

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: West African Scientists to Boost Vaccine Production, 6 Million Nigerians Discouraged to Due to Side Effects

According to the News Agency of Nigeria, medical laboratory and research scientists from West Africa are set to chart a course that will assist in building local capacity for the manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines and other medical products in the sub-region. Public Relations and Outreach Lead of the laboratory professionals annual meeting CelebrateLAB Conference, Efam Dovi, noted that the outbreak of the Covid-19 disease saw West Africa and Africa altogether, suffer inequity in access to masks, diagnostic devices, testing kits and other medical supplies, as well as vaccines. According to her, "this effort will require wider collaboration across the region". She added that the next CelebrateLAB Conference would hold in Accra, Ghana, from April 21 to 22. [The Guardian News \(April 18th\)](#) reports.

Recent data published by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) shows that six million Nigerians have not received their second dose a year after Nigeria started administering the vaccines. A combination of side effects and apathy appear to be discouraging many Nigerians from completing their Covid-19 vaccine. A recent Twitter poll conducted by Business Day to identify reasons why Nigerians have been failing to show up at their vaccination centers for a second dose had six votes. Of the six votes, the "lack of interest and laziness option" had the highest vote, amounting to 83 percent of the poll, with the remaining 17 percent voting for the option that the first dose of the vaccine did not work. Damilola Odifa, [Business Day News \(April 20th\)](#) reports.

EFCC, ICPC Officials Accuse President Buhari of Sabotage, World Bank Ask Nigeria to Revisit Fuel Subsidy Policy, IMF Forecast 3.4 % Growth on Nigeria's Economy, UN Votes 15 Million Dollars to Fight Food Crisis in the North-East

Officials of Nigeria's anti-graft agencies, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), have said that their morale and commitment to work have been affected by the controversial presidential pardon of Jolly Nyame, former Governor of Taraba State, and Joshua Dariye, former Governor of Plateau State. Both men had been convicted and jailed for stealing state funds. Premium Times held separate interviews with the

two agencies where they lamented the pardon and accused President Muhammadu Buhari of sabotaging the fight against corruption. President Buhari granted pardon to the two former Governors as well as 157 others, on the grounds of health and age. "We used to say our problem in our work against corruption is the judiciary but we see a lack of political will by the president", one EFCC official said. Ibrahim Adeyemi, [Premium Times News \(April 18th\)](#) reports.

The President of the World Bank Group, David Malpass, has once more reiterated the need for Nigeria's Federal Government to reconsider its policy on fuel subsidy, saying that the huge amount being expended on the policy could be channeled to other critical sectors. The World Bank had last November said that further delay in removing the fuel subsidy, described as a major drain and waste on the economy, could see Federal and State Governments unable to pay salaries from 2022. Meanwhile, the Senate last week approved the total sum of N 4 trillion for petrol subsidy in 2022. The Lead Economist, Nigeria Country Office of the World Bank, Marco Antonio Hernandez, had painted a gloomy picture of Nigeria if the country decides to continue with the controversial fuel subsidy. Obinna Chima and Nume Ekeghe, [This Day Lives News \(April 21st\)](#) reports.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its forecast for Nigeria's economic growth in 2022 to 3.4 %, citing increase in crude oil prices. The IMF stated this in its April World Economic Outlook report released as part of activities at the ongoing IMF/World Bank spring meeting in Washington. In January, it predicted 2.7 % for the country's economic growth in 2022 and 2023. However, the IMF reduced its projection for global growth to 3.6 % in both 2022 and 2023, citing the impact of costly humanitarian crisis economic damage from the Russia war on Ukraine. Babajide Komolafe, [The Vanguard News \(April 20th\)](#) reports.

