DRIVER TRAINING/TESTING: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

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This paper aims to share the Nigerian Experience as it relates to driver training and testing
INTRODUCTION: THE GLOBAL TRAGEDY OF ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES

- Over 1.2 million people die from road traffic injuries annually worldwide.

- 24.1% of global road traffic deaths per 100,000 human population is in Africa.

- Road injuries are among the leading 10 causes of death in both lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries.

Source: Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015
INTRODUCTION (cont)

- Nigeria has a total road network of about 204,000km
- Out of the total road network, about 35,000km are inter-state roads also known as Federal Roads, 30,489.40km are State roads, while about 129,581.40km others are Local Government roads.
- The total population of Nigeria is about 182 million as at 2016 estimate
- Estimated vehicle population in Nigeria is 12.5 million
- Out of this number, commercial vehicles constitute 53.8%, private vehicles 44.5%, government vehicles 1.65% and Diplomatic vehicles about 0.1%
- Road Transportation accounts for over 90% of Human mobility and haulage needs in Nigeria
FRSC VISION, MISSION AND CORE MANDATE

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) was established in 1988 as Nigeria’s lead agency for road safety management and traffic administration.

The Corps’ critical mandate is “Road Crash Prevention and Making Roads Safe”.

The FRSC’s Vision is to eradicate road traffic crashes and create safe motoring environment in Nigeria.

The Mission of the Corps is to Regulate, Enforce and Coordinate all Road Traffic and Safety Management activities through:

- Sustained public enlightenment
- Promotion of stakeholder’s cooperation
- Robust data management
- Improved vehicle administration
- Prompt rescue services
- Effective patrol operation
FRSC STRUCTURE

The Command structure of FRSC is comprised of a National Headquarters and:

- 12 Zonal Commands
- 37 Sector Commands
- 199 Unit Commands
- 214 Driver’s License Centres
- 27 Road side clinics
- 17 Staff Clinics
- 43 Emergency Ambulances centres located along critical route corridors
- 37 Outpost Commands
- 3 Number plate production plants (Lagos, Gwagwalada and Awka)
- 3 Mini Number plate production plants
- 1 Signage production plant
- 1 National Driver’s license printing farm
- FRSC Academy and
- FRSC training School
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRSC SCHEMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Vehicle Identification Scheme (NVIS)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nvis.frsc.gov.ng">www.nvis.frsc.gov.ng</a></td>
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<td>Nigeria Driver’s Licence (NDL) website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nigeriadriverslicence.org">www.nigeriadriverslicence.org</a></td>
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<td>Information verification portal (IVP)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ivp.frsc.gov.ng">www.ivp.frsc.gov.ng</a></td>
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<td>Duty Room Information Management System (DRIMS)</td>
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<td>Annual Performance evaluation Reports System (eAper)</td>
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<td>Speed Limiter Portal</td>
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<td>FRSC Call Center</td>
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Road safety intrinsically revolves around three (3) major factors; the road, the vehicle and the driver.

The Global Strategic plan to reduce worldwide deaths from Traffic Injuries recognizes the Driver as a key element in its approach.

Hence Driver education and programmes are accorded highest priority – in Nigeria – and are anchored by the Federal Road Safety Corps.
FRSC AND DRIVER EDUCATION:

- Prior to the interventions of the FRSC, Nigeria had a largely unregulated driving culture which was identified as the major cause for the epidemic of RTCs in the country.

- Some of the issues identified by the Corps included:
  - Under-age driving
  - Lack of data and driving history for Nigerian drivers
  - Incompetent and unqualified drivers
  - Disregard for Traffic rules and Laws
  - Virtually no regulations for driving school
The Driving School Standardization Programme (DSSP) is an intervention strategy of the Federal Road Safety Corps, towards the actualization of its statutory function to educate all road users on the proper use of highways.

