

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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Covid-19: FG to Honor Pandemic Heroes with Productivity Award, NCDC Confirms Monkey Pox Cases

The Federal Government will use the platform of this year's National Productivity Awards to reward and honor those who made sacrifices during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic to save lives of Nigerians. Apart from honoring Covid-19 heroes, the award committee has through a thorough exercise recommended recipients for the 2019 and 2020 awards respectively. Among those selected for individual awards is the Executive Director of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Faisal Shuaib. Those selected for the category of special Covid-19 awards are former Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Chikwe Ihekweazu, Lagos Commissioner for Health, Akin Abayomi, and Secretary of the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha. Onyebuchi Ezigbo, [This Day News \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

About 72 hours after health authorities in the United Kingdom announced that a traveller from Nigeria tested positive for Monkeypox infection, the Nigerian government has given the statistics of the disease cases and fatalities recorded in the country within the last five years. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in its latest report said the country recorded 558 cases and eight deaths across 32 states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between 2017 and 2022. According to Colin Brown, Director of Clinical and Emerging Infections in the UK Health Security Agency, Monkeypox is a rare viral infection that does not spread easily among people. "It is usually a mild self-limiting illness and most people recover within a few weeks. However, severe illness can occur in some individuals," he explained. Mariam Ileyemi, [The Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

Nigeria Loses N 1.2 Trillion to Deficit in Oil Production, World Bank Says with Closing the Gender Gaps Nigeria Can Earn USD 23 Billion Extra, Petroleum Marketers Association Warn of Worst Hit Fuel Scarcity, Airline Operators Reach New Agreement with NNPC Limited

The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) has released data analysis which revealed that Nigeria failed to meet its oil production quotas in January, February and March 2022. Nigeria

was unable to produce about 22.658 million barrels of crude oil valued at N 1.22 trillion due to its persistent inability to meet the crude oil production quota approved for by OPEC. Adding to this, a document obtained from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) stated that crude oil theft had severely limited the country's earnings from oil sales. In the document, NUPRC Chief Executive Gbenga Komolafe, however, stated that efforts were being intensified to curb the menace. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(May 9th\)](#) reports.

A World Bank report on women's economic empowerment in Nigeria launched in Abuja, revealed that the Nigerian economy could earn additional USD 23 to USD 29 billion if the country closed the gender gap. The report said that gender disparities in earnings not only hold back the Nigerian economy but they also represent an opportunity: closing the gender gaps in key economic sectors could yield additional gains of USD 9.3 billion or up to USD 22.9 billion. According to the report, women's economic empowerment will also be key to accelerating a demographic transition and improve the demographic dividend. Emma Ujah, [The Vanguard News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has warned of the possibility of the worst case of fuel scarcity ever in the country. IPMAN claimed the scarcity could be averted only if the Federal Government prevailed on the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) to pay N 500 billion bridging claims by its members. IPMAN Chairman of Kano State, Bashir Danmalam, explained that the lack of payment of the claims for the past nine months, otherwise known as the transportation claims, has pushed many of its members out of business and affected the industry due to the high cost of diesel. "We are not agitating for a transportation fee increase; we are only clamouring for payment of our bridging claims that is over N 500 billion," he added. Abdulmumin Murtala, [The Vanguard News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

The leadership of the House of Representatives on Monday, facilitated an agreement between the Airline Operators of Nigeria, the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and relevant regulators to end volatility in the price of Jet A-1 fuel. Following three hours of deliberation chaired by Speaker of

the House Femi Gbajabiamila, the involved parties agreed the airline operators should get trusted marketers that will distribute over six million liters of fuel that were guaranteed by the Government. This arrangement is to be seen as a short time solution for the next three months. Airline operators had on Friday in a letter addressed to the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, announced they will halt operations from May 9, following an astronomical increase in the price of aviation fuel. The letter was jointly signed by the President of Airline Operators of Nigeria, Serina Abdulmunaf, and the Chief Executive Officers of eight domestic airline operators. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

Senate Amends Electoral Act to Allow Statutory Delegates Vote at Party Congresses, Conventions, Three Ministers Resign to Contest for Presidency, President Buhari Orders CBN Governor to Step Down, Former President Jonathan Rejects Presidential Nomination Form, Court Refuses CBN Governors Request to Restrain INEC and AGF Over Presidential Ambition, PDP Throws Open Presidential Ticket

