

Mobile phone and driving

THE rate at which men and women, young and old use mobile phones while driving is alarmingly high and this portends great danger on the roads.

The use of mobile phones while driving is a high level of distraction which takes the driver's attention away from the path of travel for more than one second. Professionally speaking, whatever takes the attention of a driver away from the path of travel for more than one second can cause a crash and fatalities.

Hence the global campaign against the use of mobile phone while driving.

I always remember the accident caused few years ago by a woman using mobile phone while driving along Lagos Road in Ikorodu area of Lagos State. While using the mobile phone, the woman suddenly lost control of her car and crossed the low road median to the other side unconscious of an on-coming fully loaded 911 (Molue bus) on the other side of the road. In a bid to avoid crushing the woman's car, the molue bus driver

ended up in the swamp and about 30 people died with several injured. It was the woman herself that was crying and asking God to forgive her for causing that accident through the use of her mobile phone.

Despite all the reported cases of the road traffic crashes and fatalities caused by the use of mobile phones and the previous public enlightenment programmes, the use of mobile phone while driving is still on the increase in Nigeria.

The use of mobile phones while driving has a lot of devastating and

costly consequences which include the following:

- It takes the attention of the driver away from the path of travel.
- It takes the mind of the driver away from driving.
- It distorts the eye - mind connection in driving and fuels neglect of traffic signs and road markings.
- It reduces the coordination of the organs of the body involved in driving. That is, it promotes uncoordinated driving.

•To be continued



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