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1,800 die in auto crashes in 6 months

Monday, 16 August 2010 03:42

Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin



The Corps Marshal who made this disclosure at the opening ceremony of a two-day workshop for senior officers of Zone RS8 of the FRSC comprising Kogi, Kwara and Ekiti in Ilorin added that no fewer than 8,700 other people were maimed in accidents within the same period.

He noted that before 2007, 4,519 persons died in 2005 while 15,779 sustained various degrees of injuries. He said the organization had succeeded in reducing the rate of crashes by over 39.17 per cent, as against the death of about 10,000 persons and maiming of over 33,000 others between 2005 and 2006.

Chidoka who said the commission had received N57billion from the Federal Government between 2000 and 2010 solicited for improved funding of the organisation.

"From 2000-2009, Nigeria's national budget was \$15.2trn out of which N57 .4bn, representing 0.38 per cent, was appropriated to the FRSC. We need to spend more on **road** safety. **Nigeria** has the largest **road** network in West Africa and the second largest south of

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the Sahara. But our roads are poorly maintained and often cause traffic crashes", he said.

He reiterated the commitment of the commission to its assignment of keeping the **road** safe, adding that the commission had bought 202 new patrol vehicles, six new heavy duty trucks, 26 ambulances, 246 motorbikes and refurbished 200 vehicles to facilitate smoothness operations.

Speaking earlier, the Zonal Commander, RS8 Austin Aipoh said the training programme would give senior officers the opportunity to keep abreast with emerging trends in **road** safety issues.

The Corps Marshal and Chief Executive Officer of Federal **Road** Safety Commission (FRSC) Mr. Osita Chidoka has said the country in the past six months lost **1,800** persons to auto crashes.

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