



FAQS

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Frequently Asked Questions About The Nigeria Police Force Reforms.

The facts and data presented in this document are excerpts from the Presidential Roadmaps on Police Reform.

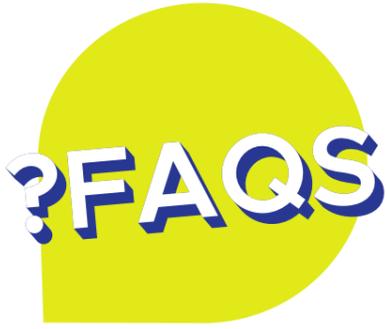


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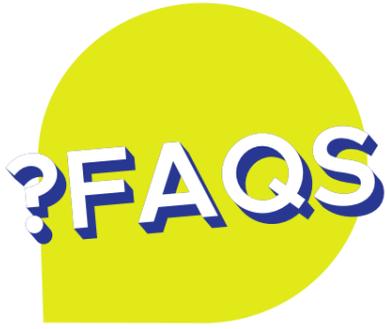




Background

The Presidential Roadmap on Police Reform was submitted and approved by the Federal Executive Council in December 2021. The subsequent approval of the framework for the implementation of a wholistic Police Reform program was given by President Muhammadu Buhari in March 2022 after a rigorous work and review. This Presidential Roadmap on Police Reform details a new vision for policing in Nigeria and further highlights the strategies to achieve this vision through deliberate implementation anchored on the principles and practices of reform namely –

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Leadership, Accountability and Oversight
- Technology & Communication
- Community Policing & Crime Reduction
- Officers Training & Education
- Funding, Officers Welfare, Wellness & Safety.



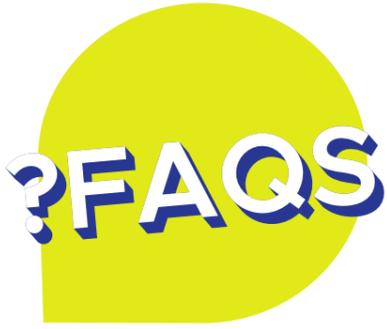
1. How did this journey on police reforms begin?

The task of reforming the Nigeria police force began on the 21st of June 2019 when President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Police trust fund bill into law. This law seeks to actualize the vision and mission of Mr. president for the police with a view of providing additional sources of funding and mobilizing the police force. This has since been made operational by the Ministry of Police Affairs. The fund has successfully delivered on its 2020 and 2021 budgets, with purchase of operational vehicles, arms and ammunitions, bulletproof vests, helmets for police operations.

The fund also purchased medical items to meet the health needs of policemen nationwide, while offices and residential accommodation for the police have also received facelift.

Similarly, on September 16th, 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari ascended to the Nigerian police bill 2020, which repealed the obsolete police act cap.19 laws of the federation of 2004. This composite document has elicited an array of ongoing reforms in the Nigerian police, to ensure sustainable reforms of the police and make it accountable and deeply rooted.

The Federal government also approved the setting up of the police reform technical team in the office of the SGF to coordinate efforts geared towards achieving this lofty aim.

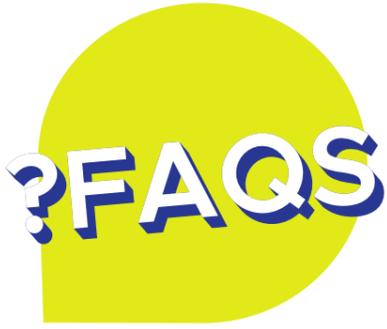


2. Why is reforming the Nigeria Police Force necessary at this time?

The Force is plagued by institutional weaknesses, such as inadequate human resources (both in terms of numerical strength and expertise), inadequate skills relative to modern policing challenges, weak investigative and prosecutorial capacities, insufficient training, funding challenges, inadequate and obsolete equipment and processes and critically poor conditions of service. These challenges have contributed to the erosion of public trust in the capabilities of the police as well as weakening the morale of many officers.

Also, the present security challenges in Nigeria- including insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, cybercrimes, violent crime, and transnational organised crime make a compelling case for a reorientation and reform of the NPF. This cannot be achieved without the support of the community through strengthening community policing interventions and providing the enabling environment for community co-ownership of policing.

