



# Communique of Stakeholders' Meeting on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Presidential Panel on the Reform of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)

## 1.0

### INTRODUCTION:

Following the public protests regarding various forms of human rights violations by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and the consequent disbandment of the unit by the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, there arose the need for stakeholder engagement to build trust and restore public confidence in law enforcement.

1.2 The agitations also brought to the fore, the need to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Panel on the Reform of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

1.3 In view of the above, the Office of the Inspector General of Police and the National Human Rights Commission convened a multi-stakeholders' forum to discuss and agree on a roadmap for the implementation the White Paper of the Report.

## 2.0

## ATTENDEES

The Forum was attended by stakeholders in human rights and law enforcement reforms, including the Nigerian Police Force, Ministry of Police Affairs, Police Service Commission, National Human Rights Commission, leaders and representatives of civil society organisations in Nigeria, activists from the entertainment industry and the ENDSARS movement, development partners.



MacArthur  
Foundation



FORD  
FOUNDATION

End Sars Movement



OSIWA  
Open Society Initiative for West Africa

Rule of Law And Empowerment Initiative  
also known as  
PARTNERS WEST AFRICA NIGERIA

## 3.0

## AFFIRMATIONS

1

Welcomed the dissolution of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) by the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu.

2

Reaffirmed the constitutional rights of Nigerians to peaceful assembly and protest.

3

Further affirmed the sanctity of life of every Nigerian and the role of the Police in protecting this right.

4

Affirms that the five-point demands of the protesters and the ENDSARS movement are genuine concerns and will be addressed by the Government.

## 2.0

## RECOMMENDATIONS

i

The dissolution of SARS presents an opportunity to embark on comprehensive reforms aimed at repositioning the Nigerian Police Force as a modern, responsive and citizens-centred law enforcement organisation.

ii

The proposed reforms should be anchored under the basis of the White Paper on the Report of the Presidential Panel on the Reform of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad which was jointly authored by the National Human Rights Commission, the Federal Ministry of Justice, and the Nigeria Police Force.

iii

The Nigerian Police Force will be based on Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and existing legislations such as the Nigeria Police Act, 2020, the Nigeria Police Trust Fund Act, 2019, the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 the Anti-Torture Act, 2017, and the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2010 amongst others.

iv

Following the dissolution of SARS, the Forum calls for the following immediate steps to be taken in restoring public confidence and trust in the Police:

- a. An order by the Inspector General of Police to all State Commands to halt the use of force against protesters;
- b. Unconditional release of arrested protesters and citizens;
- c. Open communication and outreach to citizens to establish trust and confidence;
- d. A roadmap for the implementation of the White Paper of the Presidential Panel on the Reform of the SARS

v

The proposal to set up an Independent Investigation Panel to look into the violations of human rights by the defunct SARS and other segments of the Nigerian Police. The Forum agrees to the setting up of this Independent Panel by the National Human Rights Commission within the next one week. An open call for Memoranda from members of the public whose rights have been violated by the defunct SARS and other segments of the Police will be released by the Commission within one week.

vi

The Forum recommends the psychological evaluation, training and retraining of disbanded SARS officials prior to re-deployment.

vii

The Forum resolves to set up the following Technical Sub-Committees to design an implementation roadmap and work plan for the implementation of the White Paper:

- a. Training, Capacity and Re-orientation
- b. Logistics: Infrastructure, Communications and Technology
- c. Arrest, Detention, and Investigations
- d. Regulations, Oversight and Accountability
- e. Financing and Partnerships

viii

The Sub-Committees will be supported by the National Human Rights Commission and other civil society organisations.

**Made in Abuja, this 12th day of October 2020.**

Mohammed Adamu  
*Inspector General of Police*

Tony Ojukwu Esq,  
*Executive Secretary,  
National Human Rights Commission*