



NEED FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO CHECK THE FLAGRANT ABUSE OF THE LAW ON THE USE OF SIREN

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by:

Boboye oyeyemi, Ph.D

MFR, mni, NPoM, FNIM, FCIPM, FCILT

Corps Marshal,

Federal Road Safety Corps

The FRSC's critical mandate is **Road Crash Prevention** and **Making the Roads Safe for all.**

To eradicate road traffic crashes and create safe motoring environment in Nigeria



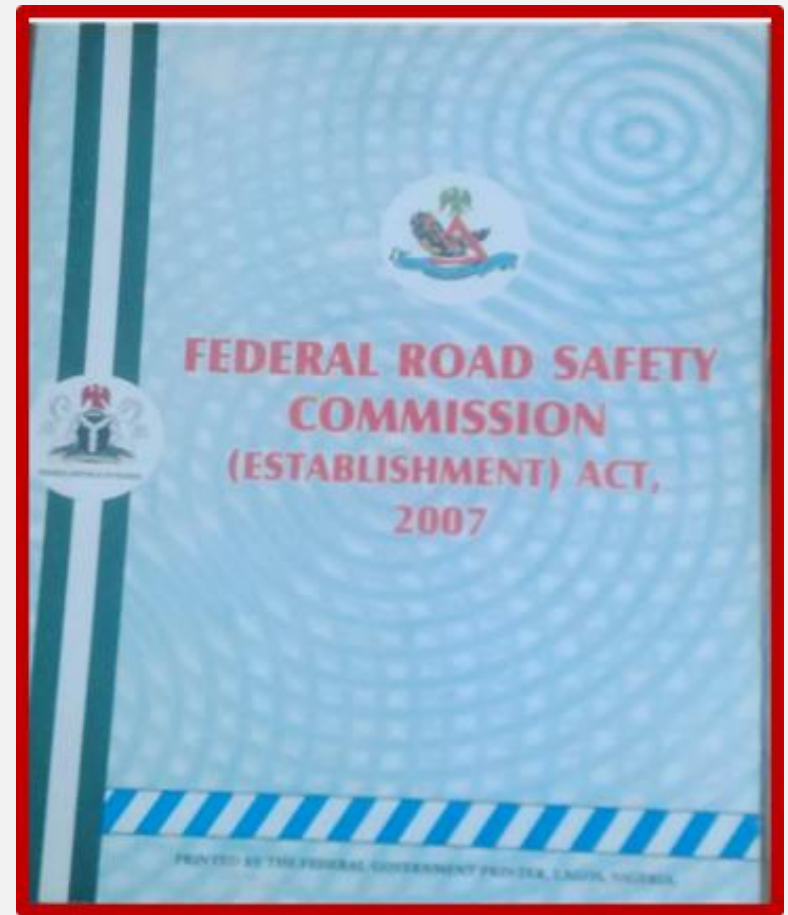
To Regulate, Enforce and Coordinate all Road Traffic and Safety Management activities through:

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

The FRSC (Establishment) Act, 2007 is the Legal instrument of operation of the Corps and clearly provides for addressing traffic issues including the use of Sirens in Nigeria

Section 10, Subsection 3(p) affirms:

The Corps responsibility among others, on regulating the use of sirens, flashers or beacon lights on vehicles other than Ambulance and vehicles belonging to the Armed Forces, Nigeria Police, Fire Service and other Para-Military Agencies;



Siren Use and Traffic Law violations

The rampant abuse of sirens and flagrant violation of traffic rules by convoys of some highly placed government officials and other VIPs contribute to the impediment to FRSC efforts to sanitize road use in Nigeria.



Siren Use and Traffic Law violations...ii

Unruly siren-blaring convoys often accompanied by heavily armed security personnel are known to flagrantly violate road traffic regulations, harass and intimidate other road users.

The unwholesome attitude of some of these VIP convoys, especially in traffic gridlocks usually compound already hectic traffic situations and make the job of FRSC operatives more tasking.

Furthermore, it is observed that some VIPs illegally cover their number plates, thereby making their identification for appropriate legal sanction difficult



Another worrisome dimension to this ugly trend is that some private citizens without appropriate authority, also drive in long siren-blaring convoys.

Attempts to enforce the conformity to highway order or curtail the excesses of such violators often result in violent confrontations, life threatening injuries and damage to equipment.

Reporting Siren Use and Traffic Law violations

Statistical evidence at FRSC disposal indicates that instances of this lawlessness are intensified during the festive seasons. The attitude of these VIP convoys and the rampant misuse of sirens on Nigerian highways was also noted at the 24 October, 2017 meeting of the Joint Intelligence Board (JIB).

Considering the grievous challenges associated with the growing trend in the abuse of sirens and downright violation of traffic rules by VIPs and other lawless citizens, especially during the festive season, there is need for an emphatic Presidential intervention to check the menace.

