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EXTRAORDINARY

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**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

L.D.B. 3/ 2016

**PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, No. 28 OF 1996**

RULES made by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities under Section 26 read with Sections 12 and 13 of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996.

Chairman,

For and on behalf of the National Council  
for Persons with Disabilities.

Colombo,  
30th May, 2017.

**Rules**

1. These rules may be cited as the White Cane Rules No. of .....2017.

2. It is desirable for a blind or visually impaired person to carry or use a white cane to indicate their identity and protection :

Provided however, nothing contained in this rule shall be construed as depriving a blind or visually impaired person, not carrying such a cane of the rights and privileges conferred by any written law.

3. A blind or visually impaired person using a white cane may carry a medical certificates as proof of his visual impairment.

4 (a) A long white cane with red at the bottom may be used by a blind or visually impaired person.

(b) The types of canes referred to in paragraph (a) may be :

- (i) rigid ; or
- (ii) collapsible,

which may help to navigate the area ahead of the user.



- (c) The type of white cane used may depend on the person's visual impairment, age, height and other specific needs.
- (d) Training for the use of the cane and travel skills may be provided by the certified orientation and mobility specialist.

5. Whenever a blind or visually impaired person carries in a raised or extended position a cane which is white in colour or white tipped with red, crosses or attempts to cross away, the driver of every vehicle approaching the place where such pedestrian is crossing or attempting to cross shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid injuring such pedestrian.

- 6. (a) The blind and the visually impaired person shall have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of streets, highways, sidewalks, public buildings, public facilities and other public places ;
- (b) The blind and the visually impaired persons are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of all common carriers, air planes, motor vehicles, railroads, trains, motor buses, street cars, boats or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusements or resorts and other places to which the general public is invited subject to any condition or limitation established by law and applicable to all persons.
- (c) The blind and visually impaired persons shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to all housing accommodations offered for rent or lease subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

7. For the purpose of these Rules

“Visual impairment” means reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses and it reduces a persons' ability to function at certain or all tasks, it includes

- (i) inability to see images clearly and distinctly ;
- (ii) loss of visual field ;
- (iii) inability to detect small changes in brightness ;
- (iv) colour blindness ;
- (v) sensitivity to light