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Nigeria Office

## Nigeria Press Review

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### Welcome to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Nigeria Weekly Press Review

The weekly press review seeks to explore and keep you informed on selected issues relating to politics, business and economy, insecurity, infrastructure and development, health related issues, new trends and matters bothering on the overall situation in Nigeria.

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Insecurity: Gunmen Kidnap 13 People in Abuja, Nigerian Air Force Airstrikes Terrorists in Borno State

### **NNPCL Announce Petrol Sufficiency for 30 Days, Microsoft Considers Shutting Down Operations in Nigeria, Protesters Demand Release of Journalist Daniel Ojukwu, Largest Population of Undernourished Children Globally in Nigeria, Nigeria and Germany to Explore Investment Opportunities at Expo**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) has engaged security agencies and other industry stakeholders to dismantle cartel suspected to be hoarding petrol across the country. NNPC called on motorists to shun panic buying of the product. The oil company stated that at the moment, it has over 1.5 billion liters stock of PMS, which is equivalent to over 30-day sufficiency. NNPC is collaborating with relevant downstream agencies, such as the Nigerian Midstream & Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), labor unions in the sector and security operatives to address hoarding and other unwholesome practices. Chika Izuora, [Leadership News \(May 7<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

United States based multinational technology giant, Microsoft, has considered closing one of the operations in Nigeria, known as African Development Centre (ADC) located in Lagos. Without giving any reason, Microsoft revealed to its members of staff on Monday its plans to shut down operations. Microsoft announced that affected employees would receive salary payments until June. While the exact reasons behind the decision remain ambiguous, sources suggest Nigeria's worsening economic conditions may have adversely impacted a role in arriving at the decision. [Vanguard News \(May 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Hundreds of protesters including journalists, activists and leaders of civil society organisations on Thursday stormed the police headquarters Abuja to demand the release of Daniel Ojukwu, a journalist with the Foundation of Investigative Journalism (FIJ). The protesters were led by the country director of Accountability Lab Nigeria, Friday Odey. They demanded the unconditional release of Ojukwu, stating that his continued detention is equivalent to extrajudicial trial and punishment. The protesters said the police failed to release the detained journalist after 7 days despite nationwide outcry. Oditia Sunday, [The Guardian News \(May 9<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Statistics given by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) indicate that

Nigeria is home to the largest population of chronically undernourished children in the world with 11 million being stunted. The statistics further indicate that Bauchi is contributing to the number with a rate at 46%, wasting 9.5% and 28.2% underweight. UNICEF stressed that according to World Bank estimation, increasing in nutrition can increase a country's gross domestic product by at least 3% annually. UNICEF further emphasized the need for sustained awareness of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of a child's life to address malnutrition. Ishola Michael, [Nigerian Tribune News \(May 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian German Investment and Cultural Expo in Germany is scheduled to hold from August 20th to 25th in Berlin, Germany. The expo is themed "Unlocking Nigeria's Investment Potentials for Industrial Revolution", with a subtheme focusing on "Cultural Exports: Key Opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment." The event aims to attract foreign direct investment and business partnerships, particularly from the Federal Republic of Germany. According to a statement, the expo will feature a rich array of activities including presentations, exhibitions, panel discussions and roundtable sessions on public-private partnerships, banking and finance. Special daily sessions are planned for state governments to present and showcase their investment opportunities. This expo is expected to enhance Nigeria's image globally and attract investments in various sectors including power, renewable energy, mining, marine and blue economy, ICT, automotive and the creative industry. Solomon Nda-Isaiah, [Leadership News \(May 9<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Federal Government Denies Plans to Establish Foreign Military Bases in Nigeria, House of Representatives Halt Implementation of Cyber-crime Levy, Victor Jumbo Emerges as Factional Speaker of Rivers State House of Assembly, Nigerian Government Caps Electricity Supply to African Countries at 6%, ECOWAS to Raise USD 2.4 Billion to Establish Counter-Terrorism Force**

