

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 Covid-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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Covid-19: Revised International Travel Protocol Takes Effect Monday 4, FG Lifts Curfew, Restrictions on Public Gatherings

The Chairman of the Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19, Boss Mustapha, has disclosed that the Federal Government's revised Covid-19 travel protocol for travelers arriving in Nigeria takes effect from Monday 4. The new protocol stipulates that inbound passengers to Nigeria who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 are no longer required to carry out the mandatory PCR test before boarding Nigeria-bound flights. However, inbound passengers, who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated against Covid-19, will still be required to take a PCR test 48 hours before departure and undergo post-arrival PCR tests on days two and seven at their own cost. Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, [The Guardian News \(April 4th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on Covid-19, set up by the Federal Government (FG) in early 2020, announced a review of the country's response to the pandemic. The PSC said social restriction recommendations were revised in line with the three established thematic areas – movement, industry and labour – as well as community activities. Nigeria has removed the limit on attendance for social gatherings. There will also be no more formal restrictions on movement within the country as the nationwide curfew imposed from 12 midnights to 4 am has been lifted. The FG explained that the decision followed the reduced risk of importation of new variants, the availability of vaccines and the increasing number of people vaccinated in Nigeria and globally. The PSC, however, advised states to continue to consider existing safety protocols “as the minimum guidelines required to ensure an acceptable level of epidemic control nationwide”. Dennis Ezezi, [The Guardian News \(April 6th\)](#) reports.

CSOs Raise Alarm over 38 Million Africans Facing Hunger by June, UN Says over 80.000 Refugees and 3.2 Million IDPs in Nigeria

Eleven Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have raised alarm over 38 million West Africans who will face excruciating hunger by June 2022. This was contained in a statement signed by these organizations, amongst them Oxfam, Action Against Hunger, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps. According to the international organizations, West Africa is hit by its worst food crisis in a decade, reaching new historic

levels. The projections for Nigeria are especially worrisome as it is amongst the most affected countries. Gabriel Ewepu, [The Vanguard News \(April 7th\)](#) reports.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Wednesday promulgated that over 80.000 refugees and 3.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were in Nigeria and in dire need of help. Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of a workshop on maximizing the power of *Zakat* – the religious duty for all Muslims of making mandatory charitable contributions – to support families forced to flee in Nigeria, the UNHCR Representative in Nigeria, Chansa Kapaya, said the event was put together to gather funds to support IDPs and refugees. She emphasized that “with the massive forced displacement of people, funds are never enough and certainly not for the IDPs or refugees in this country.” Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(April 7th\)](#) reports.

At a brainstorming session between officials of the Department of State Services (DSS) and civil society organizations (CSOs) focusing on the relation between CSOs and national security in Nigeria and attended by a cross section of human rights groups, non-governmental organizations, media leaders and rights activists in the country, the Director General of DSS, Alhaji Yusuf Bichi, appealed to CSOs operating in Nigeria to team up with security agencies to make the country safer and better. He called on CSOs to lead the way in fighting fake news and hate speech in Nigeria, which he noted had become more worrisome in recent times and capable of exacerbating insecurity and other forms of threats in the country. The Public Relations Officer of the DSS, Peter Afunanya, explained that the session was organized to establish a better relationship with CSOs, ensure the stability of Nigeria and make better progress. Soni Daniel, [The Vanguard News \(April 6th\)](#) reports.

PDP Says Nigeria has Worsened under President Buhari, 1.500 Civil Servants Identified with Fake Employment Letters, House Speaker Comments on Nigeria's Foreign Policy

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Governors Forum has insisted Nigerians fared worst under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari. According to the governors, Nigeria currently only produces 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day, albeit it has the capacity to produce 2.5 million per day. It cannot even meet its Organization of the

