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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 COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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### **Democracy Day: Police Claim International Best Practices Justify Use of Teargas on Protesters, Amnesty International Condemns Attacks on June 12 Protesters, Nobel Laureate Describes Decentralization Demands as Overdue, Is Nigeria's Internet Governance Model Sustainable?**

The Nigeria Police Force, Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, on Saturday 12, described the actions of police officers, who dispersed teargas on citizens on the streets, protesting against the present administration, to mark "Democracy Day", as in line with "international best practices". Mba, told journalists, that "they had an isolated case in Abuja, where some of the protesters became unruly." Don Silas, [DAILY Posts News \(June 13<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, Amnesty International, AI, has called on the federal government to respect human rights and end attacks on peaceful protesters. Various police commands, warned that, no demonstrations would be allowed. However, gunshots were reported at various protests grounds across the country, where the police arrested some protesters. AI, through its official twitter handle, asked the government and security agencies to respect fundamental human rights and end the attacks. Idris Shehu, [The Cable News \(June 12<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, has described the country as "a plane on a suicide slide". He spoke to journalists, on June 12, Democracy Day, where he urged the president to speak like a leader who is ready to take action concerning the country's challenges. He added, that secessionists agitations in the country have stemmed from President Buhari's refusal to "listen" to citizens. Kehinde Olatunji et al, [The Guardian News \(June 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

On another note, citizens in the most populous black nation in the world, have resorted to seeking justice online. President Buhari's administration, however, indefinitely suspended Twitter in the country. Reports have emerged, that the suspension is part of a bigger plan to digitally isolate the country through an online instruction similar to China's internet firewall. The governments "desperation" to control cyberspace, has led presidency officials to a meeting with China's Cyberspace Administration of China. Unlike China, with a gross domestic product of 14 trillion dollars, almost half of Nigerians are living in poverty -according the national statistics bureau. While the

government believes that "closing the country to the rest of the world is way to solve the nation's problems, we have to keep fighting." Jude Michael, [The Africa Report \(June 11<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **FG Allege Involvement of Twitter's Founder in EndSars Protest, Seeks to Control Online National Broadcasting, INEC Creates Additional 56,872 Polling Units, President Buhari Decries Inability to Revive Education Sector**

The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed alleged that Twitters founder, Dorsey, raised funds through bitcoin to sponsor the END-SARS protest, while his platform, twitter, was used to fuel the crisis. He claimed that, an online media outfit carried out an investigation and fact-checking, which confirmed that Dorsey launched a fund-raising, asking people to donate via bitcoins. [Premium Times News \(June 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, Lai Mohammed, has asked the House of Representatives to give powers to the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, NBC, to control internet broadcasting. The request, followed his submission at the public hearing into a bill to amend the NBC Act, organized by the House Committee on Information, Ethics and Values. Bakare Mojeed, [Premium Times News \(June 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The efforts to develop a Europe-to-Africa Trade corridor, has given rise to a new global engagement, and it is reshaping the basic economic architecture and geopolitics of Africa. The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's med dialogue series, on Europe-Mediterranean-Africa, [Commercial Connectivity: Geopolitical opportunities and challenges](#) by Michael Tanchum, recommends amongst others, the focus on manufacturing value chains, clear business coordination among EU member states and European companies and incentivizing Hydrogen production and transport facilities in Africa. The manner and extent to which the European Union exerts its leadership, will determine the future of a partnership with Africa as a whole. Elvis Kolawole in [Vanguard News \(June 18<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, announced on Wednesday 16, the addition of 58, 872 Polling Units, PU, alongside other electoral arrangements. The chairman of INEC, Mahmood Yakubu, revealed that the commission has removed Pus, from "inappropriate" places and worship centers across the country. With the creation of the additional Pus, the country now has

176,846 polling units against 119,974 PUs in the state and Abuja, Yakubu revealed. Polling units have been removed from private properties, royal palaces, mosques, churches and shrines. Samson Adenekan, [Premium Times News \(June 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari, has revealed that the federal government, due to competition of funds and the increase in the number of tertiary institutions, cannot afford the amount of funding needed, to revive the country's educational sector. President Buhari, also, urged universities to seek funding sources from alumni, the private sector and research grants. He added, that he is "optimistic that the on-going drive to diversify the economy will provide additional resources to improve funding for the education system." Christopher Isiguzo and Gideon Arinze, [This Day News \(June 13<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports

### **World Bank Reports Surging 7 million Citizens Below Poverty Line, IMF Warns Unemployment, Inflation Rate at an All Time-High, Outlook on Europe/Africa Trade Relations,**

Nigeria's Economic Growth index under the world bank's Nigeria Development Update, NDU, has described the economy as being hindered by food inflation, heightened insecurity, unemployment and stalled reforms. The surging inflation and rising prices, pushed an estimated 7 million citizens below poverty line in 2020. On Tuesday 15, the world bank gave a GDP growth forecast of 1.9% in 2021 and 2.1% in 2022, recommending essential policy foundations for a strong economic recovery. Oladeinde Olawoyin, [Premium Times News \(June 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

On a similar note, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported a recovering Gross Domestic Product, GDP, of the country's economy, with a "disturbing" elevated unemployment and inflation rate. The IMF, made the observation in a meeting with government officials which held from June 1 to June 8, where they discussed the recent economic, financial developments and outlook. The IMF also explained, that further reforms are needed, to achieve a unified market and a market clearing exchange rate. Oladeinde Olawoyin, [Premium Times News \(June 18<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: South-East Experience Breakdown in Conventional Policing Operations, Boko Haram's Leader "Shekau" Confirmed Dead, Army Asks Boko Haram Terrorists to Surrender, Presidents Buhari Visits Maiduguri**

Joe Chukwudi, in the [Daily Post News \(June 11<sup>th</sup>\)](#), has reported worsened insecurity in the south-eastern part of the country, constant attacks by hoodlums, tagged as "unknown gunmen" attack security officials and their facilities. Policemen in Anambra state, no longer conduct stop and search operations on highways, neither do they accept reports from members of the public or make arrests. Eyewitnesses have lamented, that these attacks have contributed in crippling conventional policing in Anambra and other south-eastern states.

In new reports, Kizzi Asala, in the [Africa News \(June 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#), has confirmed the death of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the country's jihadists group, Boko Haram. A video recording, which put to rest the rumors of Shekau's death, was sent to the Africa News on Wednesday 13, announcing the presumed new leader, Bakura Modu known as Sahaba. Experts have described Sahaba, as a Boko Haram commander based in Lake Chad. In his message, delivered in Arabic, he asks "Allah to bless the soul of Shekau" who died "as a martyr" and accuses the ISWAP leader of killing him.

The General Officer Commanding, 7 Division, of the Nigerian Army, A.A. Eytayo, has called on the remnants of the Boko Haram terrorists to surrender and embrace peace. Eytayo, made the call as he spoke to journalists on Sunday 13, in Maiduguri, Borno state. He urged the terrorist to leverage on amnesty and repent from their "nefarious" ways. [News Agency of Nigeria \(June 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari, arrived Maiduguri on Thursday 17, on a one-day official visit, to assess the security situation and determine the level of progress made by the country in the North-East. His visit to Borno state and the troops of operation is expected to boost the morale of the troops who have been engaged in battle with Boko Haram, ISWAP and crime in the region. In a public address, Buhari claimed that the region enjoys "relative peace". Chika Olisah, [Naira Metric News \(June 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.



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