To crown it all, the #ENDSARS protests against police brutality led by young Nigerians, which occurred in October 2020 further underscored the depth of public disenchantment with the NPF and the scale of resentment against egregious misconduct by its personnel. The events preceding the protests which involved egregious criminal misconduct by NPF personnel, particularly but not exclusively by officers of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) including extrajudicial killings, extortion, profiling of young individuals, torture and inhumane and degrading treatment of persons in police custody led to vociferous calls for wide-ranging police reform.



3. What is the core philosophy of the police reforms?

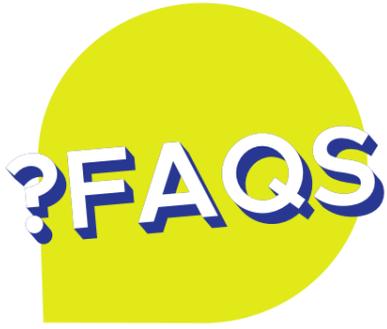
Democratic policing; which entails the values of inclusivity, accountability and respect for human rights as the fundamental basis for the maintenance of public safety, the protection of life and property, as well as the prevention of crime.

4. What can one deduce from the Police reform roadmap document?

It details a new vision for policing in Nigeria and the strategies to achieve this vision through deliberate implementation of the principles and practices of reform namely – Building Trust and Legitimacy, Leadership, Accountability Policy and Oversight, Technology & social media, Community Policing & Crime Reduction, Officers Training & Education and Funding, Officers Welfare, Wellness & Safety.

5. Is the relationship between the Nigeria Police and the populace cordial?

In spite of its critical role in nation-building and the sustenance of democracy, the Nigeria Police force has long been haunted by the circumstances of its provenance as a colonial constabulary that was established to repress civil society and whose conduct has long been characterised by impunity, lawlessness, extortion and the flagrant abuse of the fundamental human rights of the citizens. Consequently, relations between the NPF and the public have remained fundamentally adversarial leading to low levels of public trust and confidence in the police, but the ongoing Police reforms seeks to gradually correct that.



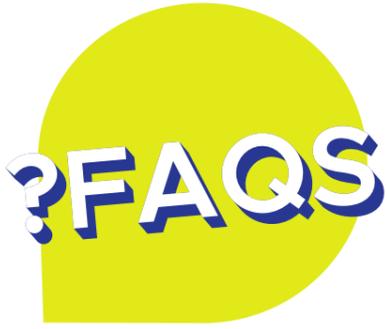
6. Is this the first attempt to reform the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)?

The first of these initiatives was the Dan Mandami-Led Presidential Panel on Police Reforms setup by the former President Olusegun Obasanjo Administration in 2006; followed by the MD Yusuf Presidential Panel on Police Reform in 2008 by former President Umaru Yar'Adua and the Parry Osayande Panel in 2012 by the Goodluck Jonathan administration. Other efforts include those by the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Panel on Police Reform in 2012 and finally the Presidential Panel on Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) reform in Nigeria in 2018. These committees provided several recommendations for comprehensive reform of the Nigerian Police Force with white papers for implementation of key recommendations made. While some of these recommendations have been implemented incrementally, there is a realization that there needs to be a more urgent, comprehensive and assertive push towards reform of the NPF.

7. What is the guarantee that this drive to reform the Police will not “fall apart” like previous ones?

President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to reform the Police Force speaks volume, in the sense that it follows his assent to the Police Bill (now law) in 2020; which repealed the old colonial law of 1943, as well as the Police Act cap.19 2004.

Also, a daring move as the disbandment of the SARS unit of the police shows the readiness to see the process through, while keeping in mind that the Police Reform Roadmap represents a consolidation of previous police reform initiatives and a blueprint for actualizing the reformist imperatives embedded in the Nigeria Police Act, 2020.



8. Which office is saddled with the responsibility of driving the Police Reforms?

Police Reform and Transformation Office (PORTO). It was established by The Presidential Working Group on Police Reform and is situated in the office of the Inspector General of Police.

