

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.

Content

Covid-19: FG Restricts Airlines from UK, Canada and Saudi Arabia over Omicron Variant, UK Removes Nigeria from Travel Ban, World Bank to Help Low-Income Countries Respond to Covid-19 Crisis

Reps Approve 5.8 Billion Dollar Loan Request by President Buhari, Finance Minister Hints Additional Tariffs and Levies in 2022, World Bank Approves 700 Million Dollars for Climate Resilience Project in Nigeria, Funds Large-Scale Conditional Cash Transfer Programme

President Buhari Assures Citizens of Free and Fair Elections in 2023, Challenges Daily Trust Political Journalism, FG Approves Salary Increase for Nigerian Police Personnel

Insecurity: China Offers to Send Criminal Investigation Experts to Nigeria, ECOWAS Leaders Call on International Community to Support Coup Sanctions on Mali, Guinea

Covid-19: FG Restricts Airlines from UK, Canada and Saudi Arabia over Omicron Variant, UK Removes Nigeria from Travel Ban, World Bank to Help Low-Income Countries Respond to Covid-19 Crisis

The federal government has said it will restrict airlines coming from Canada, United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia into Nigeria. The Minister of Aviation, Capt. Hadi Sirik, explained that it was to reciprocate restricted flights from Nigeria into those countries over the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron. He noted that if those countries placed Nigeria on a red list, they lacked a moral right to have their airlines fly into Nigeria on commercial operations. [News Agency of Nigeria \(December 12th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom has said Nigeria and 10 other countries will be removed from its travel red list after pressure from the international community. The British government had on December 4 placed several countries on its travel ban following the outbreak of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and said the ban would be reviewed on December 20. Announcing the new development on Tuesday 14, the UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the Omicron variant had spread so widely that the rules are now less effective. Adelani Adepegba, [The Punch News \(December 14th\)](#) reports.

The World Bank on Wednesday announced a USD 93 billion replenishment package of the International Development Association (IDA) to help low-income countries respond to the Covid-19 crisis in building a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future. It is the largest some ever mobilized by IDA, with Africa receiving over 70 per cent of the funds. The bank said the funds should help countries struggling with falling government revenues, increasing debt vulnerabilities, rising risks to fragility and conflict, and looming food crises help recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. [The Premium Times \(December 16th\)](#) reports.

Reps Approve 5.8 Billion Dollar Loan Request by President Buhari, Finance Minister Hints Additional Tariffs and Levies in 2022, World Bank Approves 700 Million Dollars for Climate Resilience Project in Nigeria, Funds Large-Scale Conditional Cash Transfer Programme

The House of Representatives has approved President Muhammadu Buhari's request for a USD 5.8 billion loan and grant of USD 10 million. The green

chamber approved the request following the consideration of the report of the House Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management, presented by their chairman Ahmed Safana, by the Committee of Supply on Tuesday. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times \(December 14th\)](#) reports.

The Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, says there might be an introduction of new tariffs and levies in 2022 as the economy was now on a recovery path. She made this known while addressing stakeholders at a public hearing on the 2021 Finance Bill organized by the House of Representatives Committee on Finance in Abuja. Ahmed added that that a couple of "reforms and amendments" had been recommended in the draft 2021 Finance Act amendment bill saying that more will be introduced in the middle of 2022. [The Premium Times \(December 13th\)](#) reports.

The World Bank has approved a USD 700 million credit from the International Development Association for the Nigeria Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes Project. The project will increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management in northern Nigeria and strengthen the long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management. It is designed to enhance the capacity of the country to adapt to a changing climate. Sami Tunji, [The Punch News \(December 16th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the World Bank is rolling out a USD 800 million facility designed to fund a large-scale Conditional Cash Transfer programme in Nigeria, as the Nigeria Governors' Forum hinted in its 36th teleconference meeting communiqué. The Governors Forum said the fund was made known to the governors by the World Bank Country Director, Shubham Chaudhuri. The forum thereafter resolved that each state governor will establish and chair a steering committee to oversee the Conditional Cash Transfer initiative to ensure that the programme will align with the vision of each state government. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(December 12th\)](#) reports.

President Buhari Assures Citizens of Free and Fair Elections in 2023, Challenges Daily Trust Political Journalism, FG Approves Salary Increase for Nigerian Police Personnel

President Muhammadu Buhari has assured Nigerians and the international community of free and

fair elections in the 2023 general elections and peaceful transition of power at the virtual Summit for Democracy organized by the President of the United States, Joe Biden. He acknowledged that Nigeria continued to face security challenges which pose a threat to democracy, calling “on global partners to support the government’s efforts in tackling insurgency and terrorism. [The Premium Times \(December 10th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari has described an editorial in the Daily Trust Newspaper criticizing the administration’s handling of Nigeria’s security situation as “lurid political journalism”. In the editorial, the newspaper, which has a strong presence in northern Nigeria, condemned the worsening situation in Nigeria, particularly in the northern part of the country. Although the president’s office admitted the “seriousness” of the “growing instability and violence in the north of Nigeria”, it still criticized the Daily Trust editorial. [The Premium Times News \(December 12th\)](#) reports.

The federal government has approved new allowances for the police that would see the pay of police personnel increase by at least 20 per cent. The Minister Of Police Affairs, Maigari Dingyadi, told journalists that the Federal Executive Council had approved this measure for the police to take off from January 2022. He stressed that the salary increase was part of efforts of the Muhammadu Buhari administration to meet the demands of the

#EndSARS protesters. Nasir Aytogo, [The Premium Times News \(December 15th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: China Offers to Send Criminal Investigation Experts to Nigeria, ECOWAS Leaders Call on International Community to Support Coup Sanctions on Mali, Guinea

The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Cui Jianchun, revealed that China has offered to send a high-level delegation of criminal investigation experts to meet with Nigerian security agencies. Cui said that the move was part of China’s support to tackling the insecurity bedeviling Nigeria, disclosing that the security experts were expected to arrive in Nigeria soon. Don Silas, [The Daily Post News \(December 16th\)](#) reports.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders have called on the international community to support the sanctions imposed on Guinea and Mali so as to promote peace, security, and stability in the region. The West African leaders made the call in their communiqué at the end of the 60th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held in Abuja on Sunday 12. The summit adopted the ECOWAS Vision 2050 as well as the participatory process that presided over the development of the vision. News Agency of Nigeria, [The Premium Times \(December 12th\)](#) reports.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Deputy Resident Representative
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

www.kas.de/nigeria

www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria

marija.peran@kas.de / adamu.adams@kas.de



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