The Senate has amended Section 84(8) of the Electoral Act, 2022 to allow statutory delegates to participate and vote in party conventions, congresses and meetings. Before it was amended, it allowed only elected delegates of a party to participate in the conventions or other meetings. The Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, sponsored the bill which scaled first, second and third readings at plenary on Tuesday. Leading the debate, Omo-Agege noted that the initial section of the bill was an error on the part of the legislature. After passage of the bill, Senate President Ahmad Lawan said the Electoral Act “has a deficiency that was never intended and the deficiency will deny all statutory delegates in all political parties from participating in congresses and conventions.” In the newly signed bill, the lawmakers had addressed an issue raised by the president – the mode of primaries for which political parties will conduct primary elections to elect candidates for political offices. The Act allows political parties the option of using direct, indirect or consensus modes of primaries. It also allows the use of electronic voting and electronic transmission of results. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

On Wednesday, the Court of Appeal in Abuja voided the ruling of the Federal High Court in Umuahia, Abia State, that nullified the controversial Section 84(12) of the Electoral Act, 2022. Delivering its judgment, a three-member panel of the appellate court headed by Justice Hamma Barka, held that the Federal High Court, Umuahia, lacked jurisdiction to have adjudicated the suit. Only moments after the verdict, President Muhammadu Buhari ordered every member of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) with ambition to contest elective offices to resign on or before Monday, May 16. Although the President exempted Vice President Yemi Osinbajo from the directive on account of his membership of the cabinet by virtue of election, some of those affected are the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, and the Minister for Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, who have joined the presidential race on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Leo Sobechi et al., [The Guardian News \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari has also ordered the resignation of Godwin Emefiele, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Emefiele had been under pressure since some groups purchased the 2023 presidential forms of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) for him. Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State had asked the President to dismiss Emefiele if he failed to step down. The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) even went as far as to demand his arrest over his interest in the 2023 elections. Abbas Jimoh, [The Daily Trust News \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

Former President Goodluck Jonathan Monday night rejected the presidential nomination form obtained for him by the group Nomadic Herders and Almajiris Community in Nigeria. Jonathan, in a statement by his Media Adviser, posted on his Facebook page that he was not aware of the move. Ibrahim Abdullahi, leader of the group, said: “The nomadic pastoralist and the almajirai communities have decided to purchase this form for our former president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to come back and rule this country and continue with the good work he has started”. Jide Orintunsin, [The Nation News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

A Federal High Court in Abuja has refused the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Godwin Emefiele’s request to restrain the Independent Na-

tional Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, preventing him from his presidential ambition. Emeziele through his counsel told the court that Section 84(12) of the Electoral Act as amended, 2022 does not affect him, being a public servant and not a political appointee. He had asked the court to declare him qualified to contest for the presidential post, claiming that he can run for the post of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria without vacating his position as CBN Governor. [Channels News \(May 9th\)](#) reports.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has opened its presidential ticket ahead of its presidential primaries scheduled for May 28 - 29, 2022. Speaking shortly after the meeting late on Monday, the PDP National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, said that "after a very extensive deliberation, NEC aligned with the recommendation of the PDP National Zoning Committee that the Presidential Election should now be left open. The Party should also work towards consensus candidates where

possible." The Presidential Primary (Special National Convention) to elect the opposition party's presidential candidate will hold on Saturday, May 28, to Sunday, May 29, 2022 in Abuja. Stephen Angbulu, [The Punch News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Islamic Terror Group Releases Video Executing 20 Nigerian Christians

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has published a video that shows the execution of about 20 Christian civilians in northeast Nigeria's Borno State, BBC reports. The video was published on an IS-linked news outlet and shows three groups of captives in civilian clothes. Although the authenticity was confirmed by SITE Intelligence, the time and location of the video is still unknown. Nigerian authorities have still not spoken on the video. One of the masked militants who spoke in Hausa language during the execution said it was to avenge the killing of the group's leaders in the Middle East earlier in 2022. [Sahara Reporters, New York, \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

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