

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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The Senate has approved President Muhammadu Buhari's budget spending for the year 2022. President Buhari submitted a revised 2022-2024 Medium Term Expenditure Framework to the National Assembly on Wednesday 6; the submission was referred to the Committee on Finance for consideration ahead of President Buhari's Budget presentation to the National Assembly on Thursday 7. Recommendations from the Senate included the approval of an aggregate expenditure of N16.39 trillion for the year 2022. Onyinye Nwachukwu, [Business Day News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

President Buhari appeared before a joint session of the National Assembly to unveil a 16 trillion-naira budget of "Economic Growth and Sustainability" for 2021 with a projection of 25% rise in government expenses. However, economic analysts have described the budget as a major policy shift because spending remains elevated amidst a "deteriorating" security situation around the country, an academic proposed the use of Public Private Partnership in funding the country's budget, while others faulted the governments lack of innovation as an easy way out for economic underdevelopment. The President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan however cautioned the government to reduce borrowing by exploring other funding sources. Adamu Abuh et al, [Guardian News \(October 8th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, has disclosed that the borrowings by the federal government formed only 23 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. she argued that the funding of developmental and infrastructural projects was only feasible through continuous borrowings due to insufficient of revenue generation. Zainab added that borrowing was "still within healthy and sustainable limits." Johnbosco Agbakwuru, [Vanguard News \(October 7th\)](#) reports.

The Federal Executive Council on Wednesday 6, approved the proposal of a 16 trillion-naira budget for the year 2022. The federal government spent 1.8 trillion-naira on debt servicing in the first five months of 2021 which represented 98 per cent of

the total revenue generated in the same period. In 2019, the federal government generated 3.86 trillion naira in revenue and spent 2.1 trillion. Reports also showed that revenue fell to 3.25 trillion amidst COVID-19 pandemic seeing debt repayment rise to 2.34 trillion-naira. The federal government will borrow 5 trillion naira to finance the budget deficit amidst talks of the country's debt situation being increasingly "unwieldy." Mary Izuaka, [Premium Times \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Federal Republic of Germany has pledged 101 Million Euros in 2021 and 2022 to support the country in its growth recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This was disclosed at the end of a bilateral meeting agreement between the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba, and German representatives. The German government promised that between 2021 and 2022 40 million euros would be made towards technical and financial cooperation, while 61 million euros towards agriculture and food security for refugees and host communities in the North East. Faruk Shuaibu, [Daily Trust News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

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Meanwhile, stakeholders have reacted to the proposed action of the federal government against Anambra State, the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami disclosed to journalist the position of the federal government to sustain the democratic order of the state in order to ensure that peaceful elections are held in the state. Malami added that the government would do the needful to ensure that security is provided, and the protection of lives and property. However, citizens have accused the government's move as an act of voter suppression, insubordination and unconstitutional. Anayo Okoli et al, [Vanguard News \(October 7th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, governors in the South-Eastern region of the country have held an emergency meeting on security to discuss the crisis in the region which they described as being caused by pro-Biafra group Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). IPOB issued a sit at home order in Enugu, Imo, Anambra, Abia and Ebonyi states to pressure the government to release the IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kanu. The governors condemned the sit-at-home order,

describing it as disrupting economic and social activities in the region. Cletus Ukpong, [Premium Times \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: ISWAP Attack Surrendered Terrorists in Holding Facility, Army Launches Inter-Agency Operation in South-East, South-South, South-West and North-Central States, Air Force Reports Continuous Search for Alpha Fighter Jet

In new reports, the Director of Army Relations, Onyeama Nwachukwu on Sunday 3, revealed in a statement the efforts of troops of operation Hadin Kai in Borno state who successfully foiled attacks of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) on surrendered Boko Haram members and their families. Nwachukwu described the latest attack by ISWAP as not “unconnected with the frustration of ISWAP as top commanders and its members denounce violence to embrace peace.” The army troops engaged the terrorists with superior firepower which forced them to withdraw, the people of Damboa have been reassured of proactive security of lives and property. [News Agency of Nigeria \(October 4th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Army has launched a military exercise in Abia state code-named “Golden Dawn,” the

commander of the 14 Brigade, Bello Wahili described the exercise as all-encompassing which would be conducted with other security agencies. He added that civil-military cooperation activities would be introduced to stir collaboration with citizens. [Sahara News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Chief of Army Staff, Yahaya Farouk on Monday 4, flagged off Operation Still Water and Enduring Peace in Enugu state, which will be conducted simultaneously in the South-South and South-West and North-Central states in collaboration with the Nigeria Police, Department of State Services, Air Force, Immigration and other stakeholders to provide support to the exercise. Yahaya explained that the aim of the exercises was to restore law and order in the regions as well as create an enabling environment for socio-economic activities. [Channels News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Air Staff, Isiaka Amao, on Wednesday 6 has revealed that the Air Force Alpha fighter jet which went missing six months ago after losing its radar contract with the Air Force base in Borno state on March 31, 2021 is yet to be found, intelligence report gathered that two crew members on board may have crashed with the jet. However, the Air Force dismissed claims by the Boko Haram that it shot down the jet during an operation against the terrorists. Tunde Ajaja, [Punch News \(October 1st\)](#) reports.

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