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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 COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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Covid-19: PSC Declares 132 Travellers as Persons of Interest

The Presidential Steering Committee, PSC, on Thursday 27, declared 132 travelers who arrived from India, Brazil and Turkey, potential health hazards to the country. The chairman of the PSC and Secretary to Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, signed a statement that listed the individuals as violators of the mandatory seven-day quarantine at port health facilities and has declared them as persons of interest. Chiamaka Okafor, [Premium Times News \(May 28th\)](#) reports.

Debt Rises By 20.8 trillion Under President Buhari, Labour Threatens Nationwide Strike Action

The Debt Management Office, DMO, on Wednesday 26, disclosed that the country's debt has risen by twenty trillion naira. The data was from the period of July 2015 and December 2020, this periods correspond with President Muhamadu Buhari's presidency. The DMO's statistics, also revealed that most of the country's debt, were incurred by the federal government, stating that dwindling revenues arising from receipts of oil and gas export presented the government with a dilemma. Everest Amaefule et al, [Punch News \(May 27th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, has resolved to embark on a nationwide strike action, if the federal government proceeds to effect the 300 percent increase in fuel price, proposed by the Nigeria Governors Forum, NGF. The Acting General Secretary, Ismail Bello, released a communique to journalists, which read in part: "there is currently no negotiations with government over fuel price increase." Regina Otakpa, [News Telegraph \(May 28th\)](#) reports.

Presidency Says Destruction of INEC Offices Won't Stop 2023 Elections, Court Takes Stand on Open Grazing Law,

Meanwhile, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, has disclosed that burning of offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, and Police Stations will not stop the 2023 general elections. He spoke to journalist on Tuesday 25th, saying "it is very disturbing that INEC and Police offices

are being set ablaze in parts of the country. I believe the Law Enforcement Agents are sufficient enough to deal with them. Kayode Oyero, [Punch News \(May 26th\)](#) reports.

The Federal High Court in Abuja has affirmed the right of states in Nigeria to implement anti-grazing laws. The Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, had previously claimed that "such a ban is unconstitutional and infringes on the rights of movement enshrined in the nation's laws". Judge, Ijeoma Ojukwu, however, decided that it lacks the jurisdiction to entertain a suit to compel President Muhamadu Buhari to direct security agencies to enforce the Benue Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranching Law (2017). The judge also confirmed that "the enforcement of the anti-grazing law having been validly passed by the Benue House of Assembly, for instance, 'lies with the state government'". [Premium Times News \(May 20th\)](#) reports.

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Chief of Army Staff Dies in Plane Crash, Reps Minority Caucus Call for "System Wide Investigation" into Military Plane Crashes, Begin Zonal Public Hearing on Constitution Review

After the death of the Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru in a plane crash, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Ndudi Elumelu (PDP, Delta), released a statement, that called for a "system-wide investigation" into the three military plane crashes. The minority caucus in the House, also charged the military to remain focused and undeterred amidst the tragic event of the death of seven military officers, including the Chief of Army Staff. Ndudi said, "the minority caucus demand a full-scale investigation into the unfortunate incident." Bakare Mojeed, [Premium Times News \(May 22nd\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives, Committee on Constitution Review, has set June 1 to June 3 for zonal public hearings across the six geopolitical zones. The committee said, it had invited the general public, executive and judicial bodies, traditional institutions, political parties, civil society organisations and all stakeholders. [Premium Times News \(May 24th\)](#) reports. On the same note, the Deputy Senate President and Chairman of the Committee on Constitution Review, Ovie Omo-Agege, has said that following the analysis of the

memoranda submitted to the committee and the several consultations to deliberate on the process and submissions for public hearings, the report of the committee would be submitted to the National Assembly in July. [Premium Times News \(May 25th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: IGP Decries Vacuum in Police Strength to Tackle Insecurity, President Buhari Appoints New Chief of Army Staff, FG Set Trial Date for Boko Haram Suspects

The Acting Inspector General of Police, IGP, Alkali Usman, at the Presidential briefing in the State House in Abuja, said that the aftermath of the hash tag End SARS Protest dampened the moral of officers of the force and has created a vacuum which is challenging efforts by the Police to tackle insecurity from a position of strength. Alkali also noted that the process to recruit ten thousand new Police personal into the force has reached nearly 70 percent completion Oluchi, [Channels News \(May 27th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Director of Defence Information, Onyeama Nwachukwu, released the statement that conveyed President Muhamadu Buhari's appointment of Farouk Yahaya as the new Chief of Army Staff. Until his appointment, the new Army Chief was the Theater Commander of Operation HADIN Kai, he countered Insurgency Operations in the North East. Mr Yahaya, a Major General replaces Ibrahim Attahiru, a Lieutenant General, who died in a plane crash on Friday 21. Nasir Ayitogo, [Premium Times News \(May 27th\)](#) reports

Eight hundred (800) suspects linked to the islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, have been prepared for presecution. The Deputy Director of the Complex Casework Group, CCG, in the Federal Ministry of Justice, Chioma Onuegu, disclosed to journalist on Friday 28, that the suspects are beingheld in military detention facilities in Maiduguri, Borno state. She added, that 800 out of the 1000 suspects detained, had prima evidence to proceed to prosecution and charges have been drafted and filed at the Fedral High Court. Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [Premium Times News \(May 23rd\)](#) reports.

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