

PROPOSAL FOR A UNIFIED **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY** THROUGH THE STRATEGIC CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Executive Summary - A Decisive Reform for National Security

Nigeria's current internal security framework is fundamentally hampered by operational fragmentation, institutional rivalry, and redundant resource allocation across many agencies under different ministries. This systemic disunity creates dangerous gaps that are exploited by terrorists, bandits, and organised criminal networks, while diluting the impact of substantial security investments. To address this, the Transformative Governance Forum (TGF) respectfully submits this memorandum to propose a disruptive restructuring of Nigeria's internal security architecture. We recommend the consolidation of the **Nigerian Police Force (NPF)**, **Department of State Services (DSS)**, **Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)**, **Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS)**, **National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)** and **National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)** under a new, unified **Ministry of Internal Security and Public Safety (MISPS)**. This is not merely a bureaucratic consolidation, but a strategic imperative to build an integrated, intelligence-led, and accountable security architecture that Nigeria requires. The proposal directly aligns with your administration's stated vision for a "modern, technology-driven national security system" and enhanced inter-agency cooperation and collaboration.

This transformative restructuring will directly address current critical vulnerabilities from fragmented command, eliminate wasteful redundancies, and create a streamlined, accountable, and intelligence-led structure to combat terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and organised crime. The core advantages of this consolidation are compelling: optimised asset deployment, a unified command and accountability, integrated intelligence and operations, enhanced fiscal efficiency and optimal resource allocation, etc. This reform, therefore, is a strategic imperative for achieving the security foundation necessary for national prosperity. We have developed an accelerated 6-month implementation roadmap (January–June 2026) to translate this vision into reality. This fast-tracked plan prioritises swift executive and legislative action to establish the MISPS's legal framework, ensuring this critical reform is achieved within the current administrative cycle. We urge your endorsement to initiate this foundational reform. Unifying these pillars of internal security will forge a more capable, efficient, and responsive institution, thereby establishing the durable peace and stability essential for the prosperity of all Nigerians. This policy recommendation is submitted for your decisive consideration.

Policy Option:

1. Include the **Federal Fire Service** and the **Federal Road Safety Corps** in the proposed Ministry

1. Introduction

Currently, our internal security landscape is fragmented across multiple agencies operating with overlapping mandates, competing for resources, and often working in silos. This dispersion has further resulted in resource duplication, intelligence gaps, operational inefficiencies, inter-agency rivalries, weak coordination and a diffused accountability structure, ultimately undermining public safety and national stability.

To decisively address these systemic challenges, the Transformative Governance Forum hereby recommends a transformative consolidation: the establishment of a new **Ministry of Internal Security and Public Safety (MISPS)**.

The new ministry would bring the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) under a single, unified command and policy umbrella.

This consolidation is a strategic imperative to address the critical failures of coordination, endemic inter-agency rivalry, and the resulting insecurity that currently plagues the nation. It will deliver a more coherent, cost-effective, and agile response to the nation's security challenges, aligning with the Oronsaye Report's rationalisation objectives and the urgent call for deeper inter-agency collaboration.

2. The Compelling Rationale: The Case for Consolidation

Nigeria's internal security apparatus is hampered by systemic fragmentation, which this unification is designed to solve. The current dispersion of security agencies across multiple ministries and independent mandates has created a system that is fundamentally segmented and dysfunctional. The evidence of this is overwhelming:

