

## Nigeria Press Review

18.02. – 25.02.2022

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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 Advocates Vaccination as a Control to the Pandemic**

Emphasizing that the Covid-19 vaccine is an important tool to contain the global coronavirus pandemic, Minister of Health Dr. Osagie Ehanire has disclosed an improved strategy for Covid-19 mass vaccination in Nigeria named SCALES 2.0 – an acronym for service delivery, communication, accountability, logistics, electronic reporting and supportive supervision for the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination. It is organized by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency which has established mass vaccination sites at public places such as markets, parks, shopping malls, schools, mosques and churches. Ehanire noted that most Nigerians are reluctant to take their second dose for various reasons, which is why the country also formally rolled out the Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine while also introducing the Covid-19 vaccination site finder. [News Agency of Nigeria \(February 22<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **EU Announces Development in Infrastructure, Health and Education for Africa, ECOWAS Launches One-Year Action Plan to Halt Coups**

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in her closing speech at the two-day EU-AU summit held in Brussels, disclosed that the European Union (EU) would focus on the following three key areas in its support for Africa: infrastructure, health and education. She said the EU would also construct strategic transport corridors across Africa to enhance mobility and develop continental supply chains, adding that a monitoring mechanism would be put in place to follow up on the implementation of the Global Gateway African investment package and other commitments made at the summit. Chiamaka Okafor, [The Premium Times News \(February 20<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Economic Community of West African States Council of Wise (ECOWAS CoW) commenced its two-day strategic retreat and planning workshop in Lagos as part of efforts to end coups in West Africa. The chairman of ECOWAS CoW and former President of Nigeria, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, disclosed that the meeting would debrief and brainstorm on strategies for the CoW to swiftly respond to and mitigate growing peace and security challenges in the region. Jonathan noted that the sub-region had faced unsettling developments that continued to pose a challenge to peace, security and sustainable development. He warned that

the development poses a serious threat to democracy in ECOWAS, especially at a time when relentless onslaught by militants and terrorists across the Sahel and frontline countries has worsened the security situation in the sub-region. Collins Olayinka, Adamu Abuh and Gbenga Salau, [The Guardian News \(February 22<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Former President Obasanjo Says Ignoring Out-of-School Children Worsens Insurgency, Civil Society Organisations in Abuja Protest Over Delay in Presidential Assent to Electoral Bill, Senate Protests Hike in Airfare, All Progressives Congress Fixes National Convention for March 26, President Buhari Signs Electoral Bill**

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the 2022 Murtala Muhammed Foundation annual lecture on addressing insurgency, banditry and kidnapping across Nigeria has expressed concern over the number of out-of-school children in the country. Obasanjo said that in 2011 Boko Haram had not much of external connection and that this had changed by now, adding that Nigeria needs to address the challenges facing the education sector to prevent them from joining Boko Haram. Maryam Abdullahi, [The Cable News \(February 22<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

Twenty-five civil society organizations (CSOs) were protesting the delay by President Muhammadu Buhari to assent to the Electoral Act Amendment Bill. They have asked the president to sign the bill within the 30-days timeline and thereafter propose any amendment, if necessary. The organizations gathered at the Unity Fountain in Abuja for several hours during which they condemned the delay by the President to sign the bill into law. Oge Udegbonam, [The Premium Times News \(February 22<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Senate has joined other Nigerians to complain about the hike in airline tickets. The lawmakers asked the Federal Government to immediately release the funds required by the Federal Emergency Road Management Agency (FERMA) in order to enable the agency carry out its primary responsibility of rehabilitating federal roads, especially in the face of the astronomical increase in airfares. The call was made on Tuesday after deliberations on a Point of Order raised by Gershom Bassey (PDP, Cross River South) to draw attention to the increase in airfare and the implication for Nigerian roads. In his debate, Bassey showed concern that the high airfares would increase the pressure on the neglected and dilapidated Nigerian roads and

further worsen their state. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(February 22<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Caretaker and Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee (CECPC) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has approved March 26 for the national convention of the party. The National Secretary of the CECPC, John Akpankudohede, said that the activities for the national convention would commence on February 24, adding that the APC would conduct its zonal congresses on March 26. [The Premium Times News \(February 21\)](#) reports.

In a new development, President Muhammadu Buhari has signed the Electoral Amendment Bill into law this Friday. Before he signed it, the President sought an amendment to the bill by asking the National Assembly to delete Clause 84(12), which states that “no political appointee at any level shall be a voting delegate or be voted for at the Convention or Congress of any political party for the purpose of the nomination of candidates for any election”. He deemed the clause unconstitutional, explaining that the practical application of the section would subject serving political office holders to inhibitions and restrictions referred to under sections 40 and 42 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. In the newly signed bill, the lawmakers had addressed an issue raised by the President: the mode of primaries for which political

parties will conduct primary elections to elect candidates for political offices. The new law provides political parties the option of using direct, indirect or consensus modes of primaries. It also provides for the use of electronic voting and electronic transmission of results. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(February 25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Defence Chief Moves to End Inter-Agency Rivalry**

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, at a summit organized by the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) for government security agencies titled “Strengthening inter-agency co-operation for sustainable national security”, revealed that DHQ, in conjunction with the services and other security agencies, had been involved in several internal security operations which are ongoing virtually in all the geopolitical zones of the country. According to him, the operations are aimed at combating all contemporary security challenges. He clearly stated that rivalry among security agencies in Nigeria was responsible for unabated insecurity in the country. Irabor, service chiefs and heads of security agencies in the country have, therefore, embarked on a major initiative to check inter-agency rivalry and lack of information sharing. Odita Sunday, [The Guardian News \(February 23<sup>rd</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.**

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