The federal government has described as false, allegations that foreign military bases are to be established in Nigeria. In a statement signed by the minister of information and national orientation, Mohammed Idris, the government urged the general public to totally disregard the falsehood. He went on to state that the government has not received any such proposals from any country. Idris

said the Nigerian government already enjoys foreign cooperation in tackling ongoing security challenges, adding that president Bola Tinubu remains committed to deepening these partnerships, with the goal of achieving the national security objectives of the renewed hope agenda. John Owen Nwachukwu, [Daily Post News \(May 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives on Thursday directed the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to halt the implementation of the cybercrime levy in compliance with the provisions of the cybercrime act. This followed the adoption of a motion of urgent public importance moved by minority leader Kingsley Chinda. The lawmaker explained that the circular from the CBN has raised apprehension across Nigeria, stressing that it has given the impression that the levy is to be paid by Nigerians in an era when they are still battling with an increase in the price of petroleum products, among others. The House subsequently asked the apex bank to withdraw its earlier circular on implementing the levy immediately and issue another circular in line with the provisions of the act. Ochogwu Sunday, [Daily Post News \(May 9<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Victor Jumbo has been elected as the factional speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly. Jumbo was elected on Wednesday by the lawmakers loyal to Siminalayi Fubara, governor of the state. The lawmakers in the Awaewhule-led faction are loyal to Nyesom Wike, minister of the Federal Capital Territory and have been at loggerheads with Fubara. On Monday, Fubara said the existence of members of the State House of Assembly is based on his recognition. The face-off between the governor and the Awaewhule-led faction has made the assembly override Fubara on some bills recently. Ayodele Oluwafemi, [The Cable News \(May 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has ordered the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to peg power supply to international customers in Benin Republic, Niger Republic and Togo at 6% of the total grid electricity at any given time. The commission explained that the move will boost the in-country electricity supply capacity. Nigeria's minister of power, Adebayo Adedun, recently said the country's power supply increased to 4,800MW from 4,200MW. Meanwhile, parts of Nigeria have continued to witness epileptic power

supply. Ogaga Ariemu, [Daily Post News \(May 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) says it plans to raise USD 2.4 billion to establish a standby counter-terrorism force. Abdel-Fatau Musah, the bloc's commissioner in charge of political affairs, peace and security, spoke on Tuesday in Abuja at a three-day meeting of the ECOWAS training centers of excellence. During the African high-level counter-terrorism meeting last month, president Bola Tinubu had called for the establishment of a regional standby force to tackle terrorism on the continent. Tinubu said the standby force could serve as a rapid deployment mechanism, capable of swiftly interventions. Speaking on the proposal, Musah said the bloc has resolved to establish the standby force. He explained that ECOWAS has already "developed operational modalities, the concept of operations and everything for us to aggregate". He explained that as part of the resolution of the authority of heads of states, USD 2.4 billion will be raised to fund the ECOWAS standby force. Claire Mom, [The Cable News \(May 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Gunmen Kidnap 13 People in Abuja, Nigerian Air Force Airstrikes Terrorists in Borno State**

Gunmen on Sunday night invaded a community in Bwari area council of Abuja, allegedly kidnapping 13 persons. The operation which reportedly lasted for an hour without any challenge, is the latest attack on the council. It was reported that 13 residents were kidnapped, including 4 nomadic Fulani herdsmen, 1 of whom escaped. The kidnappers have demanded for a ransom of NGN 900 million. Omeiza Ajayi, [Vanguard News \(May 7<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian air force on Sunday said they killed many terrorists in several airstrikes in Borno and Niger state. The air force director of public relations and information said that in the North East, the air interdiction was on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> authorized and conducted over the Mandara mountain. Assessment revealed that the strikes were successful as several terrorists were neutralized and logistics destroyed in the area. Similar airstrikes were conducted on the same day in Niger state. [Daily Trust News \(May 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.



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