- a) **Unhealthy Inter-Agency Rivalry and Clashes:** Public, and often violent, conflicts between agencies have become routine, eroding public trust and diverting resources from core security mandates. Notable incidents include armed clashes between the Army and Police, invasions of EFCC offices by the DSS, and conflicts between the NSCDC and Police. As noted in analysis, these clashes are a symptom of a system where "the age-long slogan 'esprit de corps' no longer exists".
- b) **Overlapping Mandates:** The creation of many different agencies has led to significant *mission creep* and jurisdictional confusion. For instance, the NDLEA has been drawn into investigating financial crimes, blurring lines of accountability. Also, the NPF and NSCDC have overlapping mandates in areas like public safety and critical infrastructure protection, leading to competition rather than cooperation. This duplication wastes scarce resources and creates gaps that criminals exploit. The Inspector-General of Police has previously suggested merging the NSCDC into the police, highlighting the recognition of this duplication .
- c) **Weak Intelligence-Sharing and Fragmented Commands:** The absence of a unified command structure fosters information hoarding and operational silos. Currently, intelligence flow between the Police, Civil Defence, and Correctional Services is suboptimal. This lack of synergy directly undermines the effectiveness of counter-terrorism, anti-banditry, and other complex national security operations, with criminal elements exploiting the gaps between our separate agencies. As the Chief of Defence Intelligence noted, today's adversaries "exploit technology" and "operate across physical and digital spaces," requiring an integrated response.
- d) **Diffused Accountability and Poor Oversight:** With agencies answering to different political masters (Ministry of Police Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Office of the National Security Adviser, etc.), coherent policy formulation, budgetary discipline, and performance accountability are nearly impossible to enforce.
- e) **Inefficient Resource Utilisation:** Parallel administrative structures for these critical but separated security agencies divert funds from frontline capabilities. The recent NEC approval of **N100 billion** to rehabilitate dilapidated training facilities across multiple security agencies underscores the massive, duplicated investment required to maintain the status quo.
- f) **Disconnected Justice and Security Chain:** The separation of policing, civil protection, and corrections breaks the continuum from arrest to rehabilitation. This undermines efforts to tackle prison overcrowding and inmate rehabilitation, which the Ministry of Interior is actively addressing through plans for 2025.

3. Strategic Advantages of a Unified Ministry

Consolidating the aforementioned agencies under the proposed MINSSP would yield transformative benefits:

- a) **Unified Command & Strategy:** A single Minister of Internal Security would provide clear and centralised political leadership, ensuring all agencies operate from a common National Security Strategy and are accountable for delivering against unified objectives.
- b) **Eliminated Rivalry and Enhanced Coordination** - A formal, integrated structure would mandate joint planning, de-conflict operations, and institutionalise cooperation, ending the public clashes that disgrace the nation.
- c) **Optimised Resource Allocation and Fiscal Efficiency** – a single ministry would ensure a harmonised internal security budget, eliminate duplicate and redundant costs, pool training facilities, etc, resulting in substantial capital and recurrent savings and more efficient use of national resources. These savings can be invested in modern technology, enhanced welfare, and the critical upgrade of training infrastructure, as underscored by the recent ₦100 billion NEC approval for this purpose.
- d) **Optimised Asset Deployment** - personnel and assets (vehicles, communications, technology) can be dynamically deployed based on threat assessment by a central command, rather than being siloed within individual agencies.
- e) **Integrated Intelligence & Operations** - The MISPS will fuse intelligence streams and operational assets from policing, civil defence, correctional services, etc, into a seamless continuum, enabling a superior and proactive response to complex threats. A ministerially mandated Joint Operations and Intelligence Fusion Centre would break down agency silos, enabling real-time intelligence sharing and synchronised, multi-agency responses to threats.
- f) **Clear Public Interface & Accountability:** Citizens would have a single, recognisable ministry responsible for domestic security and public safety, simplifying oversight and enhancing democratic accountability.
- g) **Specialisation within Unity** - Each agency would retain its operational identity and expertise (e.g., NDLEA on drugs, NAPTIP on trafficking) but would be aligned to a common strategic framework, preventing mission drift.
- h) **Enhanced Career Development:** A unified ministry allows for a structured, merit-based career path across a wider range of internal security disciplines, improving professionalism and morale.

4. Proposed Structure and Name

We propose the creation of a **Ministry of Internal Security and Public Safety (MISPS)**. This nomenclature accurately reflects its dual mandate: safeguarding the state (*national security*) and ensuring the day-to-day safety of citizens (*public safety*). The proposed nomenclature reflects a comprehensive mandate: encompassing both *protection* (from crime, terrorism, trafficking) and *resilience* (civil defence, critical infrastructure protection); aligns with international best practices and provides a clear conceptual framework. It also signals a strategic shift - denoting a proactive, intelligence-driven, and holistic approach to security within the nation's borders, moving beyond reactive law enforcement. The ministry would be structured as follows,

- **Political Head:** A Minister of National Security and Public Safety, supported by Ministers of State as needed.
- **Permanent Secretary:** To oversee administration and implementation.
- **Agency Chiefs:** The heads of the NPF, DSS, NCoS, NDLEA, NAPTIP, and NSCDC would report directly to the Minister, forming an **Internal Security Council**.