In line with this mandate, DSSP was established and launched in May 2010, to standardize and create uniformity in driver education and training provided by driving schools for drivers, who have a significant role to play in ensuring safety on the road.

http://dssp.frsc.gov.ng/
THE DRIVING SCHOOL STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMME (DSSP)

- The programme runs a user friendly portal that allows driving schools to update data in real time.
- The progress of the trainees enrolled in various driving schools are updated daily.
- The curriculum and certification is uniform across the board.
- Minimum technical requirements are set by the Corps and regular inspections of facilities are carried out by the state committee on DSSP.
- The DSSP portal interfaces with the Drivers’ Licence application portal such that only a graduated trainee from the DSSP portal can initiate an application for a new drivers’ licence.
PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OF A Driving School in Nigeria

1. Completion and submission of registration form
2. Inspection and assessment of proposed driving school by relevant Agency
3. Approval and certification if minimum standard is met
REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A DRIVING SCHOOL IN NIGERIA

1. Classroom and Administrative offices

2. Roadworthy vehicles for driving instruction (Including Dual Control vehicles)
3. Licensed Driving Instructor(s)

4. A licensed Demonstrator
REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A DRIVING SCHOOL IN NIGERIA (cont.)

Course Manual

Highway Code

Traffic Laws/ Regulations
REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A DRIVING SCHOOL IN NIGERIA (cont.)

8 First Aid Facilities

9 Fire Extinguishers
REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A DRIVING SCHOOL IN NIGERIA (cont.)

10 Open Space / Driving range

11 Road Sign Models
OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING A DRIVING SCHOOL IN NIGERIA INCLUDE

- Visual and Audio visual Instructional Aids
- Simulator(s)
- Vision acuity Test Facility
- Library
- Inspection Pits/ Workshop
SUCCESSES OF THE DSSP SCHEME

- Over the years, registration and accreditation of new driving schools has soared.
- As at February 2018, 1450 driving schools have been registered and 925 schools have been accredited and certified.
- Enrolled trainees as at February 2018 remains at an all time high of 983,949.
- So far, 727,830 trainees have graduated from the scheme and are now licensed drivers.
- Graduate trainee certificates can be verified on the DSSP website.
SUCCESES OF THE DSSP SCHEME: Over The Years, Road Traffic Crashes In Nigeria Has Trended Down

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>9694</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>9383</td>
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CHALLENGES OF THE DSSP

- Some Driving School Operators assess the business more from its economic profits than for its road safety benefits.

- Consequently, they get involved in sharp practices and short-cuts and some even get involved in producing fake drivers licences.

- Some Driving schools operate rickety vehicles and non-conducive learning facilities.
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- The Corps adopted the strategy of consistent and continuous supervision of the driving school processes. Trainee feedback was also used to refine the processes.

- Defaulting driving schools were penalized and their operating licences withdrawn. So far, 26 driving schools have had their operating certificates withdrawn.

- The establishment of States Committee on Driving Schools Standardization Programme ensures effective regulation of the driving schools nationwide.

- The Corps conducts monthly trainings for the driving school instructors.

- The Corps engages in continuous public awareness to educate the prospective drivers on the proper procedures for obtaining the Nigerian drivers’ licence.
LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE DSSP

Driving on our roads require the engagement of well trained and sound persons who can understand and rightly interpret different traffic situations and respond appropriately.

Driving Schools have emerged – not only as the foundation for securing the life of road users in the country – but are also mega lucrative businesses for those who may invest in it.

The Corps is better able to maintain its full regulatory role through the establishment of States Committee on Driving Schools Standardization Programme.

The firm stance of the Corps in ensuring that standards are not compromised is slowly yielding a crop of highly trained defensive drivers on the roads with consequent effect on crash reduction.

The strict interface between the DSSP portal and the Drivers’ licence application portal prevents the proliferation of fake drivers’ licences and hence, improves the validity of the drivers’ database in Nigeria.
THE WAY FORWARD

- In sub-Saharan Africa, human population and the attendant transportation needs will continue to soar

- Among the three (3) major causative factors of RTCs, human error accounts for 90% of the causes of road crashes

- The importance of Drivers’ education cannot be over-emphasized

- Effective Driving Schools are the foundation for sound driver training and road use

- To achieve effectiveness in driver education through driving schools, it is imperative to establish a strong regulatory framework and impeccable standards

- Consistency is key

- Ultimately, the goal is to eradicate road traffic crashes and make the highways safer
The FRSC remains committed to her mandate to create a safer motoring environment in Nigeria by enforcing the traffic laws of the land, continuously improving her mode of operations and domesticating world best practices in the country.

Driver education remains at the forefront of the Corps’ strategy in sanitizing the Nigerian highway and actualizing the Country’s vision of eradicating road traffic crashes in Nigeria.
Safety starts with you
THANK YOU

Phone Only

Call toll free on: 122
0700 - CALL - FRSC
0700 - 2255 - 3772

www.frsc.gov.ng

SMS Only

080 7769 0362
REFERENCES


- http://dssp.frsc.gov.ng/