

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 the current situation in Nigeria.

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World Bank Sanctions Seven Nigerian Firms and Individuals Over Corruption, IMF Urges Nigeria to Fix Institutional Corruption, Justifies Ethiopian Airlines Emergence as Successful Bidder to Manage National Carrier, Nigeria's Oil Production Reaches All Time Low

The World Bank has sanctioned seven Nigerian firms and individuals over corruption. Its latest Sanctions System Annual Report, revealed a sanction list containing three Nigerians and four Nigerian companies guilty of bribery of necessary investigations. Under the cross-debarment policy, two of the four companies were sanctioned by the African Development Bank but recognized by other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank. Speaking on the information, the World Bank Group President, David Malpass, said that corruption could damage the bank's efforts in financing projects. Stating that it was essential to recognize the role of the Bank Group's sanction system which plays a significant part in the institution's efforts to maintain oversight and accountability for the financing. Seun Adeuyi, [Daily Trust News \(October 13th\)](#) reports.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Nigeria to further empower the Office of the Auditor General for the Federation to curb institutional corruption in government parastatals and agencies. The organization also called on Nigeria to provide farmers with the necessary infrastructure and technology suitable for detecting and averting challenges that result from climate change. However, Sebastiaan Pompe, Legal Department Officer with IMF, praised the present administration and its stance towards ridding Nigeria of corruption. He stressed that corruption was an institutional challenge that could make Nigeria slide into a fragile state. Nume Ekeghe, [This Day Live \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

Stakeholders had condemned the recently announced stake of Ethiopian Airlines in Nigeria's national carrier when the Federal Government (FG) announced Ethiopian Airlines as the core investor and technical partner. However, the FG has explained that Ethiopian Airlines was chosen as the successful bidder to manage its new national carrier to open the market and promote intra-African business. According to Minister of Aviation Hadi Sirika, about 92% of the airlines doing business in Africa are non-Africans. So it was high time African airlines came together to form an open market and open-air sky where African airlines worth their

name can tap into the advantage of this 1.4 billion market. Jonathan Nda-Isaiah, [The Leadership News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

At a current 937.000 barrels per day and with 50% drilling, Nigeria's oil production has sunk to a 30-year low, producing the lowest quantity of crude oil from which it generates most of its foreign exchange revenue. This was shown by latest data released by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). Nigeria is dealing with unprecedented oil theft under the Muhammadu Buhari administration, trailing behind its ability to meet its Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota in the last year. Nigeria could only produce roughly half its entire production quota despite a recent rash of measures to curtail the oil theft menace. Emmanuel Addeh, [This Day Live News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

INEC States Concern Over Insecurity in the Upcoming Election, PDP Holds Rally in Akwa Ibom State, FG Reacts to Court Ruling Freeing Nnamdi Kanu, ASUU Suspends Eight-Month Long Strike, Nigeria Condemns Russia's Annexation of Ukrainian Territories

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, has disclosed that INEC was worried about the security of its officials, voters and the materials to be deployed, noting that "without them, we cannot conduct elections". He said the dimension of insecurity in the country was now more widespread. Meanwhile, two weeks after the presidential candidates were allowed to begin campaigns for the upcoming elections, the three leading political parties – All Progressives Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party (LP) – are still in a fix over the composition of their Presidential Campaign Councils. Bridget Chiedu Onochie, [The Guardian News \(October 13th\)](#) reports.

Yet on Monday, Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), kicked off the PDP presidential campaign in Uyo, Akwa Ibom. Atiku appealed to Nigerians to give PDP a chance to rescue the country's economy, security apparatus and other sectors in Nigeria. The PDP presidential campaign council chairman and host of the day, Governor Udom Emmanuel, said only Atiku could rebuild Nigeria. Jerrywright Ukwu, [The Legit News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government said it would consider its legal options after the Court of Appeal discharged Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), of all pending (terrorist) charges. In the Federal Government's (FG) first official reaction, the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami, said the FG's decision on the case would be announced to the public after a review of available legal options that the Nigerian government is currently reviewing and could institute other charges against him. [The Premium Times News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

The Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU) has suspended its strike that it had started on February 14, 2022. ASUU ended the strike following intense negotiations with the Federal Government and the House of Representatives. After several discussions, ASUU president Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke said the union could call off its strike in a few days. ASUU is expected to release an official circular to its member institutions for the resumption of university academic activities. Dennis Erezi, [The Guardian News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

Nigeria has joined the majority of the countries of the world in condemning the Russian annexation of Ukrainian territories. In a Wednesday vote at the UN General Assembly, Nigeria joined 142 other countries, including the US, UK and Germany, to condemn the Russian annexation of about 15% of Ukraine's territory after a referendum condemned as illegal by many countries in the world. 35 Member States abstained, while 5 countries voted against the resolution: Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russia and Syria. Chiamaka Okafo, [The Premium Times \(October 13th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Release of 101 Boko Haram Terrorist Sparks Controversy, Report Places 35.000 Deaths and 1.8 Million Displaced Persons in the North by Boko Haram Terrorists, Death Toll in Boat Accident Reaches 76

According to a source that does not want to be named, no fewer than 101 suspected Boko Haram

terrorists have been released from a medium security prison in Lagos State. Although there is an ongoing court process for them to be released because they have been held since 2009 without trial, wardens at the facility let them out as part of a swap deal for releasing travelers who were abducted in Kaduna in March 28. The source added that negotiations had been ongoing for months. An official in the prison, however, denied the claim. However, efforts to talk to the Nigerian Correctional Service on the matter proved unsuccessful until now. Samson Folarin, [The Punch News \(October 10th\)](#) reports.

In a paper recently presented on forensic evidence gathering after mass atrocities focusing on North East and North West Nigeria, it was revealed that fewer than 35.000 persons had been reported killed in Northern Nigeria and 1.8 million others displaced in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States since 2009 when Boko Haram launched its insurgency, according to the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (Global R2P). Gloria Mabeiam Ballason in her report disclosed that Attacks by Boko Haram had led to mass murders, sexual violence, brutality, mass pillage and looting of livestock, money and other valuables as well as abductions and kidnapping of men, women and children. At the same time, torture, bombings, armed assault, hostage-taking, arson, ethnic cleansing, and genocide occurred. Isiah Benjamin, [The Leadership News \(October 11th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari announced on Sunday that the death toll from a boat accident in Nigeria's southeastern Anambra State had risen to 76. The vessel capsized on Friday amid heavy flooding. The head of the Anambra State Emergency Management Agency said that 15 people had been rescued as of Saturday night. Authorities are working to save or recover any missing passengers, said Buhari, adding that he had directed the relevant agencies to check safety protocols in order to prevent future accidents. A resident told Reuters that because flooding had destroyed the major road linking eight communities to the rest of the area, some residents had to travel by boat. [Reuters News \(October 9th\)](#) reports.



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