In furtherance of the efforts at curbing the menace of misuse and abuse of siren in the country, the Corps has made some conscious efforts as shown below:

- Enforcement



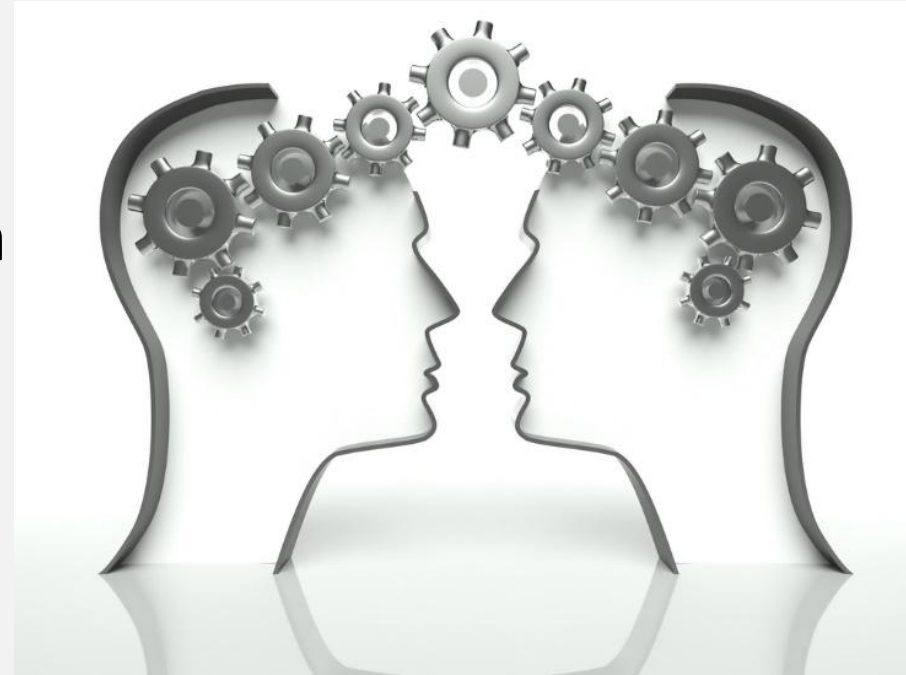
- Stakeholders' engagement



- **Documentation of Siren Users**

In the year 2012, the Corps documented information on all categories of vehicles using siren in the Country to facilitate continuous engagement.

The total number recorded was 2,996 although not exhaustive.



On the 12 July, 2017, the Corps organized a stakeholders' sensitization forum on the responsible use of siren on Nigerian roads.

The workshop attracted the participation of various stakeholders and agencies including members of the National Assembly.

Legal Framework

The FRSC (Establishment) Act 2007 in Section 10 (3) (p), mandated the Corps to “regulate the use of siren, flashers and beacon lights on vehicles other than Ambulances and vehicles belonging to the Armed Forces, Nigerian Police, Fire Service and other para-military agencies”.

Pursuant to this and in line with Section 5 of the same Act, Regulation 154 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2012 provides that the following categories of public officers are entitled to the use of siren;

Legal Framework

- The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- The Vice President
- The President of the Senate
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The Chief Justice of Nigeria
- The Deputy President of the Senate
- The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The Governors of the States
- The Deputy Governors of the States

Furthermore

- In the case of emergencies, the military, the Police, Paramilitary agencies, Fire Service and Ambulances are allowed to drive on public roads using sirens

The following are some of the challenges caused by the flagrant abuse of the use of siren in the country.

- a. Disruption of free flow of traffic
- b. Disregard for road traffic rules and regulations
- c. Noise Pollution
- d. Assault on personnel and damage to equipment

- e. Devastating effect on the economy due to the loss of man hour at gridlocks
- f. Grave impact on the image of the country to prospective investors as Nigeria is portrayed as a lawless country
- g. The affected communities suffer great pains in terms of disruption to their businesses as well as exposure to attacks by hoodlums during long hours of gridlock.

The under listed are some of the security implications of this unruly conduct of this class of road users:

- a. Criminals take undue advantage to unleash terror on the society.
- b. The gridlock caused by such abuses make the commuters vulnerable to violent attacks by hoodlums.
- c. The abuse has negatively impacted appropriate security assessment as it is difficult to distinguish who are the real security agents on emergency duty from impostors.
- d. Illegal covering of number plates constitutes a major security risk

a. Government to give necessary support to enable the Corps effectively carry out this important aspect of its mandate

b. Government to direct all those not entitled to use of siren to remove them with immediate effect or face severe sanctions

Government to direct all security agencies to comply with Road Traffic Laws and Regulations and to collaborate with the Federal Road Safety Corps to maintain sanity on Nigerian roads

Government to make pronouncement that no vehicle number plate should be convered while being driven

Most grateful for the opportunity to address this
highly revered Council



Safety starts with
you

THANK YOU

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0700 - CALL - FRSC
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080 7769 0362

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