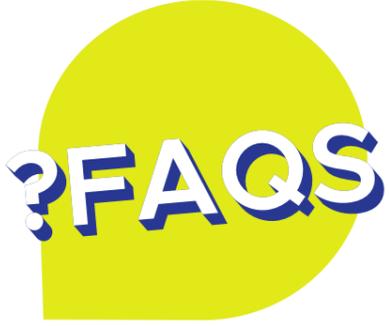
A centralised transformation office is more effective than a diffused option, where change is managed by dozens of disparate departments and units across the country. Accountability and visibility of progress will be difficult to assess. However, the proximity of PORTO to the IGP will enhance its effectiveness and impact.

PORTO is headed by a non-Police individual who is versed in the knowledge of policing and security in Nigeria.

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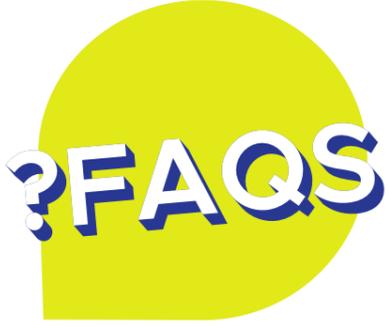
9. What are the salient pillars of the Police Reform?





10. What are the policy areas for reformatory action?





11. What are the 4 main phases of the reform?

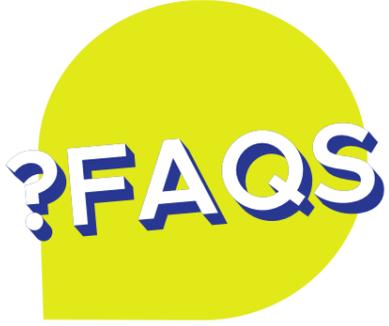
01. Strategy Assessment-
Gather information to understand and analyze the local context to establish a baseline.

