

# 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: Six African Countries to Begin Vaccine Production**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has just recently selected Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia as the first recipients of technology from the WHO's global mRNA vaccine hub to ensure Africa can produce its own vaccine in the fight against Covid-19 and other diseases. A ceremony marking the mRNA tech transfer announcement is to be held Friday 18 in Brussels at the summit between the European Union and the African Union. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: "We have been talking a lot about producing mRNA vaccines in Africa. But this goes even beyond. This is mRNA technology designed in Africa, led by Africa and owned by Africa." AFP, [The Guardian News \(February 18<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Nigeria, EU, Partner on Digital Economy, EU Provides 500 Million Euro Intervention in Nigeria, African Union Reports Infrastructural Progress in Nigeria, Economy Grows by 3.4%**

The European Union (EU) is supporting Nigeria's view that gas be considered a transitional fuel as the global community moves towards net-zero emissions targets. The topic was discussed as Vice President Yemi Osinbajo received the delegation of the European Commission, led by its Executive Vice-President, Margrethe Vestager, at the Presidential Villa. The Executive Vice-President informed Osinbajo of the announcement by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package worth €150 billion. In that context, she announced an EU-Nigeria Digital Economy Package of at least €820 million until 2024, which plays a crucial part in Nigeria's recently released National Development Plan. [The Premium Times News \(February 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the EU has adopted a seven-year funding scheme for its interventions in Nigeria, following the completion of consultations with local authorities and other key stakeholders and concluding plans to adopt a Multinational Indicative Programme (MIP) as part of its joint priority areas for cooperation with Nigeria. The MIP for Nigeria 2021-27, according to the EU, focuses on three broad priority areas, namely: Green and Digital Economy, Governance, Peace and Migration and Human Development. Under the programme, the EU will provide €508 million to fund projects that

reinforce its bilateral cooperation with Nigeria for the period 2021-24. Financial allocation for the period 2025-2027 will be determined after a review in 2024, the EU stated. Aidoghie Paulinus, [The Sun News \(February 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency and Secretary of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Princess Gloria Akobundu, has stated that despite security challenges in Nigeria the APRM revealed the tremendous progress the Federal Government (FG) had made in the areas of infrastructure development, agricultural revolution, humanitarian services and the fight against corruption. However, Akobundu said in order to address the challenges identified in the second country review report, President Muhammadu Buhari has assured that the FG will launch and implement the National Programme of Action to strengthen democracy and good governance for economic growth and development. Friday Olorokor, [The Punch News \(February 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria has recorded an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 3.4% in 2021, representing the first annual growth since the Covid-19 pandemic induced recession of 2020 and the strongest growth in seven years since 2014. The 3.4% GDP growth is exceeding the World Bank's and International Monetary Fund's 2021 projections of 2.5% and 2.7% for the country, respectively. Babajide Komolafe, [The Vanguard News \(February 18<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **President Buhari Seeks Approval of 2.557 Trillion Naira Budget from the National Assembly, NNPC Announces 24-hour Operations Amidst Fuel Scarcity, FG Approves National Policy on Second Level Domain, National Youths Union Commit to 2023 General Elections, Supreme Court Annuls President Buhari's Executive Order 10, PDP Governors Demand Signing of Electoral Amendment Act**

President Muhammadu Buhari requested that an additional provision for N2.557 trillion be appropriated by the National Assembly to provide for subsidy on petroleum products from June to December 2022. In his written request, the President explained that the sum of N106.1 billion provided in the Supplementary Bill would be used as capital expenditure, N43.87 billion would be for recurrent expenditures. Buhari also queried the lawmakers

