

## 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: Experts Speak on the Resurgence of the Pandemic**

The latest figures from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) showed that Nigeria has tested 5.313.596 samples, with 258.517 confirmed cases, 4.985 currently active cases, 250.388 discharged cases and 3.144 deaths. The NCDC warned that in the last few weeks Covid-19 cases have increased in Nigeria. The NCDC urged all unvaccinated citizens to consider getting the vaccine to protect themselves and others. Chukwuma Muanya, [The Guardian News \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

### **UN Says Nigeria Not on Track to Attaining Sustainable Development Goals, Nigeria Bureau of Statistics Reports USD 6.91 Billion to Foreign Direct Investment, Nigeria Among Top 10 Countries with Worst Inflation Rate, ECOWAS Court Declares FG Twitter Unlawful, Air Peace Commences Flight Operations to China**

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mathias Schmale, has said Nigeria lags behind in reaching many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets. Speaking at the opening of the maiden Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) hosted by Sterling One Foundation in Abuja, Schmale said even though there were significant challenges to the attainment of the 2030 agenda, which was worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, Nigeria was already lagging behind before the dual obstacles. The UN resident coordinator said given that Africa was predicted to have a staggering 830 million young people by 2050, the challenge was to create an enabling environment for them to reach their potential and that “this should be viewed as a blessing for the continent - one that can power its economies and societies to greater heights”. The Managing Director of Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman, insisted that wealth generation and economic prosperity remained crucial to solving the poverty challenge in the country. James Emejo, [This Day Live News \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

The National Bureau of Statistics, in its quarterly “Nigeria Capital Importation” report, says foreign investments into Nigeria have declined by 81.46% (in total USD 6.91 billion) from USD 8.49 billion in the first quarter of 2019 to USD 1.57 billion in the

corresponding quarter of 2022. According to the bureau, since the first quarters of the last four years, there has been a steady decline in capital inflows into the nation’s economy. Emmanuel Elebeke, [The Vanguard News \(11<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

The World Bank, recently listed Nigeria amongst the top 10 countries in the world with the worst inflation rate, based on 2021 figures. Nigeria ranked 8th on the list with an annual inflation rate of 16.95%, a list topped by the likes of Sudan, Lebanon and Zimbabwe. Although the war between Ukraine and Russia has made things worse for nearly every country, Nigeria included, the World Bank says the global inflation rate, measured by the consumer price index, rose to 3.42% in 2021, from 1.92% recorded in the previous year, hitting its highest level in nine years. Samuel Oyekanmi, [The Naira Metric News \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

The Economic Community of West African States’ (ECOWAS) Court has declared the suspension of Twitter by the Federal Government “unlawful”. It also ordered the Federal Government “never to repeat it again”. The court further held that the act of suspending the operation of Twitter is unlawful and inconsistent with the provisions of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights both of which Nigeria is a state party. “The Buhari administration in suspending the operations of Twitter violates the rights of SERAP and 176 concerned Nigerians to the enjoyment of freedom of expression, access to information and the media, as well as the right to a fair hearing,” the court ruled. Sodiq Oyeleke, [The Punch News \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

Nigeria’s biggest airline, Air Peace, on Wednesday recorded its inaugural flight to Guangzhou, China. Speaking during the flag-off of the carrier’s Lagos-Guangzhou flight, Chief Operating Officer of Air Peace, Oluwatoyin Olajide, said the airline is officially adding the continent of Asia to its network of continents, with the commencement of an initial one-weekly flight to Guangzhou-China. Olajide noted that the airline is not entirely new to the Chinese airspace as it has successfully operated several evacuation flights to the country at different times in the past, especially during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020. “The Abdullateef Aliyu, [The Guardian News\(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

### **Tinubu Explains Choice of Vice-Presidential Candidate, APC in Crisis over Muslim – Muslim Presidential Candidates, Chieftains Resign in Protest of Muslim-Muslim Choice, PDP Sues INEC and APC, Seeks Peter Obi, Tinubu’s Disqualification**

The presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, in a statement said that he is aware of the religious concerns about his choice of running mate but that he did not believe that religion should be the deciding factor in choosing a running mate. Tinubu explained he chose Kashim Shettima, previous Governor of Borno State, as his running mate because he believes this is the man who can help him bring the best governance to all Nigerians. “Some have counselled that I should select a Christian to please the Christian community. Other(s) have said I should pick a Muslim to appeal to the Muslim community. Clearly, I cannot do both,” Tinubu elaborated. He said the kind of government he hopes to run if elected Nigeria’s president would focus on performance and competence and not ethnicity or religion. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times News \(10<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

Nevertheless, some leaders and critical stakeholders in the All Progressives Congress (APC) have not hidden their misgivings over the Muslim-Muslim ticket and have accordingly withdrawn their support for the Tinubu-Shettima president bid. There are indications that rather than unite the party, the same-faith presidential ticket would further divide APC ahead of the 2023 general elections. A coalition of Christians of Northern Extraction within the APC has warned that the Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket of the party would have serious and grave consequences. In a communiqué signed by Doknan Sheni, its chairman, and Ishaya Bauka, secretary-general, the coalition described the development as unacceptable, saying Nigeria remained a multi-religious and constitutional democracy and not a theocracy, adding that the current political atmosphere of the nation was different from what occurred in 1993. James Kwen, [The business Day \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

Similarly, in sharp opposition to the selection of former governor of Borno State, Senator Kashim Shettima, as running mate to All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate Bola Tinubu, a former governorship candidate of the party in Rivers State and close ally of the immediate past Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, Prince Tonye Princewill, left the party, which has seen more

chieftains continue to exit, as a reaction to this. Tonye in his resignation letter said he could not defend the decision of his party to field a Muslim-Muslim ticket against public outcry by well-meaning Nigerians. “I can’t argue for equity in my state and defend inequity in my country,” Tonye said, adding that under such a situation that the country finds itself presently he could not continue to remain in a party that is “totally insensitive”. Another chieftain of the party, Daniel Bwala, joined the league of members who announced their resignation, noting that he is leaving the ruling party on principles and convictions that he holds dear. Adamu Abuh et al., [The Guardian News \(13<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has instituted a lawsuit compelling the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to prevent the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate Bola Tinubu and Labour Party standard bearer Peter Obi from replacing their running mates with Senator Kashim Shettima and Senator Datti Baba-Ahmed respectively. The PDP is also asking the court to declare that Tinubu and Obi be disqualified unless they contest alongside their previous running mates. Earlier, INEC National Commissioner Festus Okoye had described the issue of placeholder as a unique invention that had no place in the constitutional and legal framework of the country. Eniola Akinkuotu et al., [The Punch News \(15<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

### **Prison Assault Deepens Security Crisis and Jihadist Threat, Terrorists Demand 4.3 Billion Naira for Abducted Kaduna Train Hostages**

The July 5 assault targeted at Kuje prison, a medium-security jail on the outskirts of Abuja and claimed by IS affiliate Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), is widely seen as a sign of the jihadists’ growing ability to threaten regions beyond the northeast, the heartland of their 13-year insurgency. Analysts are calling the attack a “humiliation for Nigeria’s security forces. One high-ranking Nigerian security source working in counter-terrorism said the Kuje prison attack was a “national embarrassment”. By AFB, [The Guardian News \(14<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

Terrorists are demanding a N 100 million ransom for each of the 43 abducted Kaduna train passengers who are still in their custody. The demand was communicated to the families of the hostages last week. Giving an update on the situation on

Sunday, a family member of the abducted victims said that the terrorists were asking each family to cough up N 100 million ransom for the release of their family members. The source said the seven victims that were released on Saturday paid an undisclosed amount. Another family member said

they were told that the terrorists were no longer interested in negotiating with the Federal Government. The Spokesman of the Department of State Service, Peter Afunanya, declined commenting on the terrorists' demand. Solomon Odeniyi, [The Punch News \(11<sup>th</sup> July\)](#) reports.

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