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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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ECOWAS Court Restrains Twitter Ban, FG Neglects Ruling, President Buhari Sets Up Committee to Negotiate with Twitter, Reps Say Twitter Ban is "ill-timed"

The Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, has restrained the government's decision to prosecute citizens or media outlets over the use of twitter. The decision followed the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), a local rights group, along with 176 other Nigerians, who filed a suit, to fight the ban. The court has listened very well to the objection," SERAP said. "Any interference with Twitter is viewed as inference with human rights, and that will violate human rights," it added. [The Zimbabwe Mail News \(June 23rd\)](#) writes.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, at the investigative hearing of the House of Representatives on Wednesday 23, revealed that, foreign companies, if not registered, are not permitted to do business in the country. Mohammed also said, that Twitter's suspension is backed by international laws including articles 24, 25 and 26 of the African Union on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (CCPR), and the government would not hesitate to suspend other social platforms that promote statements capable of destabilizing the country. Adeyemi Adepetun et al, [Guardian News \(June 23rd\)](#) reports.

On the same note, President Buhari has approved a team of cabinet ministers to engage with Twitter, over the suspension of its operations in Nigeria. Lai Mohammed, who chairs the negotiation team, made the announcement on Tuesday 22. Twitter wrote to President Buhari, seeking to engage with the government over the suspension, seeking to map a way forward. Friday Olorok, [Punch News \(June 22nd\)](#) reports.

A member of the House of Representatives, Shaba Ibrahim (PDP, Kogi), described the ban of Twitters operations in the country as "ill-timed", given the coincidental removal of President Buhari's tweet. He added that, the impression it created on the minds of millions of Nigerians and indeed the entire world was in bad faith. Ibrahim faulted the ministry's efforts as been "unproactive" to allow the infractions go unchecked, until the president's speech got deleted. [Punch News \(June 23rd\)](#) reports.

Nigeria's Human Right Index Falls Within a "Very Bad" Range, INEC Commence Online Voters Registration, FG Sets to Dialogue with South-East over Tensions

The Human Rights Movement Initiative, HRMI, has reported the country's score for economic and social rights falling within a very range. Amongst international organizational states the country rates "very poor" and is "worse than average in sub-Saharan Africa. The HMRI says the country's mismanagement of resources is largely responsible for the country's unfortunate human rights crisis. Using income adjustment benchmark, the report compared countries of similar income level to evaluate how effectively each country is using its available resources. Kabir Yusuf, [Premium Times News \(June 12th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, on Thursday 24, has launched an online portal for eligible voters, ahead of the 2023 general elections. The chairman of INEC, Mahmood Yakubu, revealed to journalists, that the portal was created for registrants to commence the process online, before the centers reopen. Yakubu said that, the decision to register first online was due to the current security reality of the nation, stating that the commission would begin full registration at the 2,673 registration centres across the nation. Ochogwu Sunday, [Daily Post News \(June 24th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Minister of Labour, Chris Ngige, disclosed that President Muhammadu Buhari, has accepted the adoption of a dialogue, to address agitations in the South-East. Ngige, also said that, Ngige claims the federal government is working out some modalities to ensure that the people of the region do not "feel unwanted" in Nigeria. Ifreke Inyang, [Daily Post News \(June 21st\)](#) reports.

Osinbajo Chairs Steering Committee on Poverty Reduction, Senate Launches Inquiry into President Buhari's Economic Recovery Plan, FG Expend 18 billion naira for Specialized Universities

In new reports, President Buhari has inaugurated a National Steering Committee, NSC, for the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy, NPRGS. The NPRGS, has proposed the establishment of a private equity fund, to lead resource

mobilization drive and also to manage the resources in a sustainable manner. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo chairs the steering committee which is saddled with anchoring collaborative efforts and providing oversight for the implementation an inclusive poverty reduction strategy. [News Agency of Nigeria \(June 22nd\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Senate is investigating the federal government's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan between 2017 and 2020. Senator Abdu Suleiman Kwari (APC, Kaduna North) adopted the motion "the need to critically assess the performance of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017-2020." He noted that, the four-year plan which was targeted at achieving structural economic transformation and improve the efficiency of both public and private sector has come to an end. Sunday Aborisade, [Punch News \(June 22nd\)](#) reports.

On another note, the establishment of an apex National Institute of Technology, with the objective of stimulating rapid technological transformation across the country, was approved by President Muhammadu Buhari. The Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, said "after a comprehensive review of the policy by key stakeholders in the education sector, the institute shall be patterned after similar institutions in Singapore and Malaysia, to serve essentially as a postgraduate center devoted to research and innovation." Kanayo Umeh and Terhemba Daka, [The Guardian News \(June 22nd\)](#) report.

Insecurity: Military Aircraft Bombs ISWAP, Boko Haram Terrorists, IPOB Fighters Enforce Anti-Open Grazing Ban, South-East Governors Reject IPOB

Meanwhile, a fighter aircraft of the Nigerian Air Force, on Sunday 20, conducted multiple airstrikes against the logistics commander of ISWAP in Lamboa, Borno state. The strike, eliminated scores of ISWAP and Boko Haram terrorists. The ground and air troops engaged the convoy of eight gun trucks that invaded Lamboa. The Air force spokesman, Edwin Gabkwet, confirmed that the troops are mopping the area and assessing the situation. [Premium Times \(June 20th\)](#) reports.

The Indigenous People of Biafra IPOB, and the Eastern Security Networks, ESN, have reportedly began to enforce the anti-open grazing law. Masked gunmen were seen shooting on animals wandering farmlands. Witnesses stated that, the IPOB and ESN fighters were in Delta state, over the anonymous threat issued by killer herdsmen to the government. [Sahara News Reports \(June 23rd\)](#) reports.

The South East Governors Forum have distanced themselves from the secessionist IPOB group. The governors blamed the violent attacks on security agencies and government infrastructure in the southeast on IPOB. The chairman of the forum, David Umahi, disclosed the communique of the forums meeting saying "we condemn in totality, the activities of violent secessionist groups in the South East and elsewhere." [Sahara News \(June 20th\)](#) reports.

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