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File

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

03 -1993

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

1. Section I. Preamble

The American Samoa Government is experiencing the most alarming financial crisis in its 93 year old history. So critical is the situation that the implementation of government programs designed to improve the standard of living in American Samoa has slowed down to a painfully crawling pace, and that the delivery of top quality government services so richly deserved by our people has been severely hampered.

To save our government from going under, we have, since taking office on January 3, implemented a number of cost containing measures. More such measures are on the drawing board and will be put into effect as they are ready. Our goal is to fully restore financial solvency and administrative integrity in government. To achieve that goal, we are determined to inter alia rid ASG of all wasteful and corruptive practices.

One such practice is the use of government-owned vehicles. There is no justification in allowing the directors and other ASG employees to take government vehicles home after hours. The government is not responsible for employees' transportation to and from work. To compound the problem, many employees have reportedly abused the "privilege" by using the vehicles for personal and family errands.

This, therefore, is the new ASG policy on the use of government vehicles. It becomes effective Friday, March 19, and supersedes all previously issued instructions on the issue.

2. Section II. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority of Article IV, Section 6, of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa.

3. Section III. Order

It is ordered that -

- * all government-owned vehicles, except those listed in paragraph 2 (two) hereunder - shall be turned into the Motor Pool at the close of each working day.
- * vehicles registered under agencies located in the Tafuna area and westward, shall be checked into the M&O Compound in Tafuna. Those belonging to agencies in the Bay Area shall be checked into the Motor Pool in Utulei.
- * while in the Motor Pool, the vehicles shall be under the care of the Motor Pool Manager and staff until they are picked up in the morning of the following working day by authorized staff of the "owner-agencies".
- * the governor, upon receipt of an application from a director, may authorize an agency to keep its vehicles after hours in a safe area within its compound. Under such arrangement, the agency concerned shall be held responsible for the safety of the vehicles. Application for such an arrangement shall be made to Office of the Governor.

4. Section IV. Exceptions

The following vehicles are exempted:

- a. ambulances
- b. police patrol cars
- c. school buses

The following officers are allowed to take home vehicles assigned to them:

- a. Commissioner of Public Safety
- b. Chief of Police
- c. Chief Fire Officer
- d. Director of TEMCO

It should be noted that this "privilege" is granted to these officers because of the need for them to respond immediately to EMERGENCIES that can mean life or death. These officers

shall be held responsible for the care and safety of the vehicles assigned to them. The vehicles shall be used strictly for official purposes.

5. Section V. Other Exemptions

Any director who wishes to exempt a vehicle or vehicles registered under his/her agency from this rule, may apply in writing to the governor and give justification for the exemption.

6. Section VI. One Night Use

There are times when an agency needs to use a vehicle or vehicles on an official assignment after hours for one night only. In such a situation, the director shall apply to the Manager of the Motor Pool for approval on a one time basis. Such approval shall be sought no later than four hours before the vehicle is needed.

7. Section VII. Office Hour Usage

Every government-owned vehicle (excepting those assigned to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Police, the Chief Fire Officer, and the Director of TEMCO) shall not be used exclusively by any one officer during working hours. Instead, it shall be made available for the use of the staff as a whole for official purposes only. Each agency shall institute a system of its own to regulate the use of its vehicles so to adequately meet its transportation needs.

8. Section VIII. Government-owned Vehicles are not for Personal Use

No government employee shall use government-owned vehicles for personal use at any time.

9. Section IX. Director's Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of every director to see that this order is executed properly within his/her own department/agency, and that every employee abides by it at all times.

10. Section X. License Plates

By the end of March, all government vehicles shall carry appropriate government license plates. The directors and the Motor Pool Manager shall see to it that this is done.

11. Section XI. Official Driver's License

Every operator of government owned vehicles shall be required to possess an official driver's license issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles. It shall be the responsibility of each director to name those from his/her staff to be issued with official driver's licenses.

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DISTRIBUTION:

As per standard list