

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 Sets Date for Mandatory Vaccination of Civil Servants

The Chairman of the Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19, Boss Mustapha, has announced a new directive for all employees of the Federal Civil Service to get vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. Mustapha added that by December 1, 2021, all employees would be required to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination or present a negative PCR test no older than 72 hours to gain access to their offices within Nigeria and Nigerian Missions. Nike Adebowale, [Punch News \(October 13th\)](#) reports.

AFDB President Says Nigeria Has a Debt Challenge, Set to Implement Security-Indexed Investment Bonds, FG Tackles Naira Devaluation, WTO DG Says Nigeria's Trade Costs Too High for Investment, President Buhari Emphasises on Gradual Development, Germany Signs MoU with Nigeria on Museum Cooperation

The President of the African Development Bank Group (AFDB), Akinwumi Adesina has described the country's current debt profile as challenging, with debt service gulping 73 per cent of governments revenue. He presented his position in contrast to President Muhammadu Buhari who described the country's debt profile as "within sustainable limits". While Buhari emphasises the country has a revenue challenge, Adesina argues that the big issue is how to service debt and spur resources for domestic investments needed to stimulate faster economic growth. [PM News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, Akinwumi Adesina, at the Mid-Term Ministerial Performance Review Retreat in Abuja on Monday 11, has revealed the AFDB's willingness to assist the country in designing and implementing a security investment bond in order to raise resources in the fight against insecurity. Adesina said the bonds would raise funds on the global capital markets to support countries upgrade their security architecture, rebuild damaged infrastructure in conflict affected areas, and protect zones with strategic investments. He stressed the nexus between security, investments, growth, and development. [Punch News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has described the exchange rate as "artificially low" further stating its deterrence to investors who wish

to bring foreign exchange to the country. The dollar scarcity crisis can only be fixed when the market is made to reflect the real status of the economy, Osinbajo said. At the same time, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund have asked President Buhari's government to present a clearer and more predictable foreign exchange management system. On the issue of restoring the economy on the path of sustainable growth, President Buhari said the country remains committed to covering its infrastructural deficit, citing mega projects due for completion in 2023. Femi Adedokun et al., [The Guardian News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

The Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has said the country needs to improve the nation's security to attract foreign and domestic investments. She revealed that the costs of trade and infrastructure, regulatory, linkage, and customs must be cut down by the government, adding that trade cost in the country was equivalent to 306 per cent tariff, one and half times higher than the cost in high-income countries. Johnbosco Agbakwuru, [Vanguard News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

President Buhari said that the country must pass through the process of development and cannot "jump into development". According to Buhari, the United Nations Development Programme deserves accolades for its assistance to the country, particularly in stabilizing the North-east. He added that, as a developing nation, the help of the international community was well appreciated. Stephen Angbulu, [The Punch News \(October 15th\)](#) reports.

The Director General of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abba Isa Tijani, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the German Director General, Culture and Communications of the German Federal Foreign Office, Andreas Gorgen, in Abuja on Wednesday 13. The process will lead to the return of Benin bronzes, beginning in the second quarter of 2022 with transfers of ownership. The MoU stipulates that the return of the Benin bronzes would be embedded in a broad collaboration in the areas of archeology, museum facilities, and museum cooperation. Bridget Chiedu Onochie, [The Guardian News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

Senate Approves Direct Primaries for Political Parties, PDP Condemns Approval, APC Inaugurates National Reconciliation Committee, Investigations Indict Former Ministers, Governors

The Senate has approved direct primaries to all elective positions in the country. The approved clause empowers political parties to nominate all aspirants for elections to hold direct primaries which shall be monitored by the Independent National Electoral Commission. The Senate said it reached the decision to amend the clauses of the bill after a critical examination by the Senate Committee on INEC was done. Sodiq Oyeleke, [The Punch News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

Responding to the Senate's approval of direct primaries, the spokesman of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Kola Ologbondiyan, on Tuesday 12, said the amendment sought to "wipe off all gains achieved in our electoral practice since 1999". The PDP said the "APC-controlled Senate is a humongous blow to the development of democratic norms and a plot to introduce anarchy during internal party elections". According to the party, another negative effect of the provision is the increase of costs of nomination procedures. Segun Adewole, [The Punch News \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of its national convention has inaugurated a National Reconciliation Committee to reconcile members who were aggrieved by the outcome of the party's congresses, the Chairman of the APC Caretaker Committee, Mai Mala Buni, said. He explained that the committee was set up of selected members based on their track records of excellence and high sense of commitment and dedication to the party. [Premium Times \(October 12th\)](#) reports.

The network Global International Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has identified 21 high-profile citizens as owners of assets worth 117 billion Naira in tax haven banks abroad. The ongoing investigation known under the name Pandora Papers is put together by 600 journalists from 150 organizations around the world. Former military governors, a former minister, presidential adviser, and leading business men have been reportedly in-

dicted in the illegal ownership of offshore companies or trusts. Following the investigations, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has released a statement saying it would investigate citizens reported to have broken the law. [Sahara Reporters News \(October 11th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Military Confirms Death of ISWAP Leader, President Buhari Directs Defence Ministry to Commence Production of Weapons, Approves Take-Off of Community Policing Initiative

The leader of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) jihadist group, Abu Musab al-Bar-nawi, has been reported dead. While ISWAP has not given any confirmation on the leader's death, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, on Thursday 14, confirmed if insistently. Al-Bar-nawi's death would be a loss to ISWAP since it was still consolidating following the death of rival Boko-Haram commander Abubakar Shekau. However, a researcher from the Institute of Security Studies has said the ISWAP leader's death may not have much impact on the structure of the group. The [Guardian News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, President Buhari has directed the Ministry of Defence to create a military industrial complex for the local production of weapons to address the over-dependence on other countries for military equipment and logistics. He stressed his government's readiness to de-emphasise persistent dependence on foreign supply of military weapons to fight security challenges facing the country. Deji Elumoye, [This Day News \(October 12th\)](#) writes.

Meanwhile, President Buhari approved 13 billion Naira for the take-off of the Community Policing Initiative across the country. He described the approval as a measure to consolidate efforts aimed at enhancing security nationwide. President Buhari said efforts to strengthen national security have seen increased investment in arms, weapons, and other necessary equipment including the establishment of the Police Trust Fund which would improve the funding of the Nigeria Police Force. [Premium Times News \(October 11th\)](#) reports.



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