

Nigeria Press Review

14.10. – 21.10.2022

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: Nigeria Vaccinates Almost 57 Million Citizens

The Executive Director of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal Shuaib, has disclosed that 56,594,138 persons (representing 50.6%) out of its 111,776,503 eligible population have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in Nigeria. Shuaib said the vaccination was making remarkable progress amidst persistent disinformation, adding that low-risk perception has been possible because of the significant support from development partners. He assured Nigerians that the agency was making steady progress in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Shuaib also affirmed that the campaign strategy the agency was implementing offers a unique opportunity for childhood vaccination and other primary healthcare services for beneficiaries concurrently with Covid-19 vaccination. Onyebuchi Ezigbo, [This Day Live News \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

China Disproves of Alleged Ownership and Operations of Police Stations in Nigeria, Nigeria's Inflation Hits 17 Year High of 20.77%, Impending Gas Scarcity Looms as Flood Forces NLNG to Shut Operations

A Chinese official who spoke anonymously has refuted a report based on an investigative that the Chinese government operates police stations in Nigeria and other countries where its nationals reside. Safeguard Defenders, a rights organization, had carried out the report. The Chinese official stated that outreach programs exist in countries where Chinese residents live to assist and protect them from terrorism, abduction and other crimes that could risk their lives. However, he stated that there was no such station in Nigeria or in any other country. [Vanguard News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

The new Consumer Price Index (CPI) report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has shown that Nigeria's CPI rose by 20.77% in September 2022 compared to September 2021. The surge represents the highest rate since September 2005, according to data tracked by Nairalytics, a database management company. According to the NBS, the increase in the country's inflation rate is attributable to the disruption in the supply of food products, the rise in import cost due to depreciating currency and the general increase in the price of production. In addition, the NBS in September raised the benchmark interest

rate by 150 basis points from 14% to 15.5%. The hike marked the highest level in 20 years to curb the country's rising cost of goods and services. Samuel Oyekanmi, [The Naira Metrics News \(October 17th\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria Liquefied and Natural Gas (NLNG) company has declared force majeure because of widespread flooding that has disrupted supply, a spokesman announced on Monday. The notice by the gas suppliers resulted from high floodwater levels in their operational areas, leading to a shut-in of gas production, causing a significant disruption of gas supply to NLNG. This could worsen Nigeria's unavailability of cash money and curtail global gas supply as Europe and others struggle to replace Russian exports due to the invasion of Ukraine in February. Officials have warned that the flooding, caused by weighty rains and the release of water from a dam in Cameroon, could continue into November. Okechukwu Nnodim et al., [The Punch News \(October 18th\)](#) reports.

25 Out of 36 States Abstain from Voting on Constitutional Amendment Bill, INEC Chairman Expresses Worry Over Attack on PDP Rally in Kaduna State

Only 11 of Nigeria's 36 state legislatures have considered and voted on the 44 constitutional amendment bills passed by the National Assembly earlier in the year. In a letter from the Conference of Speakers to the National Assembly Joint Committee on Constitutional Review, the states threatened to take no action on the bills unless four more constitutional amendment bills were considered and passed by the National Assembly. The four bills referred to are to establish a state police, to establish a State Judicial Council, to streamline the procedure for removing presiding officers of state houses of assembly and to institutionalize legislative bureaucracy in the Constitution. Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege, who chairs the National Assembly Joint Committee on Constitution Review, described the refusal of the state assemblies to vote on the bills as disheartening and worrisome. He said the National Assembly would ignore the brazen attempt by some governors to truncate a constitutional process, calling on civic and professional groups to prevail on the Conference of Speakers to withdraw their threat to truncate the constitution amendment process. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(October 18th\)](#) reports.

Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, has expressed worry over Monday's attacks on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during a rally in Kaduna State. He said the development and the rising defamation that was almost becoming the order of the day since campaigns officially started on September 28, had diminished the essence of the peace accord recently signed by the political parties. Similarly, the Minority Caucus in the House of Representatives condemned the attack on the PDP presidential campaign rally by thugs allegedly mobilized by particular interests in the All-Progressives Congress (APC), demanding a probe. The civil society coalition Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room also expressed concern over the attacks, urging political parties and actors to call their supporters to order. Chuks Okocha et al., [This Day Live News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Military Begin Exercises in Three Geopolitical Zones to Tackle Insecurity

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Faruk Yahaya, has announced the beginning of three exercises, namely Exercises Still Waters, Golden Dawn and Enduring Peace, to tackle security challenges across the country. The exercises involve team operations with other services and security agencies, including the Nigerian Army, Navy, Airforce, the Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps. The exercise will provide a good opportunity for conducting joint operations with other services and relevant security agencies to strengthen inter-agency cooperation for efficient operations in aid of civil authority. The exercises are to run concurrently across the country. Chiemelie Ezeobi et al., [This Day News \(October 20th\)](#) reports.

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