

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: FG Releases New Conditions to Inbound Travellers, Kaduna State Makes Vaccination Mandatory for Civil Servants

The Chairman of the Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19, Boss Mustapha, on Friday 15, has disclosed relaxations for fully vaccinated travellers who, as of October 25, will only be required to present a negative test result upon arrival. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers are still required to isolate for seven days after arrival. Mustapha's statement also listed conditions stating that fully vaccinated travellers entering the country on business or official duty for a short period of less than 7 days would be required to produce a negative Covid-19 PCR result 72 hours before boarding and conduct a PCR test on day 2 of their arrival. He described the new protocol as based on science, national experience and global developments. Noah Banjo, [The Punch News \(October 16th\)](#) reports.

The special adviser to the Governor of Kaduna State, Nasir El-Rufai, on media and communication, Muyiwa Adekeye, conveyed via a statement issued on Tuesday the Kaduna State Government's decision ordering all civil servants in the state to get vaccinated against the coronavirus disease beginning from October 31, stating that the evidence of vaccination will be a requirement to gain access to their offices. Mariam Ileyemi, [The Premium Times \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

#EndSARS: Lagos State Concludes EndSARS Judicial Panel of Enquiry, Police Crackdown on Protesters in Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, Ilorin, FG Receive Final Report from 11 States, EndSARS Victims Drag FG to ECOWAS

The Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on police brutality and human rights abuses by the Police and its disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) has concluded its investigation including taking of evidence and exhibits. The judicial panel has awarded N128.2 million as compensations to 24 petitioners who were victims of police brutality, as well as families of people killed by the Nigeria Police, especially Special Anti-Robbery Squad. The panel, which started its sittings in October 2020, received 255 petitions from members of the public, out of which 252 were considered for hearing, and the panel during its sittings was able to decide on 182 petitions while 52 were not treated due to time factors. Wale Igbinde, [This Day Live News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, who spoke on the first anniversary of #EndSARS protests, described it as the first massacre in the world without blood or bodies. He expressed concern that despite ample opportunities for the families of those allegedly killed and those alleging a massacre to present evidence, there has been none. Minister Mohammed added that Amnesty International and CNN acted unprofessionally by relying on unverified and possibly-doctored social media videos as well as other open-source information to conclude that a massacre took place at the toll gate. Bridget Chiedu Onochie, [The Guardian News \(October 20th\)](#) reports.

In commemoration of the #EndSARS protests which culminated in the shooting that took place in the Lekki Toll Gate area in October, last year, there was heavy police crackdown on activists, musicians and Nollywood actors and actresses, who thronged the Lekki Toll Gate. Protesters who stormed the streets of Abuja were stopped by security agents from marching to the National Assembly to express their frustration at failure of the Federal Government to meet their five-on-five demands articulated last year. In Enugu, a combined team of security personnel, made up of the armed forces and the police, dehumanized journalists who were on duty to cover the processions by a coalition of civil society organizations and dispersed the youths who converged for the protest. [The Vanguard News \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government says 11 out of 28 states have submitted their respective final reports of the Judicial Panel of Inquiry into the 2020 EndSARS protest and its aftermath. The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, said the states which had submitted their report to the National Economic Council (NEC) were Abia, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Kwara, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Plateau and Rivers. Don Silas, [Daily Post News \(October 20th\)](#) reports.

Three EndSARS victims have sued the Federal Government at the ECOWAS Court of Justice. This was revealed by lawyers from three chambers on Thursday, in a document signed by four lawyers who described their service as purely pro-bono to the three applicants who approached them. They also pointed out that justices that comprise the panel at the ECOWAS Court are judges with various international experiences, and that not just one judge will adjudicate on the matter. Gabriel Ewepu, [Vanguard News \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

FG to Spend 19 Billion Naira on Software in 2022, EFCC Invites Former Vice Presidential Candidate for Questioning, Insight on Food Prices Inflation Crisis, IMF Projects 2.7% Economic Growth in 2022, FG to Prioritise Intra-Africa Trade, 77 Million Citizens Reportedly Lack Access to Power

