

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: Plans Underway to Begin Mass Vaccination and Booster Shots, FG Alerts Citizens on Vaccination Certificate Malpractice, Germany Donates Protective Equipment to Nigeria

Boss Mustapha, the head of the presidential steering committee on Covid-19, has disclosed that the government "has enough vaccines in the pipeline to vaccinate about 50% of the target population by the end of January 2022". The plan will see vaccine sites set up at private health facilities, universities, colleges, stadiums, motor parks, and shopping malls among other venues. Under the initiative to start on Friday 19, 55 million doses or more than a million a day will be administered. Mustapha also added that the government was making efforts to secure booster shots "so as to build a healthy level of antibodies". [Reuters News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, Boss Mustapha on Monday 15, alerted Nigerians to the existence of a black market for vaccination certificate procurement in the country. He said the government received intelligence and detected that vaccination cards have been procured through the black market. Mustapha announced that the vaccination records/certificates will be verified and that this should serve as a warning; the government would prosecute accordingly. He, however, assured that no vaccination certificate illegally procured would scale scrutiny whenever the need arises as all vaccination records had to be verified as authentic at every relevant points. Abbas Jimoh, [The Guardian News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

The German Government, as part of the "Training and Equipment Aid Programme", has donated over 8,000 Covid-19 protective equipment to the Nigeria Immigration Service, Federal Ministry of Aviation Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), and Port Health Authority. According to von Münchow-Pohl, the equipment was donated to commend the resilience of frontline workers in aviation security and migration and to underline the continuous offer for support, assistance, and co-operation between the German Federal Police and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. Jesutomi Akomolafe, [The Guardian News \(November 18th\)](#) reports.

Slow Inflation Challenges Market Realities, Labour Minister Says More Efforts Needed to Solve Unemployment Crisis, GDP Growth Falls in Third Quarter, WHO Says Nigeria Yet to Recover from Impact of Pandemic

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) have released data that showed prices of goods and services increase at a slower rate. The October Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of goods and services, showed inflation decelerated to 15.99 per cent (year-on-year) in October 2021 as against 16.63 per cent recorded in September. According to NBS, the inflation rate has decelerated for seven straight months, a rare trend in recent history. Yet contrary to the position of NBS, households across the country are trapped in a persistently rising cost of living. Prices of basic food items increase at a double-digit percentage every other week. A market survey conducted by The Guardian revealed that the cost of protein had increased by almost 100 per cent in the last one year. Geoff Iyatse, Femi Ibirogbu, Collins Olayinka, Joseph Chibueze, and Matthew Ogune, [The Guardian News \(November 6th\)](#) reports.

The Minister for Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, has said more action is needed to solve the unemployment problem in Nigeria while inaugurating the Migrant Resource Center and Nigerian German Center for jobs, migration, and reintegration in Lagos. Referring to rising insecurity and the trend of migration, he added that "in Nigeria with our population, we have 90 per cent of the young population. For me, that is the greatest danger; it has already started showing symptoms and signs". More synergy is needed for the German and European funding to meet people and stop them from even think of migration, he emphasized. Adepeju Adenuga, [Punch News \(November 17th\)](#) reports.

According to data from the NBS, the nation's economy grew more slowly in the third quarter of the year than it did in the second quarter. The gross domestic product growth rate fell to 4.03 per cent in Q3 from 5 per cent in Q2, the Statistician-General of the Federation, Simon Harry, disclosed on Thursday 18. He added that the current growth trend could be sustained with strict adherence to safety measures effected to control the spread of the Covid-19

pandemic and other variants of the disease. Amarachi Orjiude, [The Punch News \(November 18th\)](#) reports.

A new report by the World Bank has declared that Covid-19 has continued to threaten food security in Nigeria, saying households and firms were yet to recover from the devastating impact of the pandemic. The bank therefore called on governments at all levels to adopt urgent policy actions to curb the long-run impacts of the pandemic on the lives and livelihoods in the country. According to the Country Director for Nigeria, Shubham Chaudhuri, “the Covid-19 crisis has provided a wake-up call to address the long-standing structural challenges in the country”. Ndubuisi Francis and James Emejo, [ThisDay Live News \(November 18th\)](#) reports.