Petroleum Exporting Countries quota of 1.8 million per day. Furthermore, the PDP governors maintain the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation is characterized by lawlessness and unconstitutional behavior. "The Buhari presidency, by all objective accounts, is the worst in Nigeria's history of managing our diversity. Under the All Progressives Congress (APC) seven-year rule, Nigerians no longer trust one another. Ethnic and religious differences are not properly managed. All our fault lines are exposed and exacerbated", the forum said. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, [The Guardian News \(April 5th\)](#) writes.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Folasade Yemi-Esan, says the Federal Government has uncovered over 1.500 workers who joined the Federal Civil Service with fake appointment letters. Yemi-Esan was speaking at a policy dialogue on entrenching transparency in public office recruitment in Nigeria organized by the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), a research and training arm of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and promised to delist them from the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS). She added that over 1.000 persons were said to have been discovered in one ministry while 500 others were found in other ministries, departments and agencies during a service-wide verification exercise. [The Premium Times News \(April 6th\)](#) reports.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, at the presentation of a book on Nigeria's foreign policy co-authored by the Deputy Minority Leader of the House, Toby Okechukwu, stated that a global response was the best way to ensure collective survival from issues of public health, terrorism and the myriad difficulties of globalization, adding that international collaboration was necessary to find and implement solutions that would improve the lives and circumstances of people all over the world. According to Gbajabiamila, Nigeria is currently going through one of the most difficult periods in modern history. Both from the war in Ukraine and the global pandemic he inferred that "our foreign policy must unapologetically define the terms on which we engage the rest of the world". To that end, Nigeria "must establish the values that define us, and be clear about the concerns that motivate us and the interests that inspire us". [The Premium Times News \(April 7th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: 168 Passengers Unaccounted for Following Kaduna Train Attack, ECOWAS, EU, move to Fight Maritime Insecurity, Senate Asks President Buhari to Declare War on Terrorists, Nigeria to Hear All Terrorism Trials in Secret

One week after terrorists attacked a train in Kaduna State, 168 of the passengers have yet to be accounted for, an official of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) revealed. The NRC's manifest showed that there were 362 passengers on board the train. Many Nigerians, however, believe the figures are much higher due to the fraud and manipulations that go on at the train stations. The NRC on Sunday, provided more updates on its activities since the train attack and confirmed the safety of 14 more passengers on board the train, bringing the total number of safe passengers to 186. Of the remaining 176 passengers, eight have been confirmed dead, while the families of 22 passengers have formally declared them missing. This indicates that a total of 168 passengers have yet to be accounted for including the 22 declared missing by their families. Abubakar Ahmadu Maishanu, [The Premium Times News \(April 4th\)](#) reports.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and the European Union (EU) have developed a framework titled the "European Union-funded Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS) project". The gathering drew participants from all the ECOWAS member countries and is expected to review and refine modalities on the distribution of essential maritime security equipment across ECOWAS littoral countries. According to the Head of the ECOWAS Regional Security Division, Col. Abdourahmane Dieng, maritime insecurity is one of the most persistent and intractable threats to maritime communities and economic prosperity in the sub-region. Commenting the initiative, the EU Senior Coordinator for the Gulf of Guinea, Ambassador Nicolas Berlanga Martinez, said: "The EU is a committed partner to the Gulf of Guinea region and will continue to provide extensive and targeted assistance to strengthen the critical features of the Yaoundé security architecture". The EU-funded SWAIMS project is among the ongoing efforts at tackling insecurity along the West African corridor, a collaborative, multi-component, regional initiative implemented by various partners and covering 15 ECOWAS countries. Collins Olayinka, [The Guardian News \(April 6th\)](#) reports.

The Senate yesterday reiterated the need for President Muhammadu Buhari to, as a matter of urgency, declare total war on terrorists. This was stated at plenary, when it also observed a minute's silence for those killed in a recent attack by bandits on Guni, Niger State. The upper chamber noted with concern that the criminals engaged in massive killings and wanton destruction of property in Nigeria. It directed the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the surviving victims. Deju Elumoye et al., [The Premium Times News \(April 6th\)](#) reports.

The Federal High Court has barred journalists and members of the public from attending proceedings in terrorism-related cases. Chief Judge of the court, John Tsoho, issued the directive which takes immediate effect. The directive comes amidst the ongoing terrorism prosecution of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The document also provides that anyone who violates the practice directions is deemed to have committed an offence under the terrorism law. Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [The Premium Times News \(April 7th\)](#) reports.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Deputy Resident Representative
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

www.kas.de/nigeria

www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria

marija.peran@kas.de / adamu.adams@kas.de



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