for including expenditures regarding the National Assembly in the budget of the Executive, arguing it would negate the principles of separation of powers and financial autonomy of the legislature. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(February 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has reassured citizens that it had put adequate measures in place to accelerate the nationwide distribution of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) earlier disrupted by sub-standard petrol. The fuel crisis has led to increased costs of transportation with people left stranded at various bus stops while returning from work or schools. However, NNPC, on Tuesday 14 said it had commenced 24-hour operations at its depots and retail outlets to restore normal supply and distribution of PMS across the country. The corporation said it had over a billion litres of petrol that was safe for use. Mary Izuaka, [The Premium Times News \(February 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the National Policy on the Government Second Level Domain, aimed at mandating federal public institutions, ministries, departments, agencies and all institutions to migrate from using a generic domain for their websites and their emails to a second level domain under the government top-level domain. According to Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami, the use of private email domains like yahoo.com, hotmail.com or gmail.com for official communication by government officials would no longer be tolerated. [The Premium Times News \(February 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The National Youths Union (NYU) held the organization's first non-elective convention in Abuja on Wednesday 16. The NYU President, Chinonso Obasi, stated that it would take determination and commitment "to salvage Nigeria from the clutches of aged political leaders who have led the country for decades". Adding that the 2023 general election is a golden opportunity for Nigerian youths to take a stand and reclaim the country", he assured "it is our time to make or mar our chances of engendering inclusive and purposeful governance". Fred Ezeh, [The Sun News \(February 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Supreme Court on Friday 11 ruled that President Muhammadu Buhari had overstepped the limits of his constitutional powers by promulgating Executive Order 10, which grants financial autonomy to the legislature and the judiciary in the

36 states of the country. However, in its ruling, the seven-member panel of Supreme Court judges, in a split-decision of six justices to one, held that the Constitution provides a "clear delineation between the state and Federal Government". Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [The Premium Times News \(February 11<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Governors Forum has demanded the immediate signing of the Electoral Amendment Act by President Muhammadu Buhari, claiming that a delay in signing the amendment would indicate that President-led All Progressives Congress (APC) is not willing to effect electoral reforms before the 2023 elections. The forum furthermore urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to tighten all observed loopholes during the Federal Capital Territory Area Council Elections last weekend and further improve the functioning of the electronic Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machine for future elections. Femi Folaranmi, [The Sun News \(February 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: UK to Share Knowledge on Community Policing, President Buhari and Three African Presidents Formulate Strategy for Conflict Resolution, Reps Demand Body Camera for Security Agents**

The United Kingdom (UK) says it will send advisors to the country to share knowledge on community policing towards tackling insecurity. Vicky Ford, UK Minister for Africa, said it would help the Nigerian police roll out community policing especially in areas that have suffered from conflict. According to Ford, after asking the UK for help "Nigeria is really important for its own stability and also for the work they are doing for regional stability and security". She added that, the UK saw Nigeria as a key partner in its strategy to form partnerships across Africa. Chiamaka Okafor, [The Premium Times News \(February 13<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari and the Presidents of Algeria and South Africa as well as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, under the auspices of G4, have resolved to strengthen the platform for the resolution of the various issues confronting the African continent. According to a release issued on Friday by Presidential Spokesman Mallam Garba Shehu, President Buhari and his counterparts stressed the need to reinvigorate the G4 within the African Union (AU) as a platform for bringing Afri-

can countries closer, coordinating actions and reactions for the continent in a more proactive manner and looking at how decisions in the AU could be better implemented. They also agreed to convene a formal summit to chart a road map for Africa in the coming months. Deji Elumoye, [This Day Live News \(February 18<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives urged the government at all levels to provide body cameras for all security operatives including Nigeria Customs Service on duty across the country and create situa-

tion rooms all over Nigeria to monitor their activities. Arguing the body cameras will help eradicate cases of abuse of power and infringement of human rights, the House mandated its Committees on Police Affairs, Army and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance with the resolution. The resolution was based on a motion moved at the plenary on Thursday by member Chinedu Martins, who noted that the security of lives and properties of the citizens is a primary responsibility of the government. Leke Baiyewu, [The Punch News \(February 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

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