322 4463	TO

NAME OF TRAFFIC COLLEGE	CITY/ PROVINCE	CONTACT NUMBER	COURSES OFFERED
		(031) 322 4461	
8. Johannesburg Metro Police Academy	Johannesburg – Gauteng	(011) 061 7833	TO
9. Tshwane Metro Police Academy	Tshwane – Gauteng	(012) 358 7565	TO & EDL
10. Ekurhuleni Metro Police Academy	Springs – Gauteng	(011) 999 8687	TO
11. Gqeberha / Port Elizabeth Traffic Training College	Gqeberha– Eastern Cape	(041) 390 4500	TO & EDL
12. Matjhabeng Traffic Training College	Welkom – Free State	(057) 355 3828 072 224 0765	TO
13. Public Safety Training College	Cape Town – Western Cape	(021) 444 4061	TO; EDL & EoV
14. Mpumalanga Traffic Training College	Mkhuhlu – Mpumalanga Province	(013) 766 9512	TO; EDL & EoV

- \* **TO = Traffic Officer's Course**
- \* **EDL = Examiner for Driving Licences Course**
- \* **EoV = Examiner of Vehicles Course**

## 9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A METRO POLICE OFFICER AND A TRAFFIC OFFICER?

Metro Police Officers are trained as Traffic Officers and in certain functions of Police Officers. Before becoming a Metro Police Officer, you must be trained and registered as a Traffic Officer. In addition to all their duties as Traffic Officers, Metro Police Officers also focus on crime prevention and the enforcement of Municipal by-laws.

**10. CAN I STILL ENROLL ON MY OWN TO BE TRAINED AS A TRAFFIC OFFICER EVEN IF I AM NOT EMPLOYED?**

No. However, you can study Traffic Management-related courses at various FET Colleges or Universities. These courses should give you an advantage when the Authorities advertise Traffic Officers' posts.

**11. CAN I BE INVOLVED IN ROAD SAFETY WITHOUT BEING A TRAFFIC OFFICER?**

Yes, you can do so by starting to obey all rules of the road yourself. Wear a seatbelt when you are a passenger in a vehicle fitted with seatbelts. Wear bright colour clothes at night when you are a pedestrian and always cross a road at a pedestrian crossing when available.

You can also register as a Voluntary Public Traffic Observer (VPTO) at [www.rtmc.co.za](http://www.rtmc.co.za) click on [National Call Centre](#). The participation by members of the Public in this project is entirely voluntary. As a Voluntary Public Traffic Observer (VPTO), you will be required only to observe, record, and submit the required information to the RTMC. A VPTO will undertake this voluntary task as inconspicuously as possible, for their own safety and security reasons, and will at no time be entitled to stop and/or confront a suspected or alleged traffic offender. Persons registered as Traffic Observers (VPTOs) will not be compensated in any manner for this voluntary service. VPTOs will not receive privileges of any nature and no special markings for their vehicles will be provided for their own safety and security reasons. Any VPTO wishing to lay formal charges against a fellow road user who committed an offence, must follow the normal procedures, and approach their nearest Traffic Authority or Police Station for further advice in this regard.

**12. WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM A PASSENGER IN A VEHICLE AND I NOTICE THAT THE DRIVER OR THE VEHICLE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF THE ROAD?**

Phone RTMC's Call Centre Number: **0861 400 800** (Not toll-free) with full particulars of the vehicle and its location. A Traffic Officer will be requested to assist where possible.

**13. I GRADUATED FROM AN APPROPRIATELY RECOGNIZED TERTIARY TRAINING INSTITUTION, WHICH IS PROPERLY REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION. IT SEEMS LIKE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENTS DO NOT CONSIDER MY DEGREE COURSE WHEN THEY APPOINT PERSONNEL. WHY IS THIS THE CASE AND WHAT MUST I DO?**

Firstly, make sure you meet the requirements for the position for which you applied. All tertiary training institutions registered with the Department of Higher Education may develop their training courses. The traffic fraternity is often consulted to provide input into the curricula and course content of these courses. The traffic fraternity has no jurisdiction over tertiary institutions. Tertiary institutions enroll students in terms of their regulations, and successful students will graduate with fully recognized diplomas/degrees. All local authorities, Provincial, and Metro Police Departments are autonomous about the appointment of officials to various positions. Each department will decide individually on their appointments. Higher qualifications should put you in a better position to compete for employment should you meet the requirements of advertised posts. Requirements of advertised posts/internships must be followed – you are encouraged to keep on applying for advertised positions. Candidates must pay particular attention to how they compile their CVs and application letters. Shortlisting Committees disregard many applications due to candidates not completing the application forms properly, not signing, when necessary, not certifying documents when necessary, not including all documentation as per the advert, etc.

**14. I AM STRUGGLING TO FIND THE POST REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS. I VISITED YOUR WEBSITE BUT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL.**

Note that each Traffic Department will have its requirements. The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) sets the minimum requirements. You are therefore encouraged to contact your Local Municipal Traffic Department or Provincial Traffic Department for these requirements or application forms.

The RTMC will advertise any posts in the National newspapers, should posts become available in the Corporation. Also, check the website of the Corporation for posts on [www.rtmc.co.za](http://www.rtmc.co.za) and click on the vacancies tab.

## 15. CAN ONE BE OFFERED A BURSARY & HOW MUCH ARE THE TRAINING FEES?

The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) does not offer bursaries for the basic Traffic Officer's Course at present. However, Local and Provincial Authorities normally pay the costs related to the training of Traffic Personnel, including a monthly stipend to trainees.

## 16. WARNING

It should be noted that the Local or Provincial Authorities normally pay the training fees to Traffic Training Colleges electronically. Learners must take caution and not pay any individual to secure "a space" at a Traffic Training College. Applicants are advised to ensure that the Colleges that they use for the Basic Traffic Officer's Course are indeed a Traffic College, which is fully registered, accredited, **and approved in terms of the National Road Traffic Act**. You may verify with the RTMC if a Traffic College is indeed properly recognized.

### SUMMARY:

- No private person can enroll directly at a Traffic Training College as a Trainee.
- Contact Traffic Departments directly for information on available trainee vacancies, application forms, and opportunities for possible voluntary work.
- No one can reserve a "space" for you at a Traffic Training College.
- The training of Traffic Officers is funded by the state for selected candidates when posts are available, do **not** make an upfront payment to anyone.
- Be aware of bogus Colleges, remember you can only be sent by a Traffic Department to a Traffic Training College, with NO "middleman" involved.
- You may verify with the RTMC if a Traffic College is indeed properly recognized.

### RTMC: TRAINING NORMS AND STANDARDS

012 999 5200

[www.rtmc.co.za](http://www.rtmc.co.za)

### Email enquiries may be sent to:

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