RECOGNIZING RELEVANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD TRANSPORT SAFETY STANDARDIZATION SCHEME TOWARDS ROAD TRAFFIC CRASH

THE ANNUAL SAFETY MANAGERS` RETREAT

A presentation by:

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INTRODUCTION

The Road Transport system in Nigeria accounts for over 75% of mobility needs across the country with fleet operators contributing over 60% of this figure.

Less attention was given to its regulations until recently.

This neglect resulted in unpleasant consequences such as involvement in Road Traffic Crashes.
The business of acquiring fleet of buses by persons who have little or no knowledge about fleet management coupled with the poor conditions of our roads. Drivers who are not properly trained to operate these buses. Involvement of commuter buses in RTC over the years. It is against this backdrop and in line with international best practices that FRSC introduced RTSSS. The policy stipulates minimum safety requirements for fleet operators (Organizations, companies, Road Transport Owners) with at least five (5) vehicles in their fleet.
RTSSS was created by Law in NRTR 2014 section 115 made in pursuant to sections 5 and 10(10) of the FRSC (Establishment) Act 2007 and section 158 of the NRTR 2012 as amended which provides for:

- The establishment of safety units
- Appointment of competent safety managers by all fleet operators
- Bring professionalism into the industry
- Promote and develop Rapid, Safe Efficient and convenient fleet transportation system in the country
- Entrench a culture of safety consciousness in organizations and companies with fleet of vehicles
- Ensure safe and standardized fleet operations
- Check the excesses of transport operators
Implementation of RTSSS

For the effective implementation of the RTSSS, the scheme assigned specific roles as follows:

1. Establish fully functioned safety units headed by qualified, competent and experienced Safety Manager.
2. Provide standard terminus/registered office in locations that will not lead to traffic problems such as congestion.
3. Put in place a standard recruitment policy as well as drivers certification programme for its drivers.
4. Ensure non-engagement of drivers with more than one licence, suspended, removed, cancelled or disqualified from driving.
5. Have an established policy on training and retraining of drivers.
6. Operate a comprehensive vehicle maintenance policy.
7. Maintain records on drivers, vehicles and road traffic crashes and submit same to relevant agencies.
8. Provide recovery vehicles and well designed emergency evacuation plan.
9. Write on their vehicles contact phone numbers, preferably those of the Safety Managers for feedback from the public especially on the behavior of their drivers.
Implementation of RTSSS... Role of Fleet Operators

- Participate in fleet operators forum
- Entrench security plans, ensuring that all passengers and properties are safely handed over at the terminals and also along the route
- Ensure that their operations meet their client’s expectations and are within the standards required by the laws of the land
For the effective implementation of the RTSSS, the scheme assigned specific roles as follows:

- **Risks arising from driving are recognized as an integral part of the organization safety policy**
  - Ensure that the vehicles meet the minimum safety standard
  - They have the knowledge of the Nigerian Highway Code
  - They have knowledge of the National Road Traffic Regulation 2012
  - Must have knowledge of the basic crash investigation skills/techniques
  - Ensure enforcement of the maximum driving period, rest hours (8 hours rest within 24 hours per trip) and that no driver is engaged more than 24 hours

- **The Safety Managers on the other hand are expected to ensure that**
Implementation of RTSSS... Role of Safety Managers

Ensure periodic certification of drivers

- Assess and determine crash prone routes periodically and develop defensive driving techniques to ensure safety
- Maintain a log book for each driver

Ensure the use of passengers manifest for each trip

- Ensure that the appropriate road worthiness certificate is obtained
- Send safety report on quarterly basis to FRSC using the approved format
Implementation of RTSSS... Role of Safety Managers

- Observed and vet drivers temperament and criminal records(s) before employment, and
- Ensure regular training and re-training of drivers
Implementation of RTSSS

For the effective implementation of the RTSSS, the scheme assigned specific roles as follows:

- **Possession of valid driver’s licence**
- **Must pass driver certification programme**
- **Familiarization with the company’s safety policies**
Implementation of RTSSS.... Role of Drivers

- Familiarization and obedience to the traffic rules and regulations
- Understanding different driving conditions
- Periodic medical/Health examinations including eye test
Implementation of RTSSS: Role of Drivers

- Use of log book
- Knowledge of vehicle working system and pre-trip post-trip inspection
- Proper use of communication systems to aid emergency processes
GROUPING

**GROUP A** - Operators with at least 100 vehicles

**GROUP B** - Between 25 and 99 vehicles

**GROUP C** - Less than 25 vehicles.
CLASSIFICATION

**CLASS A** - Operators with at least 80% Score of the variable parameters

**CLASS B** - Operators with at least 60-79% Score of the variable parameters

**CLASS C** - Operators with at least 50-59% Score of the variable parameters

**CLASS CP/F** - Operators with less than 50% Score of the variable parameters
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RTC reduction: A joint responsibility

Fleet Operators perform useful services to humanity through the services they render either for profit maximization or for welfare purposes.

In order to ensure mutual benefit from the services, there is urgent need to take a critical look at the current status of operation.

Hence, for effective and efficient rendering of services by fleet operators and attainment of the RTSSS goal which ultimately is the reduction of RTC.
There must be collaborative efforts among all the stakeholders; the operators and enforcers.

There must be a periodic forum such as this where transport operators are educated on traffic rules and regulations among others pertinent motoring issues.

Strict compliance to the roles assigned to various stakeholders in this Scheme.

Full enforcement, blacklisting and prosecution of non-compliant operators.

Full implementation of the approved passengers manifest.
THANK YOU

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