- **Central Support Units:** Critical enablers like a **Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre**, a **Central Logistics & Procurement Command**, and a **Professional Standards & Inspectorate Unit** would be established at the ministry level to serve all constituent agencies.

5. Implementation Roadmap & Constitutional Considerations

To achieve full operational establishment of the Ministry of Internal Security and Public Safety (MISPS) within six (6) months, commencing January 2026, we propose the following aggressive, high-priority schedule:

- **Month 1 (January 2026): Presidential Launch & Transition Team.**
 - Issue an Executive Order establishing the MISPS as a transitional entity.
 - Appoint a high-powered Presidential Transition Implementation Committee (PTIC) with full executive backing.
 - If required, direct the Attorney General to draft a "National Security and Public Safety (Unification) Bill."
- **Month 2 (February 2026): Legislative Fast-Track if required.**
 - If necessary, submit the Bill to the National Assembly as an Executive Bill with a request for expedited passage.
 - The PTIC commences immediate integration of administrative functions (HR, Budget, Comms) in a provisional headquarters.
- **Month 3 (March 2026): Framework & Interim Coordination.**
 - Issue mandatory interim Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for joint operations and intelligence sharing among all constituent agencies.
- **Month 4 (April 2026): Structural Integration.**
 - Formally transfer budgetary control and administrative oversight of all six agencies to the MISPS.
 - Establish the core ministry directorates (Strategy, Finance, Inspectorate) and launch the interim Joint Operations Centre.
- **Month 5 (May 2026): Operational Alignment.**
 - Public launch of the MISPS and its unified public communication strategy.
 - Commence first unified, ministerially directed cross-agency operation targeting a specific threat (e.g., kidnap gangs, illicit drug networks).
- **Month 6 (June 2026): Full Operational Declaration.**
 - By June 30, 2026, declare the MISPS fully established and operational.
 - All agency heads report through the Minister. The first Unified Annual Internal Security Strategy & Budget is published.
- **Critical Enablers & Risk Mitigation for accelerated timeline**
 - **Executive Leadership:** The PTIC must be empowered with high-level authority to bypass bureaucratic inertia.
 - **Legislative Partnership:** If required, early and continuous engagement with the leadership of the National Assembly is crucial to secure the fast-tracking of any necessary statute amendments.
 - **Constitutional Process:** The proposed consolidation, particularly concerning the Nigeria Police Force, if required, may necessitate an accelerated parallel process for constitutional review. This must be initiated concurrently in January 2026.

→ **Risk:** The core risk is prolonged legislative debate if required. Mitigation requires a strong, public executive advocacy campaign to build national consensus and pressure for passage.

This fast-tracked roadmap prioritises decisive executive action and swift legislative engagement to establish the legal and structural framework for the consolidation.

The accelerated timeline demonstrates that with decisive political will, the foundational transformation of Nigeria's internal security architecture can be initiated within your administration's current term. The Transformative Governance Forum remains available to provide detailed technical support to the PTIC.

6. Conclusion

The Transformative Governance Forum presents this policy brief in recognition of Your Excellency's unwavering commitment to restructuring Nigeria's governance architecture for enhanced efficiency, security, and economic prosperity.

The creation of a Ministry of Internal Security and Public Safety is a decisive step toward fulfilling your commitment to a secure Nigeria as the bedrock of economic growth. It moves beyond incremental fixes to offer a visionary restructuring that enhances coordination, accountability, and effectiveness while prudently using national resources. This reform will better position Nigeria to combat its dynamic security challenges and build lasting peace more effectively. We stand ready to provide further detailed analysis and support for this critical nation-building initiative.

Author:

This brief is compiled by Ademola Rabi, CEng, Director of Strategic Engagement & Partnerships and represents the views and opinions of our members and informed suggestions by our National Security Working Group of **Lt General (Rtd) Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau, PhD, Major General (Rtd) Lasisi Adegboye, PhD, Major General (Rtd) Shina Ogunbiyi, mni, PhD** and **Major (Rtd) Yinka Ogunsanya**.

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The views and opinions expressed by the author are those of the members of the TGF and reflect the collective position of the Forum.



THE TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE FORUM
2 Kainji Crescent, Off Lake Chad, Maitama, Abuja

www.tgf.org.ng