A statement by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on Thursday said the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, has allocated USD 15 million emergency funding to support the urgently needed humanitarian assistance in the North-East region. The statement quoted the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, to have stated that, "food security and nutrition situation is deteriorating, with more and more families pushed towards vulnerability,

and forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms, including child labour and early marriage". The statement revealed that the \$15m allocation to the humanitarian response in Nigeria was part of \$100m that the UN allocated to fight hunger in Africa and the Middle East, as the spill-over effects of the war in Ukraine threatened to push millions even closer to famine and exacerbate humanitarian needs. Kayode Idowu, [The Punch News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

APC Fixes Presidential Forms for N 100 Million, Adopt Indirect Primaries, FG Targets 2023 for Population Census, INEC Wants One Million Staff Deployed for 2023 Elections

The spokesperson of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Felix Morka, disclosed that the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) has fixed the cost of its presidential expression of interest and nomination forms at N 100 million. So far, about 10 aspirants have declared interest to be the flag bearer of the party for the 2023 general elections. Meanwhile, the NEC approved a discount for candidates less than 40 years and free tickets for women and persons living with disabilities. In contrast, the main opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has fixed the cost of its presidential expression of interest and nomination forms at N 40 million. Furthermore, NEC fixed the presidential primary election to hold from May 30 to June 1 while the primaries for governorship will hold on May 18, for State Houses of Assembly on May 20, for the House of Representatives on May 22 and for the and Senate on May 24. The mode of primaries will be indirect, which means that delegates will decide the flag bearers of the party-state congresses and national convention. Bakare Majeed, [Premium Times News \(April 20th\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government has said it plans to hold a national census in April 2023 after the general elections scheduled for February and March 2023. To that end, the National Population Commission (NPC) is to conduct a pilot census in June. The last census was held in August 2006. NPC Director General, Nasir Isa-Kwarra, made the disclosure at the end of a Council of State meeting, presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari. He announced that the commission would deploy high technology in conduct of the census, calling it "a very important exercise for the nation" and explained: "Through census, we generate the data used for policymaking, planning and development by the three tiers of government and the private

sector". Terhembra Daka, [The Guardian News \(April 15th\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced it would require about one million electoral officials for the 2023 general elections. The breakdown of staff required would be a combination of permanent, temporary and ad hoc staff to be deployed to man the 176.846 polling units in 8.809 wards and 774 local government areas across the country. INEC advised all stakeholders, particularly the political parties, to take the planned dates for scheduled activities into consideration in planning their activities. The National Chairman of INEC, Mahmood Yakubu, reiterated that claims that the Permanent Voter's Card could expire were misleading, because there was no such thing. At the same time, the National Security Adviser, Babagana Monguno, has assured INEC and Nigerians in general of adequate protections during the elections. Chuks Okocha, [This Day Live News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Former President Obasanjo Says Nigeria Needs State Police, ISWAP Claims Responsibility for Taraba Bombing, President Buhari Says Military Not Doing Enough with Provided Logistics Support

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has said the growing spate of insecurity in Nigeria would be curtailed by State Police, not community policing. He made the suggestion when the National Association of Ex-Local Government Chairmen in Nigeria leadership visited him in Abeokuta, advocating the strengthening of the traditional system and local government administration which he prepared during the Murtala/Obasanjo administration. Obasanjo commended the formation of the body, noting that some local chairmen in the country were better than some top elected leaders. Responding to one of the speakers, Chinwe Monu-Olarewaju, who spoke on the creation of community police, the ex-Head of State said the idea should be upgraded. Wale Odunsi, [The Daily Post News \(April 21st\)](#) reports.

The Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) has claimed responsibility for a bombing in Taraba State which the police said killed six people. The police confirmed to Premium Times on Thursday that the death toll from the attack that occurred on Tuesday at a market where alcohol was being sold has risen to six while over a dozen people were injured. A similar blast occurred at a nearby

Catholic school in January, where the latest incident happened. According to Al-Jazeera, the group in a statement posted late on Wednesday on a Telegram messaging channel used by ISWAP, described those who detonated the bomb in the market as “soldiers of the caliphate in central Nigeria”. The statement said the attack had struck “a gathering of infidel Christians” and expressed satisfaction that the drinking spot had been damaged. Abubakar Ahmadu Maishanu, [The Premium Times News \(April 21st\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari told Nigerian security agencies that they were not doing enough to end the security challenges in the

country despite enormous logistics provided by his administration. He claimed he directed all the operational and intelligence agencies to rescue all persons kidnapped by terrorists unhurt, including those in the recent Kaduna-bound train. Buhari frowned on the fact that his previous directives to the military to end insecurity in the country had not yielded much results. National Security Adviser Babagana Monguno, explaining on why the country had not deplored technology to tackle the menace of terrorism and banditry, said that effort was being made to deploy technology with the goal to tackle insecurity but submitted that the required technology was expensive and would take time to acquire. [This Day News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

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