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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: Nigeria Experiences Major Breakthrough in Vaccine Development

With the coronavirus pandemic still ongoing, Nigeria has witnessed a major breakthrough in vaccine development by a group of researchers. The first clinical trial of a vaccine candidate is set to commence in November this year. The vaccine production cluster is made up of researchers from the National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom; Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Jos; Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Lagos, and National Research Institute for Chemical Technology, Zaria. If successful, Nigeria would no longer be heavily dependent on other countries for the supply of vaccines and this breakthrough would furthermore ensure the Federal Government met its plans to vaccinate 51% of its population as soon as possible. Rahama Olamide Oladosu, [The Premium Times News \(September 5th\)](#) reports.

Minister of Petroleum Describes Nigeria's Oil Theft as a National Emergency, Petroleum Marketers Threaten Strike Action, 23 Nigerian Startups Selected to Receive 4 Million USD Funding From Google

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Timipre Sylva has described Nigeria's loss of crude oil as a "national emergency". He noted that the country loses 400.000 barrels of crude oil daily through theft. As a consequence, Nigeria is unable to meet the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) daily quota of 1.8 million barrels per day. However, in a contradicting statement, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited Chief Executive Officer, Mele Kyari, was quoted to have said that the country loses 700.000 barrels of crude oil daily to oil theft. He identified oil theft as a major reason for the decrease in production. According to him, highly placed Nigerians, including religious and community leaders as well as government officials, were fully involved in the crude oil theft on a grand scale. Experts in the oil and gas sector have advised the Federal Government to adopt proactive and aggressive means to checkmate oil theft. Kingsley Jeremiah, [The Guardian News \(September 4th\)](#) writes.

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) withdrew their services at depots in nine northern states as a notice of a three-day warning strike. IPMAN demands that

the Federal Government pay their outstanding claims of 70 billion Naira and warned to go on an indefinite strike if its demands were not met. Addressing a press conference on Monday in Maiduguri, the spokesman for IPMAN in Borno State, Abdulkadir Mustapha, said the non-payment was causing untold hardship to their members and could lead to fuel scarcity. Gbenga Oloniniran, [The Punch News \(September 5th\)](#) reports.

Tech giant Google announced the selection of 60 eligible startups across Africa with an overall 4 million USD funding to enable them scale up their ongoing work; Nigeria will receive 23 of the 40 slots. The Black Founders Fund (BFF) for startups in Africa marks the second phase of Google's funding for African startups. Folarin Aiyegbusi, Google's Head of Startup Ecosystem for Sub-Saharan Africa, said the programme reinforced the company's commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and startups in the region as a vital prerequisite to driving employment and growth on the continent. [The Vanguard News \(September 6th\)](#) reports.

Christian Association of Nigeria Says it has no Agreement with APC Presidential Candidate, PDP's NEC Pass Vote of Confidence on its National Chairman, FG Receives Backlash Over Comments on Insecurity

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) underlined its opposition to the Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC). It remained that it had not reached an agreement with the APC presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu. CAN also warned that Tinubu's presence and donation at last week's birthday of the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Rev. Matthew Hassan Kukah, should not be seen as a financial inducement bribe to pacify the Christian community. Friday Olokor and Adebayo Folorunsho Francis, [The Punch News \(6th September\)](#) report.

The 97th National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) passed a vote of confidence on Iyorchia Ayu, the National Chairman of the PDP and the National Working Committee (NWC). The endorsement of Ayu's leadership by the NEC signals the first time in the party's history that a national chairman would survive a move by governors to remove him from office. The confidence vote came just as the group of governors calling for Ayu's resignation as a condition for the reconciliation with the party's presidential

candidate, Atiku Abubakar, had not attended the meeting. Chibuzo Ukaibe and Anayo Onukwugha, [The Leadership News \(September 9th\)](#) report.

The Federal Government has received backlash to its claims that the worst of Nigeria's insecurity was over just about 24 hours after the abduction of 32 passengers in Ondo state. Minister of Information and Culture Lai Mohammed had claimed on Monday at a joint press briefing with the Ministers of Defence, Maj-Gen. Bashir Magashi; Interior, Rauf Aregbesola; Police Affairs, Mohammed Maigari Dingyadi; and the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Leo Irabor, that peace and security was gradually returning to the country. However, several civil society organizations described the minister's assertion as very unfortunate, saying either he was dreaming or telling Nigerians a different story rather than the truth. Tony Ezimakor et al., [The Independent News \(September 6th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Military Eliminates Over 250 Terrorists in the North-East, Apprehends Informant, Nigerian Navy Speaks on its Commitment to Secure Gulf of Guinea

The Director of Defence Media Operations, Musa Danmadami, has disclosed that over 252 Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province

(ISWAP) terrorists were eliminated by Nigerian troops in the last two weeks in the North-East. Danmadami said the success was recorded in a series of land and air interdictions at the fringes of various villages and communities in Borno and Yobe States. Furthermore, tactical surveillance troops apprehended a wanted Boko Haram terrorist informant in Abuja as well as a suspected Boko Haram terrorist arms dealer in Zamfara State. [The Premium Times News \(September 8th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Navy says it is committed to protecting the country's maritime space and enhancing security in the Gulf of Guinea. 13,000 vessels transit the Gulf annually for maritime trade and other matters. Director of Information at the Naval Headquarters, Adedotun Ayo-Vaughan, said as a leader in the Gulf, Nigeria had invested in several American and Israeli state-of-the-art technology. He disclosed that under the Yaounde Architecture discussions were ongoing between Nigeria and neighboring countries to establish a maritime task force to patrol the waters jointly. Ayo-Vaughan pointed out that with the American technology, any vessel that committed any infraction on Nigerian waters would be spotted and arrested either within the Nigeria space or other collaborating nations. [The Premium Times News \(September 9th\)](#) reports.

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