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Nigeria Office



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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: NCDC Confirms Delta Variant in Nigeria.

The National Center for Disease, NCDC, at the Presidential Steering Committee briefing revealed that the Covid-19 Delta variant, recognized by the World Health Organization, WHO, for its increased transmissibility, has been detected in the country. The NCDC explained that the variant had been linked to a surge in countries where it is a dominant strain in circulation, adding that there are ongoing studies to understand the impact of the variant on existing vaccines. Nkechi Onyedika Ugoeze, [Guardian News \(July 8th\)](#) reports.

Senate President Says Electoral Act to Pass in Two Weeks, Approves President Buhari's 2.3 Trillion Naira Loan Request, Southern Governors Reject 3% Proposal by Petroleum Industry Bill, Set Deadline to Pass Anti-Open Grazing Law, Reps Seek Solution to Security Agencies Overlapping Functions

The President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan, has revealed that the National Assembly is working towards the Electoral Act in two weeks. He urged citizens to relay complaints of the ongoing amendment to their representatives, for consideration, before the bill passes. He said it is very important that those who feel very strongly about any amendment that they think should be effected in the Electoral Act should contact or talk to their members of House of Representatives as well as distinguished Senators. [Premium Times \(July 5th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Senate approved a total of 6-billion-dollar loan request by President Muhammadu Buhari, to fund the 2021 budget deficit. According to the Senate, the authorized loan may be raised from multiple sources such as the international capital market and other multilateral or bilateral sources as may be available. It directed the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, to submit to the National Assembly within 10 working days, a letter containing the United States Dollars equivalent and the applicable exchange rate. Henry Umoru, [Vanguard News \(July 7th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, Governors of the Southern states in the country at a joint meeting that held in Lagos state have issued a communique rejecting the proposed three per cent share that the Petroleum Industry Bill proposed for host communities. The

governors commended the passage of the bill, however, they rejected the sharing formula, proposing five per cent and the ownership structure of the proposed Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited. Ben Ezeamalu, [Premium Times \(July 5th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Southern Governors Forum passed a resolution that urged the Federal Government to develop modern and alternative livestock management system. They, however, explained the rationale for the ban on open grazing as increasing the prospect between migrating herders and local population in the south. Also, they identified that the incursion for armed herders, criminals and bandits into the southern part of country as being at the root of the severe security challenges in the region. Abiola Olasupo, [The Guardian News \(July 5th\)](#) writes.

In new reports, the House of Representatives Committee on Implementation of the Legislative Agenda commenced a two-day retreat to discuss bills that sought to address insecurity and the overlapping roles of security agencies in the country. The retreat organized in collaboration with KAS Nigeria and the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) focused on addressing the overlapping functions of security agencies in the country by considering the Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021; Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 among others. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila said at his opening remarks "our powers and responsibility lies in our constitutional mandate to make laws for the good governance of the country." ifelowa Adeiran, [Premium Times \(July 9th\)](#) reports.

SAN Advocates Constitutionality of Party Defections, Contention on Electioneering in Nigeria, Southern Governors Reject Ban on Electronic Transmission of Votes

Meanwhile, the constitutionality of the decisions made on political party defections, have been disagreed upon by senior lawyers in the country. They argued that, the decision of some governors who defect from the political party that they were originally elected upon, breaches the country's extant laws. They cited section 221 of the constitution as a precedent to support the argument that Defection or carpet crossing is a subterfuge, ruse

or stratagem not recognised by our fundamental law. Gboyega Akinsanmi, [This Day News \(July 4th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Supreme court's judgement in the 2019 elections, declared the People's Democratic Party, PDP, winners, after it annulled the votes of the All-Progressives Congress, APC, in the Zamfara state elections. The PDP has sought to seek the court's ruling, to challenge the recent defection of the Governor to the ruling APC. Kola Ologbodiyan, the PDP's spokesman has stated that the supreme court judgment upon which the defected governor assumed office was "clear and unambiguous", further noting that it is the party that contests election in the country and not the candidate. [This Day News \(July 4th\)](#) reports.

The Forum of the Southern Governors on Monday 5, have opposed the removal of electronic transmission of election result, from the electoral act. They also, rejected the confirmation of exclusive jurisdiction in pre-election matters by the Federal High Court. Sodiq Oyeleke, [Punch News \(July 5th\)](#) writes.

Insecurity: ISWAP Names New Commander, Set to Impose Tax on Citizens, Bandits Demand Food for Hostages, Ambush Nigerian Troops

In new reports, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) following the death of its commanders, who were killed in battle by Nigerian military

forces have been ordered by the ISIS headquarters in Iraq, to restructure and appoint new commanders. The ISWAP council, also, introduced mobile courts and policies to harmonize its insurgent activities, while imposing taxes on the agricultural activities of indigenes in Borno communities. Wale Odunsi, [Daily Post News \(July 4th\)](#) reports.

Kidnappers who abducted more than 100 school children have demanded food supplies for their captives. Heavily armed gangs who plagues the north by looting stealing and abducting for ransom have increasingly targeted schools and colleges. The kidnappers have now resorted to demanding food for their hostages. School authorities are meeting with security agents to determine the next line of action. AFP, [Guardian News \(July 7th\)](#) reports.

Gunmen suspected to be bandits ambushed troops of the Forward Operational Base and the Special Operational Command operating in Kebbi State. The incident occurred on Tuesday 6 and left soldiers dead. Local sources revealed to journalist, that the bandits came in large number which forced the military troops to withdraw after engaged in battle. Search and rescue operations are ongoing to find missing soldiers. Nasir Ayitogo, [Premium Times News \(July 6th\)](#) reports.

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