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GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION *AT THE* NATIONAL
WORKSHOP FOR DRIVING SCHOOL OPERATORS IN NIGERIA
HELD AT SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, ABUJA on TUESDAY,
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PROTOCOL

It gives me great pleasure to address the 2018 National Workshop for Driving School Operators in Nigeria, today. This event could not have taken place at a better time than now that government is concerned about driver education, training and certification in Nigeria.

2. As you may be aware, obtaining a driving school operation and instructors' certificate is one thing but the ability to drive responsibly on our roads is paramount. Many driving school operators and instructors have failed to realize that they are actually practicing a school setting kind of programme with clear-cut laid down rules and expectations which form the basis of their assessment and continuous existence. To be a good driving school operator and instructor, you must be appropriately elevated to be in charge of your profession.

3. A good professional in this field must possess the following attributes:
 - i. Be receptive to continuous learning through imbibing new skills and knowledge that translate to becoming a better driver's trainer;
 - ii. Have good initiatives and be resourceful in all acts of driving techniques;
 - iii. Discover likely problems before they come to bear and as well prepare for preventive measures where necessary;
 - iv. Create in Trainees, the necessary guides that can instill act of responsibility for every action and choice made while driving;
 - v. Be adaptable, versatile and skillful in all that pertain to driving to make driving a fun and enjoyable learning experience for the trainees; and
 - vi. Be conscious about the importance of time management and always be ready to assist trainees whenever the need arises.

4. Therefore, this all-important National Workshop on Driving School Standardization Programme (DSSP) has been well designed and packaged by the Federal Roads Safety Corps (FRSC) to deliver the expected guidelines and instructions in Driver education, training and certification.

5. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, this government is interested in the activities of FRSC, particularly given its mandate to tackle one of the globally acclaimed epidemics of road traffic crashes, the consequences of which stunt nation's economic growth through loss of lives. Government also recognizes its giant strides in the last three decades and the various contemporary schemes that are being introduced to deliver on its mandates. Let me assure you that the Corps has unwavering support of government to do all within its constitutional powers to halt all tendencies impeding achievement of the national goals assigned to them. Government is watching closely the execution of the DSSP and would appreciate its expansion to ensure that only those who are qualified to drive on Nigerian roads do so.

6. As part of government's commitment to ensure that Nigerians enjoy the dividends of democracy, efforts are being placed on the transport sector through the development of the nation's road network and infrastructure. To reduce the burden on the road system as well as hasten economic transformation and integrated development of Nigeria, government has embarked on a number of rail transportation projects across the country. Feasibility studies have also been carried out on a number of new standard gauge rail routes.

7. Let me emphasize here that those who make use of the roads must continually be properly trained and certified in order not to lose focus and be

guilty of gross negligence in crucial areas of national development. However, I must enjoin all Nigerians to ensure that all infrastructural facilities that government is putting in place for the nation's economic transformation are not vandalized. It is the duty of every citizen to protect government property because they belong to all of us, collectively. The Corps is advised to continue to carry along the Nigerian publics towards its improvement in service delivery.

8. With rich and diverse experiences of various Speakers at this Workshop, I have no doubt in my mind that this Forum will provide opportunities for positive interaction and exchange of ideas which would impact better framework and strategies in driver education, training and certification in Nigeria. Whatever experiences are garnered here today should not only be sustained but improved upon by the individuals and schools.

9. Let me also use this opportunity to sound a note of warning that government is aware of the conduct of some driving school operators who are deliberately sabotaging the DSSP through breaches on its portal for access for clients who did not pass through the processes for driver's licensing. Accordingly, FRSC has been mandated to take full actions necessary against those already identified as saboteurs of the system.

10. The Corps has also been mandated by Government to modify its commercial regulatory scheme, the Road Transport Safety Standardization Scheme (RTSSS) to include all commercial vehicles and extend compulsory

installation of the Speed Limiting Device to all vehicles in Nigeria in line with the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2016. It is expected that when the amendment to the FRSC Act, currently before the National Assembly is completed, the Corps would have been better placed to continue to render quality service to Nigerians.

11. However, I wish to reassure you all that government appreciates diligent and law abiding operators and will continue to support all programmes aimed at making Nigeria roads safe for us all. I therefore urge you to form groups to acquire driving ranges that can sustain the system. I also call on State governments to establish driving schools. This will greatly assist to give further direction to driving school operators in each state. As a team, we must all resolve to work harmoniously in our determination to eradicating perennial menace of road traffic crash deaths, injuries and other losses occasioned by poor driver training currently being provided by some driving schools and the penchant for cutting corners in acquisition of driver's licence.

12. On this note, I enjoin you all to ask questions as may be necessary concerning the papers to be presented as well as contribute positively during the technical sessions by sharing ideas and experiences with a view to improving and consolidating current success of DSSP in road safety management in the country. I hereby declare the 2018 National Workshop for driving school operators in Nigeria open.

13. I thank you for listening and I wish you fruitful deliberations.