03. Implementation- Put in place the reform plan in partnership with various stakeholders.

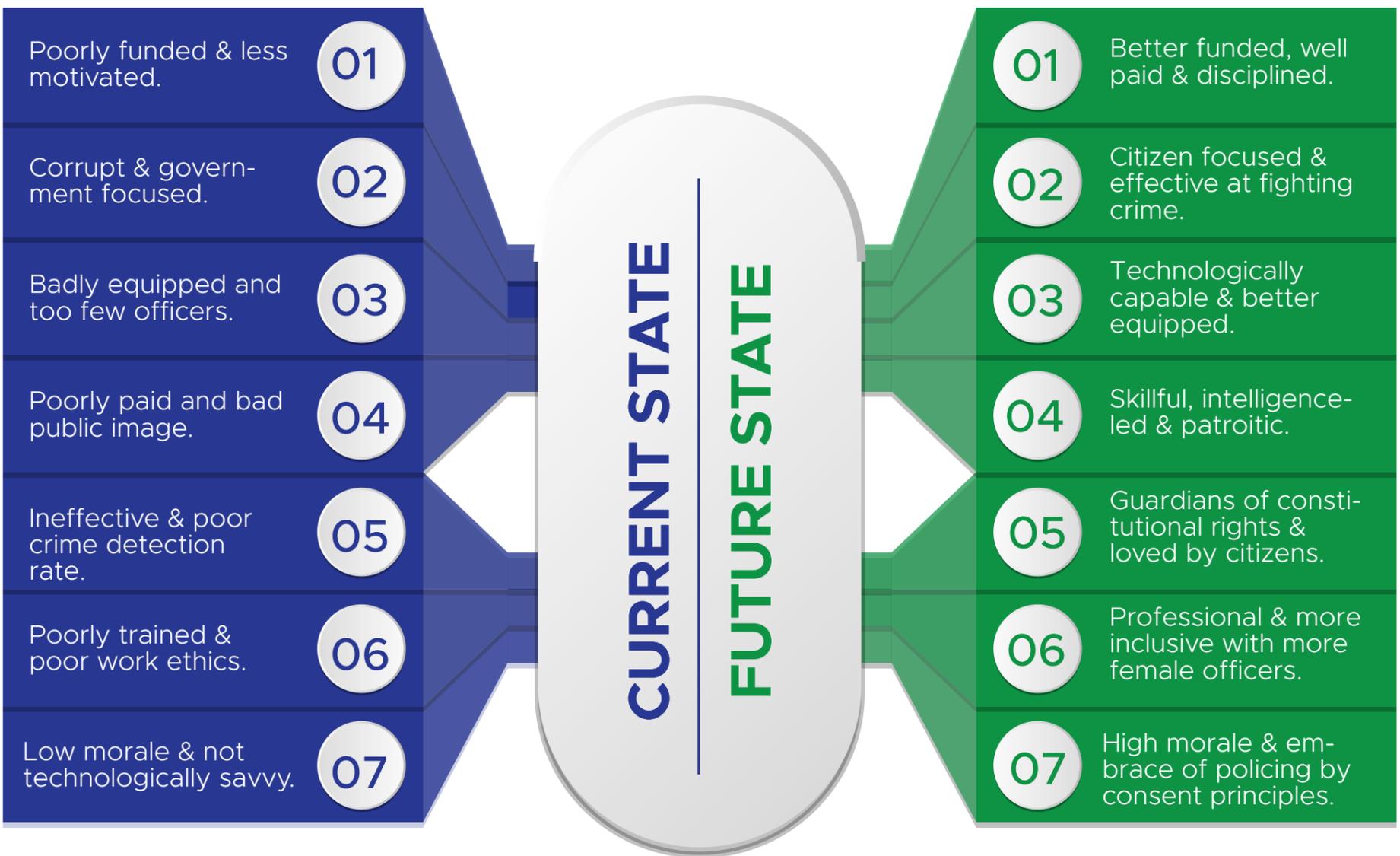


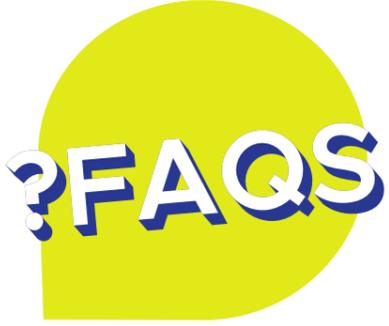
02. Strategic Planning-
Based on analysis, develop a reform plan with well-defined goals, roles and timetable.

04. Evaluation-
Monitor progress, gather information and data on changes taking place, evaluate successes against the baseline; identify challenges.



