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Nigeria Office

## 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 situation in Nigeria.

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Insecurity: Northern Governors and Traditional Rulers Want Creation of State Police

**Nigeria Becomes Second to Angola as Africa's Biggest Oil Producer, Foreign Trade Reports Shows 143% Increase in Nigeria's Import from Russia, Nigeria Loses Out on Oil Boom Opportunity, Nigerians Spend N 8.9 Trillion Yearly on Energy, Inflation Reaches All Time High at 20.52%, Nigeria and Morocco Begin 5.600 km Gas Pipeline Project**

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in its monthly oil market report for September 2022 stated that Nigeria is not Africa's biggest oil producer anymore. The report added that Angola had surpassed Nigeria for the month of August. Production in Nigeria declined measurably with crude oil theft being the main reason behind this development. The other reason is the costly amount the country spends on subsidizing the cost of petrol. Analysts say the scheme does not benefit the ordinary people so much as marketers using it for arbitrage. Ronald Adamolekun, [The Premium Times News \(September 10<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

According to the foreign trade report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for the second quarter of 2022, Nigeria increased its imports from Russia by 143.21%. Although this increase is against the prediction that Nigeria's imports from Russia might be at risk with the ongoing war with Ukraine, total imports from Russia massively increased. Additionally, while Nigeria has been importing from Russia, import from Ukraine seems to be significantly affected as the NBS report has no record of any import from Ukraine. Speaking on the possible reason for the increase in imports from Russia, a development economist, Aliyu Ilias, explained that Nigeria needs the imports to manage the possibility of a food crisis and restrain worsened food inflation. Sami Tunji, [The Punch News \(September 12<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The leadership of the Senate asked heads of military and security agencies in the country to start prosecuting suspected public members involved in oil theft. The upper chamber of the National Assembly also tasked the judiciary to grant an accelerated hearing on oil theft and other forms of economic sabotage. This comes at a time when a report by the weekly newspaper *The Economist* depicted that Nigeria has continued to waste the opportunity presented by the global rise in oil prices

to grow its economy like other oil-producing countries. According to the news outlet, price controls remain the most significant reason the boom was ruining public accounts. In contrast, the report stated, Angola's currency has suddenly become one of the strongest performers against the USD. Emmanuel Addeh et al., [This Day News \(September 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Pressures from the global energy crisis and compounding situation within the country may be costing Nigeria's 43 million households N 8.9 trillion yearly as they are faced with rising inflation and high cost of food items. With rising prices and the absence of gas processing facilities and refineries, within the last year the cost of one kilogram of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has gone up by over 100% from N 400 to about N 900. With the implementation of the Service Based Tariff (SBT), the cost of electricity has also doubled per kilowatt. Kingsley Jeremiah, [The Guardian News \(September 5<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The consumer price index (CPI) that measures the rate of change in prices of goods and services surged to a record high of 20.52% in August 2022, up from 19.64% in the previous month. Increased prices of bread and cereals as well as products like potatoes, yam, fish, meat, oil and fat caused this rise in food inflation. The rate is the highest since October 2005. Busola Aro, [The Cable News \(September 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

On Thursday, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and the *Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines* of Morocco signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the commencement of construction of the 5.600 km Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, a project traversing 13 African countries. When completed, it will provide gas from Nigeria to the West African countries up to the Kingdom of Morocco and subsequently to Europe. The pipeline will originate from Brass Island (Nigeria) and terminate at North of Morocco, where it will connect the existing Maghreb European Pipeline that originates from Algeria (via Morocco) to Spain. It is aimed at monetizing Nigeria's abundant natural gas resources, thereby generating additional revenue, diversifying Nigeria's gas export routes and eliminating gas flaring across the country. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(September 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Senate President Says Fighting Corruption is Key to Ending Insecurity in Nigeria, INEC Delists 1.126 Million Voters Over Invalid Processes, FG Sues ASUU, Asks Court to Compel Lecturers to Return to School, Students, SERAP Sues President Buhari Over Strike**

Senate President Ahmad Lawan this week said the country must tackle corruption to address insecurity. At a dialogue organized by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Lawan said deploying the military in troubled parts of the country was not enough to address Nigeria's security challenges. "We must look at social and economic vices like corruption, that enable and even propagate insecurity," he explained. Dyepekazah Shibayan, [The Cable News \(September 9<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) delisted 1.126.359 fresh registrants yesterday due to their registration processes being invalid. INEC said the registrants involved were those that registered between June 28, 2021, and January 14, 2022, explaining that the invalidation of the registrations and their subsequent delisting resulted from the application of the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) used in the clean-up of the voter register. The commission said the delisted registrants were part of several double, multiple, and ineligible registrants detected. It added that they included entries that failed to meet requirements. Chuks Okocha, [This day Live News \(September 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government (FG) on Sunday said it had referred the prolonged strike of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to the National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN) for adjudication, following the dialogue failure between the Federal

Ministry of Education and the union. The FG has asked the NICN to inquire into the legality of the ongoing prolonged strike by ASUU leadership and members and also requested a court order for ASUU members to resume work in various universities. Christian Appolos, [The Tribune News \(September 12<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and five university students have filed a lawsuit against the President Muhammadu Buhari, over the prolonged strike of the Academic Staff Union of Universities. SERAP and the students are asking the court to "declare unlawful the refusal by the Federal Government to meet ASUU's demands, which has occasioned the prolonged strike action and violated the students' right to quality education. "According to SERAP and the students: "Disruption of classes undermines both the quality and duration of students' education. This situation has aggravated existing disparities in access to university education in the country." Gbenga Oloniniran, [The Punch News \(September 11<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Northern Governors and Traditional Rulers Want Creation of State Police**

A meeting of the Northern Governors' Forum (NGF) met with the Northern Traditional Rulers Council (NTRC) resulted in a resolution calling for the establishment of state police to tackle security challenges in Nigeria and the region. So far, lawmakers in the National Assembly have resisted the calls for the police force to be set up and run at the state level during the constitution amendment processes, on the fear that they could be abused by governors. Jonathan Nda-Isaiah, [The Leadership News \(September 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.



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