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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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ECOWAS Commits to Fighting Terrorism and Political Instability, Nigeria Wins International Award for Fighting Corruption at Sea Ports

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has disclosed that its 2023 budget will focus on action plans to fight terrorism and political instability. ECOWAS also revealed that the budget would strengthen its Peace and Security Architecture and achieve results related to the implementation plan against terrorism. President of the ECOWAS Commission, Omar Touray, during the 32nd Meeting of the ECOWAS Administrative and Finance Committee (AFC) in Abuja, explained the objectives were among its four strategic objective plans for the year 2023. He added that the budget would set the agenda for the next four years, stating that it would target putting the region back on track for regional integration. Ajiri Daniels, [The Sun News \(14th November\)](#) reports.

Following the collaborative efforts of the Federal Government with the private sector and The Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), a civil society group, Nigeria has earned an international award for fighting corruption at the nation's sea ports. It was the first-ever "Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award" of the Switzerland-based Basel Institute on Governance. According to the CBI Co-founder, Olusoji Apampa, the success recorded was now attracting international reviews as countries such as Egypt, Ukraine and India are planning to adopt the "Nigerian miracle" model to produce similar gains in their own ports' operations. The Swiss-based international body recognised the initiative for collective action where government, business and civil society have worked together for positive change. Deji Elumoye, [The Day Live News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

Nigeria's Population Hits 216 Million, 133 Million Nigerians Living in Poverty, Court Stops FG from Commencing Operation of Nigeria Air, Inflation Surges Amid High Food Prices, Senate Demands Extension for the Rejection of Old Naira Notes

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has said that Nigeria's population has reached 216 million in 2022, accounting for 2.7% of the global population. Reacting to this, the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, Muda Yusuf, said that a high population without corresponding economic growth might lead to more unemployment

and poverty. According to its latest World Population Prospects 2022, released on Tuesday to mark World Population Day, the global population has reached an estimated 8 billion. The report noted that more than half of the projected population was concentrated in just eight countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania. Sami Olatunji and Lara Adejoro, [The Punch News \(November 16th\)](#) report.

At the same time, the number of Nigerians living in poverty stands at over 133 million, as the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has just announced. The figure represents 63% of the nation's population, as NBS disclosed in its "Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index" released on Thursday. According to the report, over half of the poor cook with dung, wood or charcoal rather than cleaner energy. It said high deprivations are also apparent in sanitation, healthcare, food security and housing. [The Premium Times News \(November 17th\)](#) reports.

A Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos State, has issued an order of interim injunction restraining the Federal Government and other parties from executing the proposed national air carrier, Nigeria Air. The justice in charge ordered the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami and other defendants to halt all plans pending the determination of the motion of notice. The Airline Operators of Nigeria had urged the court to stop the national carrier deal and withdraw the Air Transport Licence (ATL) already issued to Nigeria Air by the Federal Government through the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA). The minister, however, denied knowledge of the suit, adding that the new carrier would continue according to plan. He said since the aviation roadmap was drawn and unveiled to the public, stakeholders, including the unions and airline operators, were carried along for every step taken. Wole Oyebade, [The Guardian News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

Inflation in Nigeria rose for the ninth month to 21.09% in October 2022 on the back of soaring food prices, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed in its Consumer Price Index (CPI) report for that month. In October, the NBS said the inflation rate in September stood at 20.77%. The report, however, said that on a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation rate for October 2022 was 1.24% and as such 0.11% lower than the rate recorded in September 2022 (1.36%). The high in-

flation rate is recorded as Nigerians battle the ripple effects of recent flooding disasters. Oladeinde Olawoyin, [The Premium Times News \(November 15th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Senate announced the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) should reconsider January 31, 2023, as the deadline for the rejection of the old N200, N500 and N1000 Naira notes. The Senate made this resolution after a heated debate on a motion moved by Senator Uba Sani on CBN's policy to redesign the three Naira notes. Lawmakers questioned the impact of redesigning the Naira note on the economy and its effects on reducing the inflation as well as and the dwindling value of the Maira. They asked the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, to further clarify these issues. The Senate consequently mandated its committee on banking to undertake aggressive oversight to ensure that Nigerians were protected during this exercise. [Sahara News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: DSS and Army Officials Set to Reinforce Security at Facilities, Residents in the Federal Capital Territory Move to Vigilante Services as Alternative Security, National Security Adviser Says Legislative Support Needed to Fight Insecurity

The Department of State Services and the Nigerian Army will provide additional security for the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) facilities nationwide following recent attacks on assets belonging to the commission. The move was agreed upon at the emergency meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) held last Friday in Abuja. In addition, security agencies will also upscale intelligence gathering, sharing and utilizing the same to

stem further sabotage. Sodiq Omolaoye, [The Guardian News \(November 14th\)](#) reports.

Many residents concerned by insecurity in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), have resorted to engaging vigilante groups to secure life and property. Last month's alert by the United States Embassy on an imminent security threat in Abuja heightened their fears. The signal caused some outdoor and indoor recreational centres, schools and public places to shut down temporarily. While the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) regulates private security providers and companies, the vigilante groups, like the Buzu groups that parade most streets in Abuja, are not regulated or controlled by any state entity. The spokesperson for the FCT Police Command said: "The FCT is safe, and the Police are on top of the security situation in the territory". However, she advised residents to take security measures to augment what the Police have put in place. Ajuluchukwu Brown, [The Guardian News \(November 14th\)](#) reports.

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Maj.-Gen. Babagana Monguno (retd.) has said Nigeria could not surmount the current security challenges without legislative support. Monguno said this when he appeared before the House of Representatives Committee on National Security and Intelligence for his agency's budget defence. The NSA said the Committee must consider the problems he presented, disclosing that the issues were pretty enormous. Monguno, however, stated that successes were recorded in the last five months due to the efforts of the Department of State Services, National Intelligence Agency and Defence Intelligence Agency as they have provided timely intelligence to the operational element. Nicholas Kalu, [The Nation News \(November 18th\)](#) reports.



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