12. In simple terms, what are the characteristics of the present day Nigerian Police Force, against that of the future?

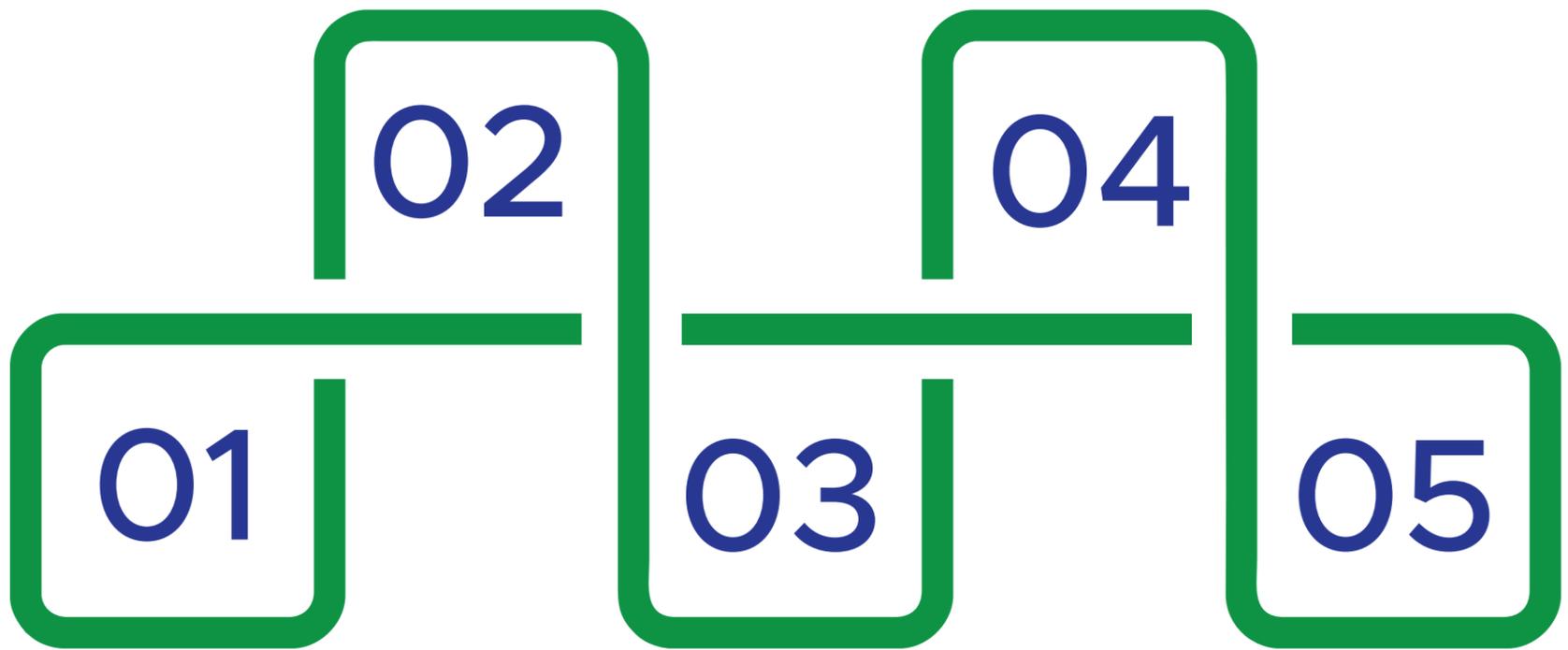




13. How can the Police move from what it is to what it ought to be?

Police acknowledgement of the need for reform- The Inspector General of Police and the leadership of the NPF have accepted the imperative of reform and have demonstrated commitment to working with the Presidency to deliver a new police organization in Nigeria.

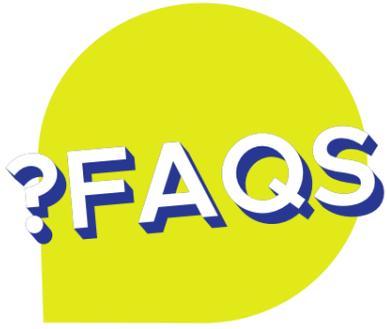
Constitute a Presidential working group on Police Reforms- While the Roadmap has stated the strategic direction of the President by answering the “WHAT” question. It will be the responsibility of this panel to answer the “HOW” question by providing detailed list of activities to actualise the strategic principles and focus provided by the Presidential Roadmap.



Government needs to acknowledge the need for reform- The President has accepted the case for reform and has given effect to his promise by empowering the office of his Chief of Staff to lead on the police reform initiative on behalf of the government.

Legislative backing and commitment to police reform- The 9th National Assembly has been proactive in supporting police reform through the creation of a Legislative Agenda that supports reforms of the legal framework the police operate under. The passage of the new Police Act 2020 signed into law by Mr President in September 2020 is proof of this commitment. Further legislative actions are also ongoing to reform the accountability structures of the police as well as improve the welfare of the officers.

Implementation of the Plus (+) Reform Strategy- The PLUS (+) Reform strategy involves assessments of the Vertical and Horizontal relationships, stakeholders and factors impinging on the ability of the police to deliver on its reform agenda. Reforms should target these stakeholders and be informed and inspired by them.



14. What are the elements of the vertical reforms?

Upward Reforms: This relates to the nature of relations with the Government and other upward accountability institutions (such as the Police Service Commission (PSC), Police Trust Fund (PTF), Ministry of Police Affairs and so on).

Downward Reforms: This relates to the nature of relationships and engagement with citizens.

15. What are the elements of the horizontal reforms?

Internal Reforms: This relates to the institutional reforms of the police operations. This will include reform of the police and also of policing. Reform of the police refers to individual officers; while reform to policing refers to reform of the institution of policing as a whole.

Inter-agency relationship reforms: This aims to reform the nature of engagements with other security agencies, both local and international.

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