According to the budget proposal for the year submitted by President Muhammadu Buhari to the National Assembly, the Federal Government will spend N19 billion on computer software in 2022. The amount, which does not cover computer and software expenditure by the armed forces, and dozens of government offices is spread across nearly 200 offices. At a time of low government revenue, the costs of software raise the budget's total deficit to over N6 trillion. Oge Udegbonam, [Premium Times News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

The Premium Times news has reported that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) communicated an invitation to Peter Obi, former governor of Anambra State and Vice Presidential candidate, to face investigators. It is the first known action by any Nigerian law enforcement agency since Premium Times started reporting influential Nigerians involved in offshore shenanigans exposed through the global Pandora Papers investigation. The report revealed how Mr. Obi incorporated offshore holdings, which he did not declare to the Code of Conduct Bureau when he served as a governor, and how he continued to manage his Next International UK Limited 14 months after becoming a governor. [Sahara Reporters News \(October 17th\)](#) reports.

Food inflation reportedly reached its highest level in 12 years in March 2021, with the average price of food 22.95% more expensive than a year ago, as citizens remain at the same income level which left many struggling daily to buy food. At the same time, taxpayers will have to pay twice as much to feed their president and vice president in 2022 as food prices continue to rise. The first and second families have doubled their feeding bill for next year at the expense of public revenue. The breakdown of the proposed 2022 budget, which is awaiting the approval of the National Assembly, shows that President Buhari and Vice President Osinbajo's offices will spend N457 million on food. That is more than twice what was allocated for food in 2021 and the previous years. Mary Izuaka, [The Premium Times \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted Nigeria's economy to grow by 2.6% this year and a 2.7% growth in 2022 according to the October Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa: One planet, two worlds, three stories, made available at the ongoing Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington on Thursday. It stated that the growth would be driven by recovery in non-oil sectors and higher oil prices. [The Vanguard News \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

In a bid to ensure that Nigeria benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has commenced moves to reposition the nation's seaports with a view to optimizing Nigeria's trade interconnectivity with other African countries. Executive Director, Marine and Operations, Hon. Onari Brown, revealed that given the urgency with which the new vistas of opportunity of the AfCFTA beckon, the Authority is eager for actionable ideas and synergistic partnerships that the agreement promises to deliver. Godwin Oritse, [The Vanguard News \(October 18th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) on Thursday provided statistics on misalignments in the power value chain, saying that about 14,000 megawatts of electricity was contracted to power generation companies. The Managing Director, Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, gave a breakdown of the quantum of Nigeria's electricity demand saying that in terms of situating the gas discussion within the context of the power sector, the government was addressing misalignments in the value chain. However, the Group Executive Director, Gas and Power, Nigerian National Petroleum Company, Mohammed Ahmed, told participants at the event that about 77 million Nigerians were currently without access to electricity. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(October 22nd\)](#) reports.

Senate Reaches Re-Committal on Electronic Transmission in the Electoral Act, PDP Describes APC Congress as Crisis-Ridden, Urges Citizens to Embrace Unity, Vice-President Encourages Youth Participation in Politics

In new reports, the Senate has reversed its decision on Clause 52 of the Electoral Act (Amendment Bill) which subjected electronic transfer of results to the discretion of the Nigeria Communications Commission and further approval by the National Assembly. Senate Leader, Yahaya Abdullahi, moved the motion for the re-committal of some

