

## 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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### Senate President Commits to Speedy Passage of Supplementary Budget

The President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan, on Thursday 10, promised citizens, that the National Assembly is committed to give speedy approval to the 895-billion-naira, 2021 supplementary budget, sent by the Federal Executive Council. He added, that “the National Assembly has been doing all it could with the Executive arm of government, to bring an end to the series of challenges of insecurity confronting the country.” Segun Adewale, [Punch News \(June 10<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### FG Bans Twitter, Attracts International Attention, EU, UK, US, Ireland and Canadian Envoy React to Twitter Ban, Stakeholders Drag President Buhari to ECOWAS Over Twitter Ban, FG Says Twitter Management Has Reached Out for Negotiations

The Federal Government on Friday 4, suspended Twitter operations, indefinitely, in the country. The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, signed a statement, that revealed Twitter's operations as “undermining of Nigeria's corporate existence” as among the reasons of the ban. The National Broadcasting Commission, was to immediately commence the process of licensing all social media operations in the country. [Channels News \(June 4<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Kola Tubosun, in the [Foreign Policy Magazine \(June 7<sup>th</sup>\)](#), has reported the federal governments ban on twitter, as a “slip into dictatorship”. In October, 2020, dozens of protesters, who demanded change to the behavior of “heavy-handed” security agencies, were shot. President Muhammadu Buhari, the countries former military dictator from 1983 to 1985, used “threatening language,” on twitter, in response to agitations in the southeastern part of the country. The tweet, was a threat against civilians, which read “the language they will understand.” Two days later, the government announced an indefinite ban on twitter, which it described as “capable of undermining Nigeria's Corporate existence.”

On the same note, the European union in Nigeria, alongside the United states, United Kingdom, Canada and the Republic of Ireland's envoy, maintained the position that the ban on Twitter by the federal government, “violated the freedom of expression of citizens.” The envoy, who met with the minister of foreign affairs, Godfrey Onyeama, on

Monday 7, described the ban, irrespective of concerns by the government that the platform was being used to perpetuate “hate speech and criminality.” Abiola Odotola, [Naira Metrics News \(June 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and 176 concerned Nigerians have filed a lawsuit against President Muhammadu Buhari's administration over the “unlawful suspension of Twitter in Nigeria.” The suit was filed before the Economic Community of West African State, ECOWAS, Court of Justice in Abuja on Tuesday 8, seeking “an order of interim injunction restraining the federal government from implementing its suspension of Twitter in the country. Wale Odunsi, [Daily Post News \(June 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Federal Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, on Wednesday 9, disclosed to State House Correspondents, that Twitter has reached out to the federal government for a “high-level” discussion negotiating the ban on its operations. He maintained that the platform, has been a choice for separatist to thrive and would be disallowed from operating, until it is duly registered, licensed, and operates within regulations. [Channels News \(June 9<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

### President Buhari Approves Open Grazing, FG Targets 9.1 million Students for School Feeding Program, Amalgamation of Northern Women Charge President Buhari on Referendum for Biafra

In new reports, President Muhammadu Buhari, has given approval to the return of open grazing in the country. He directed the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, to begin the process of recovering land from citizens who have converted cattle grazing routes for personal use. President Buhari, reacted to questions, on the decision by the southern governors to ban open grazing, disclosing that he wouldn't contradict the attorney generals' position to kick against the anti-open grazing law. Eniola Akinkuotu, [Punch News \(June 10<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Farouk, revealed that the federal government's school feeding scheme, where pupils in schools receive free daily meals, would begin targeting over nine million school children, in public schools across the country. Farouk, added that, pupils in

primary one to three across 54,619 schools would benefit from the second phase. [Channels News \(June 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, a group of women drawn from the various states of the northern part of the country, identified as the Amalgamation of Northern Women of Nigeria, stormed the federal capital territory, on Saturday 5, in a rally, demanding that a referendum should determine the fate of people clamoring for the Biafra Republic. The National Coordinator of the group, Hadiza Adamu, on behalf of the women, also urged President Buhari to liaise with the National Assembly to achieve the objective, condemning the ongoing "bloodletting in the South-East." Muiyiwa Oyindola, [Leadership News \(June 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

**Insecurity: President Buhari Iterates Support to Security Personnel, IGP Warns Against Association with IPOB, Army Troops Repel Boko Haram Attacks in Borno State, Igbo National Council Seek State of Emergency Across Southern, Northern Region**

President Muhammadu Buhari, has promised that his administration would act firmly "against any and all persons tormenting or carrying out attacks on our police force and other security personnel." He spoke, at the handing over of security equipment, to the Lagos State Police Command on Thursday 10. He further said "that my primary responsibility remains the security of the country

and the safety of all citizens." [Channels News \(June 10<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Usman Alkali Baba, has revealed that no citizen is expected to a member of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, as the organization remains banned. He added, that the government was working in collaboration with other security agencies towards addressing the issue of kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry and cultism in the north-central, north-west and south-west. John Owen Nwachukwu, [Daily Post News \(June 4<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

In new reports, an attack on Dikwa community in Borno state, on Tuesday 8, was repelled by the Nigerian Army Air Task Force. The terrorists, stormed the community in a convoy of gun trucks and engaged the army troops in a "fierce gun battle." Witnesses, however, said that "the terrorists were pounded severely, those whose survived the troops onslaught fled." Nasir Ayitogo, [Premium Times News \(June 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

On another note, a socio-political organization, the Igbo National Council, INC, has called on the governors of South-East, South-West and North-Central states, to declare a state of emergency on terrorism and insecurity across the country. INC, stressed on the "escalation" of terrorism, banditry and wanton killings in the east, among others as an urgent need to overhaul the countries security architecture. Chijindu Emeruwa, [Daily Post News \(June 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

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