ROAD SAFETY IN NIGERIA
Challenges and Prospects

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Road safety refers to the methods and measures used to prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured from road traffic collisions or crashes.

It is a deliberate action that encircles:

- Life
- Road Safety
- Policy
- Vehicles
- Infrastructures
Lack of measures to curb traffic mishaps has become a global health burden and causing the death of 1.4 million people annually including injuries to over 50 million.
Road Safety is a *Challenge*

Road traffic safety has emerged to be a major challenge to contend with.

Traffic Injuries were not among the leading causes of human death

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs310/en/

Road Traffic Injuries would be 3rd causes of human deaths if no action is taken to mitigate the trend
A well defined framework has been developed and accepted worldwide for the implementation of Road Safety plans or goals.

- **a. ROAD SAFETY MANAGEMENT**
- **b. SAFE ROADS & MOBILITY**
- **c. SAFE ROAD USERS**
- **d. SAFE VEHICLES**
- **e. POST-CRASH CARE**
The global road safety picture is a challenge in Nigeria too.

350,961 people killed on Nigerian roads from 1960 to 2016

1,208,890 people injured from 1960 to 2016

Every road became a potential death trap until government’s response and intervention.
Achieving Road traffic safety in Nigeria required a well focused government intervention which has been manifested in a number of ways over the years.
It is worthy to note that **Oyo State** is a landmark in road safety history in Nigeria.
Impact of the Interventions

A paradigm shift in the frequency of crashes and fatalities have been achieved as a result of government’s efforts.

However, certain road safety challenges persist that have not delivered the desired road safety outcome in Nigeria.
The challenges militating against the thriving of Road Safety in Nigeria varies from political to legislative differences as well as human and cultural acceptability.
Certain cultures in some parts of the country do not align with basic road safety rules as it is perceived to conflict with their cultural practice.

As a result, enforcement of road safety laws in these areas come with resistance even when the consequences are obvious. For example, the use of crash helmet as some people have mystical and health beliefs.
MYTHS AND BELIEFS

Certain beliefs of some Sects are in contradiction to Road Safety laws.

Pre-destination beliefs which apparently cannot be substantiated when weighed side-by-side with Road Safety considerations pervade in some parts of the country. For example, the belief that “what will be, will be”.

The non-alignment of some States Traffic Laws is an issue, but more worrisome is the ineffective implementation of the traffic laws at the States and Local Government Areas. The resultant effect is that, the Federal Government Agencies like the FRSC becomes over-stretched and that is why States are encouraged to establish States Traffic Agencies to supplement FRSC’s efforts.
The State of roads and road infrastructures is another major challenge to road safety.

While road traffic enforcement is coordinated by FRSC, administration and management of road infrastructure is handled by Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing. This brings about a *lacuna*. 
Myriads of vehicles which are not road-worthy ply our roads today. This contribute proportionally to fatalities and crashes in Nigeria.

The ineffectiveness of inspection system is responsible for this lapse.
One of the major challenges facing Road Safety in Nigeria today is lack of proper mindset of those who engage in public transportation business.

*The rush to make more money at the perils of others is a concern this manifests in overloading and over-speeding*
IMPATIENCE AND SUBVERSION OF DUE PROCESS

The level of impatience in accessing road safety products and services like the National Drivers License and Number Plate coupled with diversion of processes by some officials is a major concern.

The overall effect is lack of comprehensive records, data and database for planning and policy purposes.
USE OF HIGHWAYS AS A MARKET PLACE

The use of some portion of major roads (highways) for trading has brought about reduction in the width of the road and safety and security concerns.
Sick people who are supposed to be in a conducive environment are usually found on our major highways soliciting for alms.

Abuse of road infrastructures such pedestrian bridges are common.
Despite the challenges to road safety in Nigeria enumerated above, there are prospects to road safety based on current efforts and strategies being implemented.
Road Safety in Nigeria has a brighter future with the implementation of a mechanism that is all-involving.

Federal, States, MDAs, Stakeholders and the PRESS now see road safety as a collective task.
With a well articulated Driving School Standardization Programme (DSSP), the country is assured of safety-conscious trained drivers in the future.
The implementation and infusion of road safety education in the primary and secondary school curriculum in Nigeria will ensure that the road use culture of future generations of Nigerians is well sharpened.
Public mass road transportation accounts for nearly 80% of transportation needs of the country.

Efforts and measures have been put in place on the Road Transport Safety Standardization Scheme (RTSSS) to regulate activities of market players.
With the focus of the Country on being the 20th Safest Road in the world by year 2020 and other implementation of global targets like the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is projected to rise astronomically in coming years.

The loss to GDP which is put at 3% will be eliminated and such losses re-invested into the economy for profitable development.
The dividends of policies and strategies on road traffic safety shows a positive trending.

It is evident that if efforts are being sustained with support from all Stakeholders including the NUJ, ZERO-traffic fatality will be achieved in no distant time in Nigeria.
Road Safety in Nigeria is no different from Road Safety elsewhere in the world. The major challenge is the mindset and will to effect measures that will enhance every road user’s safety.

Until Road Safety is seen as a personal commitment and shared responsibility, efforts and interventions of government alone cannot solve the problem.

Road Safety is YOU and I.

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