

LIFE AWARENESS ROAD SAFETY

Issued 28th August 2012

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2012*)²

Zimbabwe, with a population of one third of that of California, and one tenth of their number of motorised vehicles, and much less than one tenth of their road surface, has more road deaths in one month than California has in one year. This carnage is not unique to Zimbabwe because it applies to most of the countries in the third world, especially Sub-Saharan Africa.

There is progress to relate, because although the number of vehicles and vehicular accidents reported to the police have both increased, the death rate for 2011 was 10% lower, on average, than the death rate in 2010. The activity of civil society, especially of the traffic safety council is an indication of the public concern of the number of unnecessary road deaths and serious road injuries.

30c: Light Up 5:30pm

This illustrates the need for adequate lighting of vehicles especially in an unlit or poorly lit road. The emphasis is on lighting up in order to be seen, especially as evening approaches. Light up during a rain storm and during the hours of darkness between 5:30pm and 6:30am throughout the year. The requirement of the law that all motorised vehicles shall be appropriately lit up both at the front and the back is currently under emphasised. The lack of visibility so resulting increases the chances of a road crash and injury or fatality. Also, equally dangerous at night are drivers who insist on driving with their headlights on bright in urban areas. This can blind oncoming traffic especially when there are no street lights.



75c: Speed/Drunk Driving

This stamp shows a loaded open pickup truck (bakkie) dangerously seated with adults drinking alcohol. The driver, intoxicated and carefree, takes the corner too fast jeopardising the safety of his passengers. This is particularly common at weekends and at night where the danger of a road crash is greatly increased with the resultant loss of life or serious injury. It is also common to observe these events with trucks not belonging to the driver but to a firm or Government Department.



85c: Obey the Code

This stamp shows an unescorted school child crossing a busy road at the appropriate place, i.e. a pedestrian crossing. Motorists are encouraged to respect pedestrians who wait at designated crossings. The need to respect the rights of pedestrians using the road is under emphasised as illustrated by the fact that over 400 pedestrians died as a result of a road collision in the year 2011.

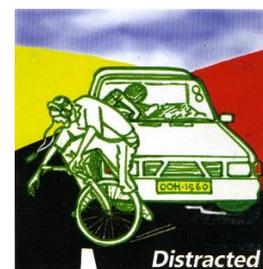


\$1.00: Visibility

Street vendors are unfortunately a common site on Harare streets, occupying the centre of the road at busy intersections. Their presence is a hazard to motorists, who have to divert their attention to make sure they avoid colliding with them. The newspaper sellers are visible with reflective vests, and likewise vendors selling the national flag and other goods, are very clear to see. Both newspaper vendors and street vendors are required to wear the official reflective vests. People and cars are only illustrated in outline to show how fragile life is.



The bulletin cover shows the consequences of distracting persons in control of any vehicle. Using a mobile phone/device whilst driving is a very common habit amongst drivers in Zimbabwe. The cyclist wearing headphones listening to music and not paying proper attention to road conditions is a major cause of collisions. The need for precautions to be exercised on the part of all drivers, especially kombi drivers needs to be emphasised to reduce this unnecessary road carnage, but it is also important that pedestrians be taught from an early age the dangers of using a public road inappropriately.



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1341	745	30c	Light Up 5:30pm
1342	746	75c	Speed/Drunk Driving
1343	747	85c	Obey the Code
1344	748	\$1	Visibility

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Cindy Stamps
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black

Sheet Number: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10 reading down

Print numbers:	30c	100,000	75c	10,000
	85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

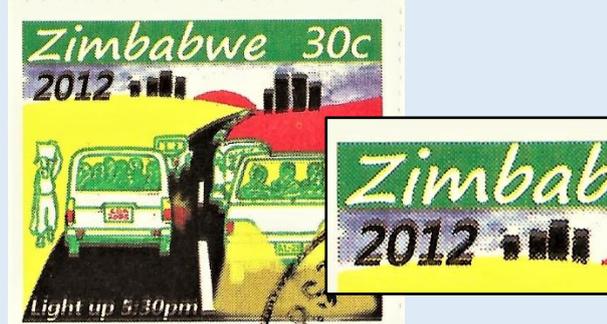
Issue date: 28th August 2012

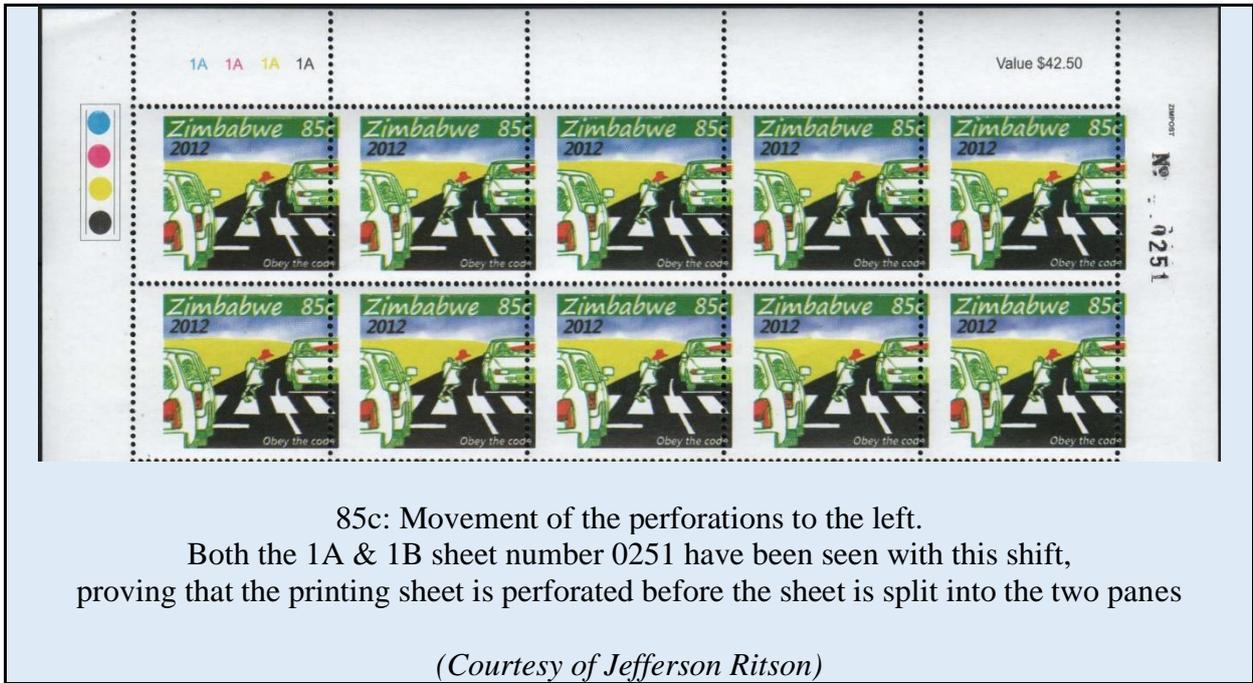
Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours

	
<p>30c: Doubling of black printing. <i>(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)</i></p>	<p>75c: Cyan mark to below value. <i>(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)</i></p>



First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2012