clauses of the Electoral Act No 6 2010 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill (SB122) to the Committee of the Whole. Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader, Eyinnaya Abaribe, said Clause 52 (3) which talked about electronic transmission of election results should be made clear for the electoral umpire to decide, adding that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has now been empowered to electronically transmit election results, and the Senate has also given power back to the people in the choice of their representatives at different levels of leadership. [The Punch News \(October 17th\)](#) reports.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has described the All Progressives Congress (APC) parallel congresses, which held on Saturday 16 in 20 states across the country, as a reflection of the country's challenges. The National Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Kola Ologbondiyan, released a statement that described the outcome of APC congresses in many of the states as a lack of leadership direction and internal cohesion. Dirisu Yakubu, [The Punch News \(October 17th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the PDP while felicitating with citizens on the occasion of Eid-el-Maulud, urged them to unite against forces that sought to disunite them for selfish reasons. Kola Ologbondiyan said there was a need to move to a new beginning by embracing the virtues of love for one another, tolerance, mutual understanding and forgiveness. The PDP also urged those behind the mindless killings and acts of terrorism in the country to have a rethink and retrace their steps and charging those in authority to redouble their efforts in finding solutions to the challenges facing the nation at this critical time. John Gabriel, [The Daily Post News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

Vice President Osinbajo on Wednesday at a virtual forum, where he interacted with Nigerian Fellows of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, encouraged young people in Nigeria to get involved in politics as a way to transform society which is largely dependent on the actions and decisions of those who occupy public offices. He described the efforts of young African innovators as "Africa's most exciting story". [Premium Times \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: National Security Adviser Confirms Death of New ISWAP Leader, US Pledges Joint Forces to Fight Terrorism, Banditry, G-7 Infrastructure Programme, Pirates Attacks Dropped by 17%, National Railway Corporation Suspends Kaduna Route Following Explosion Criticism Over IPOB Leaders Trail

The National Security Adviser to the President, Babagana Monguno, has announced the killing of Malam Bako, the successor of Abu Musab Al-Bar-nawi, the leader of the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP). He addressed State House correspondents on the outcome of the meeting of security chiefs, presided by President Buhari, at the State House, Abuja, on Thursday. Moguno disclosed that the land forces have done an excellent job because in the span of one month they have been able to take out the leadership of ISWAP. [The Premium Times News \(October 22nd\)](#) reports.

The United States Deputy National Security Adviser, John Finer, at the end of a closed-door meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyeama, has said Nigeria will get more assistance from the United States (U.S.) in the battle against insecurity. He disclosed, that "going forward, the security issues are very pretty – whether it's terrorism or piracy – the U.S. can support." Kaz-eem Biriowo, [The Tribune News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the U.S. Government has stated its intention to partner with Nigeria on a G-7 Infrastructure Programme. Finer was received by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo who engaged them in discussions in which Finer informed Osinbajo of a potential partnership with Nigeria on a G-7 Infrastructure Programme known as the Build Back Better World. Explaining the programme, Finer said, "It involves bringing together a range of funding sources, development finance and private sector to work with key partner-countries to develop their infrastructure and fill the gap between infrastructure needs and the current state of infrastructure. Victoria Edeme, [The Punch News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) has said pirate attacks and armed robbery at sea in Nigeria dropped from 17 in the first nine months of 2020 to four in the corresponding period of 2021. In 2021, the PRC reported 85 vessels boarded, nine attempted attacks, two vessels fired upon and one vessel hijacked. However, IMB's latest global piracy report

recorded 97 incidents of piracy and armed robbery for the first nine months of 2021 – the lowest level reported since 1994. Adaku Onyenucheya, [The Guardian New \(October 20th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has suspended service on the Abuja-Kaduna route after gunmen detonated explosives on a rail line, the NRC in a statement on its website on Thursday said. The services were suspended for the safety of passengers and crew members. The Managing Director of the corporation, Fidete Okhiria, earlier confirmed the detonation of an explosive device on the rail line on the Abuja-Kaduna route stating that efforts were being put in place to ensure absolute safety along the route. Joke Falaju, [The Guardian News, October 21st](#) reports.

The Nigerian Bar Association, the Ohanaeze Ndigbo and prominent citizens on Thursday criticized security agents for barring lawyers, journalists and Igbo leaders from the trial of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). Describing the harassment of lawyers and journalists at the trial as despicable and undemocratic. Kanu, who is facing treasonable felony and terrorism charges, was on Thursday brought to the Federal High Court, Abuja, amid tight security, claiming his innocence. Friday Olorokun et al., [The Punch News \(October 21st\)](#) reports.

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