President Buhari Signs Climate Change Bill into Law, APC Seeks Further Collaboration of Mutual Benefit with China’s Communist Party

President Muhammadu Buhari Thursday signed the Climate Change bill into law. According to President Buhari’s spokesperson, Garba Shehu, the Climate Change Act owes its origin to a bill sponsored by a member of the House of Representatives, Sam Onuigbo, and provides for the mainstreaming of climate change actions and the establishment of a National Council on Climate Change among other things. The Act also paves the way for environmental and economic accounting and a push for a net zero emission deadline plan in the country. Babatunde Akintunde, [The Premium Times News \(November 18th\)](#) reports.

The All-Progressive Congress (APC) has sought more collaboration with the Communist Party of China (CPC) for the mutual benefit of both countries, National Secretary, Caretaker Committee of the APC, John Akpanudoedehe, revealed at a meeting between the two political parties in Abuja on Monday. In his remarks, Cui Jianchun, the Ambassador of the Peoples’ Republic of China to Nigeria, said the CPC was ready to collaborate with Nigeria’s APC to deepen relations. According to him, after Covid-19 there are three sectors to deepen relations between the two countries and parties: salt exchange, human resources, and security. [The Vanguard News \(November 15th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Senate Army Committee Chair Warns of ISWAP Regrouping in Lake Chad, FG Advocates Unified Laws to Fight Piracy in Gulf of Guinea, Lagos #EndSARS Panel Report Reveals 9 Deaths at Tollgate, UN, U.S., Amnesty International Demand Implementation of Report, FG Risks U.S. Arms Embargo

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Army, Mohammed Ali Ndume, has raised the alarm that members of Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) are regrouping around the Lake Chad Basin in Borno State. Ndume also condemned Saturday’s killing of Brig.-Gen. Dzarma Zirkusu by ISWAP terrorists around the Chibok area of the state. He further revealed that residents of Chibok town were already relocating since the killing of the General. According to him, the death of the soldiers is a big blow to the insurgency war, saying that it was an ambush laid by the terrorists. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, Kanayo Umeh, Njadvara Musa, and Saxone Akhaine, [The Guardian News \(November 15th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has called for the standardisation of the legal frameworks of countries in the Gulf of Guinea to aid effective prosecution of maritime crimes. The Director General of NIMASA, Bashir Jamoh, made the appeal in Lagos at the Third Technical Rotating Meeting of the project on “enhancing regional research, convening of stakeholders and capacity development in the Gulf of Guinea”. A communiqué calling for the transformation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCC) into a binding convention for better coordination and optimal benefit to member countries, was issued at the end of the meeting organised in partnership with NIMASA and the Inter-Regional Coordination Centre (ICC). Sulaimon Salau, [The Guardian News \(November 14th\)](#) reports.

The Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on Restitution for Victims of SARS Related Abuses and Other Matters (Lagos EndSARS Panel) has designated the Lekki Tollgate shootings of October 20, 2020 as a massacre. According to the report, at least 48 protesters were either shot dead or injured or assaulted. The relevant passage of the report read: “The atrocious maiming and killing of unarmed, helpless and unresisting protesters, while sitting on the floor and waving their Nigerian

flags, while singing the National Anthem can be equated to a ‘massacre’ in context.” The panel, led by justice Doris Okuwobi, made the revelation in a 309-page report submitted to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Monday. Agbonkheshe Oboh, [The Guardian News \(November 15th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) in Nigeria, the United States government, through its embassy in Nigeria, Amnesty International, and human rights lawyer Femi Falana, among others, have called for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Lagos State panel of enquiry which indicted the Nigerian Army and the police for killing peaceful protesters on October 20, 2020 during last year’s #EndSARS protest at Lekki tollgate. They made the call in separate statements on Tuesday 16. Kunle Sanni and Samiah Ogunlowo, [The Premium Times News \(November 16th\)](#) reports.

Following the indictment of the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force by the Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on Restitution for Victims of SARS Related Abuses and other matters, in an interview with The Punch, a former Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Bola Akinterinwa, said Nigeria could face not just an arms embargo but also sanctions with the reporting on the killing of #EndSARS protesters. Eniola Akinkuotu and Leke Baiyewu, [The Punch Newss \(November 18th\)](#) reports.

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