

Nigeria Press Review

05.05. – 12.05.2023

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 the overall situation in Nigeria.

Content

Refiners Say Nigeria Need USD 7.5 Billion to Deepen LPG Usage, Dangote Refinery Set to Refine about 103 Million Litres Daily, President Buhari Seeks Senate Approval to Spend USD 800 Million World Bank Palliative Loan, Angola Overtakes Nigeria as Top African Crude Oil Producer, World Health Organization Says Nigeria is Second Highest in Maternal Deaths Worldwide

Presidential Election Petition Tribunal: Tribunal Begins Sitting, Judges Dismiss First and Second Petition Against Tinubu, Peter Obi's Petition Adjourned Till May 17, Atiku's and APM's Petitions Adjourned Till May 18

Five Speakership Aspirants in The Coming 10th National Assembly Race Against APC's Adopted Candidate, Supreme Court Affirms Adeleke as Osun Governor, Code of Conduct Bureau Asks President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect and Incoming Governors to Declare Assets Before Swearing-In, Indigenous People Of Biafra Declares May 30 Sit-At-Home Order, Court Restrains the National Broadcasting Commission from Imposing Fines on Broadcast Stations

Insecurity: Soldiers Rescue Over 30 Kidnap Victims, Bandits Abduct 40 Church Worshippers in Kaduna, Army Chief Says Human Rights Violations Now Reduced in the Military

Refiners Say Nigeria Need USD 7.5 Billion to Deepen LPG Usage, Dangote Refinery Set to Refine about 103 Million Liters Daily, President Buhari Seeks Senate Approval to Spend USD 800 Million World Bank Palliative Loan, Angola Overtakes Nigeria as Top African Crude Oil Producer, World Health Organization Says Nigeria is Second Highest in Maternal Deaths Worldwide

To displace charcoal with clean cooking gas, also known as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), would cost Nigeria and other African countries about USD 7.5 billion for the downstream infrastructure and stoves, the African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA) said. Anibor Kragha, Executive Secretary ARDA, stated that while Sub-Saharan Africa had 14.4% of the world's population, it had less than 1% of global LPG consumption. He further noted that LPG consumption in Africa had more than doubled since 2010 and that the consumption recorded a 9.7% annual growth rate over the past decade. The Senior Associate, Investments, African Finance Corporation, Moussa Dabo, said there was a need to improve governance and institutions for Africa to attract investments. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(May 9th\)](#) reports.

The launch of the Dangote Refinery by president Muhammadu Buhari was scheduled for May, 22. The world's largest single-train refinery will produce as much as 650,000 barrels per day; this translates to nearly 103 million liters of refined petroleum product daily. In addition, its pipeline infrastructure is the largest anywhere in the world, with 1,100 kilometers. Furthermore, reports say that the refinery has a 435 megawatts capacity power plant that can meet the total power requirement of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC). The multi-billion USD oil refinery and petrochemical company will address Nigeria's refining problems. Nse Anthony-Uko, [The Leadership News \(May 8th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari has asked the Senate to approve a new loan request of USD 800 million from the World Bank. The loan facility, the federal government (FG) said, is aimed at assisting the poorest of the poor upon removal of the petrol subsidy that is said to come into force two days after Buhari's incumbency. Speaking at the ongoing induction program for lawmakers elected into the 10th National Assembly, the Director General of the Budget Office, Ben Akabueze, lamented:

"We now have minimal borrowing space, not because our debt to gross domestic product is high, but because our revenue is too small to sustain the size of our debt. That explains our high debt service ratio". The FG is yet to open a discussion with the organized labor movement on the percentage of the facility that would be used to provide mass transit buses for workers and other social interventions. Some civil society organizations have also queried the government's insistence on taking the loan. The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, explained, that the USD 800 million loan secured from the World Bank was to provide post-petroleum subsidy palliatives for over 50 million Nigerians ahead of June 2023. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, [The Guardian News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Angola has emerged as Africa's top crude oil producer, upstaging Nigeria as the latter's output level hits a new low. Data from the oil market report for April 2023 of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) shows that Angola recorded 1.06 million barrels per day (mbd) of crude production in said month. After a steady decline to about 1.1 mbd in the second half of 2022, majorly due to oil theft, Nigeria's oil output began to recover after a nationwide outcry in the fourth quarter of 2022, hovering at 1.3 mpd in the first quarter of 2023, to less than 1.0 mpd in April 2023. This is the lowest production rate in Nigeria recorded in 2023, while Angola's output steadily increases. The report showed that crude oil output increased mainly in Saudi Arabia, Angola and Iran, while production in Iraq and Nigeria declined. Udemek Akpan and Yinka Kolawole, [The Vanguard News \(May 12th\)](#) report.

