



NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

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TUESDAY, MAY 8 IS WEST AFRICA ROAD SAFETY ORGANIZATION DAY.

The West African sub-region will observe Tuesday May 8, as the West Africa Road Safety Organisation (WARSO) day and to commemorate a decade of its existence. The theme for this year's commemoration is, "*WARSO in the Last Ten Years: the Journey So Far*"

The West African Road Safety Organization was established on May 8, 2008 under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Its mandate is to promote safe road transport in the sub-region through knowledge and experience sharing among member countries. It has since observed May 8 each year as the WARSO day to help raise and increase awareness of road safety issues in the sub-region.

This year member states will seize the opportunity to reflect on the theme and discuss key challenges affecting safe road transport systems in the sub-region.

Ing. (Mrs.) May Obiri-Yeboah, Executive Director of the National Road Safety Commission says, *'It has been ten good years of knowledge transfer and partnerships that have benefitted our region. During the period we have worked together to promote the use of retro-reflective tapes for some classes of vehicles to improve vehicle conspicuity and also reflect on the consequences for using motorcycles for commercial purposes in the sub-region. With the benefit of these learnings, we are poised to confront the 'Okada' issue as they have become a major road safety concern.*

In Ghana, Motorcycle related casualties have gone up by 400% over the last decade primarily for reasons of speeds, failure to observe traffic signals, failure to wear crash helmet and protective clothing and the unlawful use of same for commercial purposes otherwise known as the 'Okada'

The Commission remains committed to leading the process to review the law on 'okada' while we call for a renewed sense of discipline among motor riders and users and increased enforcement efforts by the Police for the larger public good.

Thank you.


Kwame Koduah Atuahene
Head of Communications, NRSC