



"I have approved changes in the hierarchy of our Armed Forces to further strengthen Nigeria's national security architecture," the President said. "General Olufemi Oluyede is appointed Chief of Defence Staff, Major-General W. Shaibu becomes Chief of Army Staff, Air Vice Marshal S.K. Aneke is Chief of Air Staff, and Rear Admiral I. Abbas is the new Chief of Naval Staff, while Major-General E.A.P. Undiendeye retains his role as Chief of Defence Intelligence. "I thank General Christopher Musa and the outgoing Service Chiefs for their selfless service and dedicated leadership, and I charge the new Service Chiefs to deepen professionalism, vigilance, and unity within our Armed Forces as they serve our nation with honour," he added. The President also expressed appreciation to the outgoing Service Chiefs, led by General Christopher Musa, who served as Chief of Defence Staff since 2023.

He commended their years of service and commitment to the nation's peace and stability. President Bola Tinubu on Friday held his first meeting with the newly appointed service chiefs at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. The meeting took place just hours after the president announced a major shake-up in the military hierarchy. During the meeting, President Tinubu charged the new service chiefs to justify the trust placed in them by exhibiting professionalism, vigilance, and unity in their operations. He urged them to build on the existing operational framework of the armed forces and to strengthen inter-service collaboration in tackling the country's evolving security challenges. Tinubu also emphasized the importance of loyalty to the constitution and a renewed commitment to protecting lives and property across Nigeria.

Though the Presidency framed the action as a routine reshuffle aimed at "realigning national security leadership," beneath the official rhetoric lies a deeper political and ideological struggle—one that reveals much about the direction of Tinubu's administration and the competing visions within Nigeria's security architecture. General Musa's exit did not occur in a vacuum. It comes at a time of renewed insecurity across the North-West and North-East, rising political discontent, and quiet murmurs of a failed coup plot allegedly foiled in early October.

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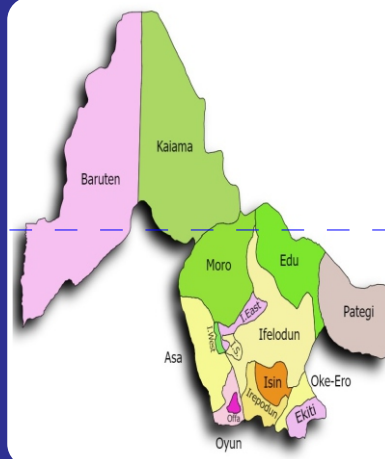
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Kwara State has been in the eye of the storm lately over incessant attacks on residents by unrelenting bandits and kidnappers, particularly in the northern and southern parts of the state, despite the spirited efforts of the government to combat insecurity. Among the 16 local governments in the state, the five local governments, otherwise called emirate councils, namely Ilorin East, Ilorin West, Ilorin South, Asa, and Moro, have not been seriously affected by the ongoing insecurity. The same with Offa and Oyun local governments, leaving the remaining nine local governments scattered in the southern and northern parts of the state under siege of killings and abductions by the bandits. It was reliably gathered that the bandits, comprising mostly herdsmen from Zamfara and Sokoto states who infiltrated Kwara through Niger State, in connivance with some locals, have been perpetrating the current criminalities in the state for some time now. It was also gathered that they operate in the thick forest in the northern and southern parts of the state where they have settled for close to 30 years now. Sources said these people residing in the thick forests, in connivance with some locals who provide information, reportedly embraced the business of kidnapping some years back having realized that it is a much easier means of making quick and big money, turning them overnight into billionaires. Reported cases of abductions and killings started in local governments in the northern part of the state, namely Edu, Patigi, Baruten, and Kaiama, about four years ago before it became a regular occurrence. In Kpanpkanragi village in Edu Local Government, among several other attacks, armed bandits abducted a woman in a late-night assault in August.