Nigeria is now second highest among countries with an increased number of maternal deaths in the world, a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) disclosed. The report revealed that Nigeria accounts for 29% of the global toll in 290,000 maternal death cases every year and is likely to miss the sustainable development goals (SDG) target by 2030. The WHO warned that based on current trends, over 60 countries, including Nigeria, may miss maternal, newborn and stillborn mortality reduction targets. The report, which blamed the trend on disruptions by the Covid-19 pandemic, also showed that Nigeria took the second position as more women continued to die from pregnancy-related problems in the last three years. Other factors of concern include growing poverty, worsening humanitarian conditions and

inadequate funding bedeviling countries across the globe. Chioma Obinna, [The Vanguard News \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

Presidential Election Petition Tribunal: Tribunal Begins Sitting, Judges Dismiss First and Second Petition Against Tinubu, Peter Obi's Petition Adjourned Till May 17, Atiku's and APM's Petitions Adjourned Till May 18

The Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) has held its inaugural session, a legal ritual preceding the actual hearing of petitions seeking to nullify the outcome of the 2023 presidential election. At the session, a five-member panel of justices of the Court of Appeal that will hear and determine the five petitions challenging the declaration of Bola Tinubu as the winner of the presidential election, were revealed. The three petitions the court said it would hear were the ones the Action Alliance (AA) filed against INEC, that of the All Peoples Party (APP) and the petition by Peter Obi and the Labour Party (LP). The remaining petitions were filed by the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) and Abubakar Atiku of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The presiding justice urged lawyers representing all the petitioners to avoid sensational comments, stressing that the court would not tolerate time-wasting tactics and technicalities. Ikechukwu Nnochiri, [The Vanguard News \(May 8th\)](#) reports.

The Action Peoples Party (APP) and its presidential candidate Simon Nnadi have withdrawn their petition challenging the return of president-elect Bola Tinubu as the winner of the February 25 presidential election. The APP had challenged his victory because "the first respondent was not qualified to stand for the said election having knowingly supplied false information", including the alleged falsification of age and educational qualifications. A counsel for the APP informed the court of a pending motion filed on May 9 seeking the withdrawal of the petition. He urged the court to dismiss the petition or strike it out. After the response towards the motion, it was dismissed. Godwin Tsa, [The Sun News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

The Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPC) has deferred further proceedings on the petition of Peter Obi, the candidate of the Labour Party (LP), to May 17. After it had listened to all the parties, the five-member panel acceded to the adjournment request. The court directed the parties to identify core issues to be determined in the pe-

tion. After it adjourned the matter for the continuation of the pre-hearing session. The adjournment followed an agreement by all the parties in the case. Ikechukwu Nnochiri, [The Vanguard News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

The Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPC) further adjourned the hearing of the petition brought by the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, and the petition of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) against the declaration of the president-elect to Thursday, May 18. The adjournment follows requests by counsel to enable them to harmonize all processes in the case and agree on applications and issues for determination by the court. Alex Enumah, [This Day Live News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Five Speakership Aspirants in The Coming 10th National Assembly Race Against APC's Adopted Candidate, Supreme Court Affirms Adeleke as Osun Governor, Code of Conduct Bureau Asks President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect and Incoming Governors to Declare Assets Before Swearing-In, Indigenous People Of Biafra Declare May 30 Sit-At-Home Order, Court Restrains the National Broadcasting Commission from Imposing Fines on Broadcast Stations

On Monday, the national working committee (NWC) of the All Progressive Congress (APC) officially announced the former minority leader of the Senate and immediate past Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Godwin Akpabio from the South-South, as its consensus candidate for the position of Senate president. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriation, Barau Jibrin from the North-West, was nominated for the position of the Senate deputy president. In the House of Representatives, the position of speaker was zoned to the North-West with Tajudeen Abbas as the consensus candidate. The South-East secured the position of deputy Speaker with Benjamin Kalu. The aspirants for the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the coming 10th National Assembly who are aggrieved with the zoning plan of the APC, are grouping against the party's adopted candidates. Contenders for the Speaker's seat opposed the move to announce consensus candidates without due consultation with stakeholders in the chamber. Leke Baiyewu and Adebayo Folorunsho-Franco, [The Punch News \(May 10th\)](#) report.

