

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CORPS MARSHAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS OSITA CHIDOKA ON THE HALF YEAR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES "THE FRSC FACT SHEET" HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2010.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS JAN- JUNE 2009/JAN- JUNE 2010

CRASH DATA

- No of road crashes declined by 51.27% ↓
- No of deaths declined by 42.75% ↓
- No of people injured decreased by 39.17% ↓
- Abuja Ambulance Emergency Rescue Service Scheme rescued 1,554 casualties

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

- No of Offenders arrested increased by 33.85% ↑
- No of Offences booked increased by 39.6% ↑
- Helmet enforcement increased by 61% ↑
- Overloading enforcement increased by 73% ↑
- Fines generated increased by 30% ↑

ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

- Unit Commands increased from 162 to 164
- 208 Driving Schools Certified Nationwide
- Over 1.4 million offenders captured in database
- Staff Optimization completed with 3,889 Officers and 9,058 Marshals redeployed
- World Bank Safe Corridor Project progressing well; recently concluded is the Country Capacity Review of Nigeria's Road Safety.

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS

Introduction

Let me state from the onset that after a critical assessment of our entire operational activities this year as compared with this time last year, I am happy to announce that our efforts so far are evidently paying off, and the tempo of the campaign would therefore be sustained for the rest of the year and beyond.

Crash Helmet Enforcement:

2. After about six months of public campaign using all the medium of communication, including motor park rallies, we gave a notice of compulsory enforcement of the law effective January 1st 2009. While some of the riders took the ultimatum serious and worked hard to comply with it, others treated it like any other government ultimatum. We observed however, that while riders in states like Lagos, Akwa Ibom and some states in the South East were enthusiastic about wearing it, others mostly from the Northern part of the country are hiding under religious, health and cultural reasons to avoid its usage.

3. Consequently, we have intensified our operations on the enforcement of the law with increased arrests in all the six geopolitical zones of the country. For instance, while between January and June last year, we arrested a total of 38,921 offenders in the country, we have through concerted efforts increased this to 63,048 offenders arrested made between January and June this year, representing a 61% increase. I wish to state categorically here, that we will not relax this law, and its enforcement will be sustained until all riders and users started complying fully with it.

Overloading Enforcement

4. Through our Free Safety Checks exercise we introduced in August 2007, it became evident that overloading of vehicles with passengers and goods was a major cause of road crash and increasing rate of fatality in the country. Based on this, we launched a special operation tagged "Total War on Overloading" (TOWOL) which has led to increased number of arrest of those who violated the offence. For instance, between January and June last year, we arrested a total of 3,389 offenders for contravening the law on overloading, whereas we have within the same period this year, that is January and June arrested 9,278 offenders, representing an increase of 73%. The campaign will become more vigorous as we enter the second half of the year.

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS

Road Traffic Crash Cases in the Country

5. Conscious of the need to achieve the Accra declaration, FRSC re-strategized its operation by injecting additional operational logistics: patrol cars, ambulances, motorbikes, establishment of additional unit commands, road side clinics in identified crash - prone areas.. We have also improved data collection for evidence based programmes.

6. Our efforts are yielding positive results as evidenced in the report of crash recorded at the first half of last year when compared to this year. While the nation between January and June last year recorded 5,560 cases of road traffic crash in which 3,183 people were killed and 14,349 others sustained various degrees of injury, this year, it reduced to 2,709 cases with 1,822 lives lost and 8,728 people sustained various injuries. This represents 51.27% reduction in road crash; 42.75%, reduction in death, while injury declined by 39.17%.

Key Crash prone Highways for Monitoring

7. One area we continue to experience challenges, which we have started tackling, is the continuing cases of road crash involving trucks and trailers and mini buses with high fatality rate along the under listed corridors.

- Katsina - Kano road;
- Jos - Bauchi - Gombe;
- Ibadan - Ikire - Gbongon - Ife - Ilesha - Akure;
- Victoria Island - Lekki - Epe - Aja;
- Giri - Gwagwalada - Yangoji - Kotonkarfi - Lokoja - Okene;
- Zairagi - Kabba - Omuo - Ilupeju -Oye - Ifaki.

Enforcement Activities

8. From records of arrest made between January and June last year as compared to the same period this year, it is evident that more offenders are being arrested on the roads for various traffic contraventions. This could be attributed to increased operational activities and wider spread of our commands resulting from establishment of more units, increased number of patrol vehicles and effective communication through the use of closed user group (CUG) we introduced. For example, while 219,099 offenders were apprehended with 229,211 offences between January and June last year, we have between

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS

January and June this year apprehended a total of 293,268 offenders with 320,015 offences representing an increase of 39.6% and 33.85% respectively.

Profile of Fines Generated

9. With improved enforcement, efficient fines collection method and no waiver policy we introduced, there has been tremendous increase in fines generated. For instance, while the Corps generated N1.1billion in 2009, we have within the months of January and June this year already generated the sum of N795, 399,714.95 million as against the sum of N565, 236,233.80 million generated within the same period last year. This represents an increase of 30%.

Emergency Ambulance Scheme- Abuja Pilot Scheme

10. We became concerned with the rising cases of road crash within Abuja urban centre and lack of ambulance services for prompt rescue. This necessitated the establishment of Ambulance Service Scheme in August last year with Abuja as the Pilot centre. The scheme was extended to Keffi in Nasarawa State last month. Within the months of January and June this year, 289 cases of road traffic crash in which 53 people lost their lives and 586 people sustained various degree of injury had occurred in FCT. But our men have rescued 1,554 people who were given prompt medical attention and safely rescued. If the Ambulance scheme were in place in the first half of last year it might have rescued the 1,041 road traffic casualties which left 176 deaths and 865 injured persons within the FCT.

Public Enlightenment

11. We have intensified public enlightenment of the motoring public and always insist on compulsory enlightenment of arrested drivers before releasing their vehicles, with average of five thousand people involved weekly. We have captured 1,408,787 million traffic offenders on our data base. FRSC website has continued to attract high number of visitors, while 4050 people presently follow our activities on facebook.

Going Forward

12. In going forward, FRSC in the remaining part of the year would:

- Intensify patrol activities
- Improve public awareness

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS

- Utilise the World Bank offer to improve capacity
- Continue ongoing dialogue with owners and drivers of tankers/trailers and other transporters with the view to implementing the newly released tanker drivers' guidelines.

Conclusion

13. Gentlemen of the press, FRSC remain committed to the vision of making our roads one of the safest in the world. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders especially, the press for remaining consistent in their support to road safety campaign in the country.

14. Thank you for your attention.