The Supreme Court upheld the election victory of

governor Ademola Adeleke in the July 16, 2022, governorship poll ending all disputes against him by Adegboyega Oyetola, his predecessor in office. In its judgment, a five-justices panel held that Oyetola could not substantiate his claim that the presiding officers who conducted the elections did not use the Bimodal Voter Accreditation (BVAS) machine. It said, since the BVAS was the sole foundation and focal point of the appellant's case, they needed to produce the BVAS content in those affected polling units. President-elect Bola Tinubu has congratulated Adeleke on his victory, urging him to move quickly to unite the state. Seye Oluvide et al., [The Guardian News \(May 10th\)](#) report.

The Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) has said president-elect Bola Tinubu, the vice president-elect Kashim Shettima as well as the 28 incoming governors must declare their assets before May 29. Other officials, including senators-elect and representatives-elect, are expected to report their assets before June 5, before being sworn in. The CCB clarified that legally asset declaration was an integral part of the swearing-in ceremony. The authority disclosed, that several elected officials had started picking their assets declaration forms at the CCB state offices nationwide. The outgoing officials, including presidential aides, 28 state governors and their cabinet members, National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly members and local government chairpersons will equally obtain the assets declaration forms from the CCB and submit the same in line with the 1999 Constitution. Failure to declare their assets as required under the provisions of the Constitution attracts on conviction removal from office, disqualification from holding any public office and forfeiture to the state of any property acquired in abuse of office or dishonesty. Adebayo Folorunsho-Francis et al., [The Punch News \(May 8th\)](#) report.

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has declared May 30 a sit-at-home day. In a statement, the group said the day must be kept holy in memory of the fallen heroes of the Biafra cause, stating that the occasion would hold from 6 am to 6 pm. Furthermore, IPOB has noted that every economic, social, religious and political activity in what they call Biafraland would be suspended, except for hospitals, doctors, nurses, ambulances and other health workers who be on essential duties. The group announced, that other sectors, including police stations, should be under locks and keys within this territory. Furthermore, Biafrans in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria are asked to join the sit-at-home exercise. IPOB warned counselling

Biafrans and other residents in the affected territory to avoid endangering their lives or businesses by obeying the order. Michael Ovat, [The Tribune News \(May 8th\)](#) reports.

On Wednesday, the Federal High Court ordered a perpetual injunction restraining the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) from imposing fines on broadcast stations in Nigeria and also set aside the NGN 500,000 fines imposed on each of the 45 broadcast stations in March 2019. The order further held that the NBC Code, which gives the commission the power to impose sanctions, conflicts with Section 6 of the Constitution, that vested judicial authority in the court of law. The judge agreed that the Nigeria Broadcasting Code cannot confer judicial powers on the commission to impose criminal sanctions or penalties such as fines. [Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Soldiers Rescue Over 30 Kidnap Victims, Bandits Abduct 40 Church Worshippers in Kaduna, Army Chief Says Human Rights Violations Now Reduced in the Military

The Nigerian army on Wednesday recorded a significant success in the war against armed bandits in Niger state. Soldiers invaded their hideout and killed over 20 of them while several others fled with bullet injuries. According to a source close to the Community, the bandits had invaded the community three months ago. They abducted community members, which included women and children, and placed NGN 50 million for ransom for their release. In addition, the soldiers rescued over 30 kidnapped victims who the gunmen were holding in their abode after over five hours of a heavy gun battle. The majority of the victims are said to be women and children and had spent well over three months with their abductors in the bush before they were rescued on Thursday. John Adams, [The Sun News \(May 5th\)](#) reports.

40 worshippers in Kaduna were abducted during church service on Sunday. The Kaduna state chapter chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), John Joseph Hayab, who confirmed their abduction, said the worshippers were in the Sunday service in the Church at around 9:30 am when all of a sudden they started hearing sporadic gunshots very close to the church, adding that then gunmen attacked the church and went away with 40 worshippers. He further reports, that efforts were being made to contact the abductors concerning the remaining people. The Kaduna state

government and the police command were yet to issue any official statement on the incident when contacted. Saiah Benjamin, [The Leadership News \(May 8th\)](#) reports.

The chief of civil military affairs of the Nigeria army, Maj.-Gen. Marcus Kangye, has said that creating the department of civil military affairs has significantly reduced cases of human rights violations among military personnel. He further noted that the media played a significant role in national

development, adding that the successes recorded regular media engagements and sensitization of the military personnel. The department went out to various military formations to sensitize soldiers on the laws of armed conflict, international humanitarian laws and rules of engagement as well as on the code of conduct in every internal security operation. Now litigation and reports about Nigerian army personnel received by the legal department have significantly reduced, he stated. James Abraham, [The Punch News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

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