

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 Explains Why Covid-19 Travel Protocols Remain in Place in Nigeria

The Technical Head of the Presidential Steering Committee Secretariat on Covid-19 has said that Nigeria still maintains its travel protocol for disease surveillance and to protect the populace. He explained the Covid-19 protocols had not been entirely removed as about 85 countries still required pre-departure testing, while in 49 other countries a PCR-test was still needed upon arrival into the country and 30 countries still required quarantine upon arrival. For Nigeria's protocol, no further entry requirements apply for fully vaccinated persons. Instead, only a health declaration form needs to be filled out and submitted to be allowed to board. Lara Adejoro, [The Punch News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

President Buhari Says Nigeria Remains One Amongst Four Countries in Africa Printing Local Currencies, World Bank Speaks on Nigeria's Need for Urgent Fiscal Management, Nigeria Drops to Seventh Place on OPEC's Production List, IMF Warns of Food Crisis in 2023

President Muhammadu Buhari stated Wednesday that Nigeria was among the four out of 54 African countries that printed their currencies locally. He explained this when he unveiled three redesigned Naira notes as proposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), adding that it was a thing of pride that Nigeria did not print its currencies abroad like most African countries. The President said the Naira redesign was borne out of the urgent need to take control of the money in circulation and of counterfeiting high denomination Naira notes, amongst others. It is on that basis that he approved the redesign of the 200 Naira, 500 Naira and 1.000 Naira bank notes. Donates Anichukwuebe, [The Channels TV News \(November 25th\)](#) reports.

The World Bank has urged Nigeria to urgently strengthen its fiscal management, create a unified, stable market-based exchange rate and reiterate the need for the country to phase out of what it described as Nigeria's costly, regressive fuel subsidy. It also advised the Federal Government to quickly rationalize preferential trade restrictions and tax exemptions. World Bank's Group President David Malpass raised these concerns while commenting on a new Nigeria Public Finance Review report released on Monday in Abuja. The report seeks to inform the public and spark a debate

on Nigeria's future by providing a thorough analysis of fiscal performance. In the review, the World Bank advised Nigeria to fix its public finances to promote inclusive and sustainable development, calling for urgent macroeconomic and budgetary reforms to lift the country's development outcomes which are severely constrained by the inefficient use of resources. Ndubuisi Francis and Nume Ekeghe, [This Day Live News \(November 22nd\)](#) report.

The Monthly Oil Market Report for November of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) crude oil production list examined oil production performance in October, placing Nigeria seventh behind Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq, Angola and Algeria after further downfall. Nigeria used to rank fifth, with countries such as Angola and Algeria behind in crude oil production. A recent report revealed how the country lost N 415 billion to the shutdown of nine crude oil terminals within the space of two months. OpeOluwani Akintayo, [The Punch News \(November 21st\)](#) reports.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that Nigerians should brace for higher food prices as well as risks in 2023 due to recent floods and high fertilizer prices. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, food inflation went as high as 23.72% in October 2022, with inflation on certain items rising to between 50-100%. However, the IMF has predicted that recent floods have affected agricultural productivity, saying that food prices would further increase in 2023. In addition, the IMF stated that the volatility in the value of the Naira, the Federal Government's continued dependence on the Central Bank of Nigeria for financing its budget deficit and climate change were also risk factors. Temitayo Jaiyeola, [The Punch News \(November 21st\)](#) reports.

Court Orders INEC to Resume Voter Registration, Stops Nigeria Air Indefinitely Until 2023, Nigerian Economic Summit Group Says Nigeria Needs Nine Trillion USD by 2050 to Attain Shared Prosperity, NNPC Begins Oil Drilling in the North-East

A Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to immediately resume the continuous voter registration until 90 days before the 2023 general elections. Furthermore, the court directed INEC to ensure that eligible Nigerians were not deprived of

the opportunity to obtain their voter card for the forthcoming polls. The justice in charge held that it was the constitutional responsibility of the electoral commission to make adequate provisions for the exercise following the Nigerian laws. [The Punch News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

In another case, a Federal High Court in Lagos stopped the Federal Government's (FG) proposed national carrier, Nigeria Air, and adjourned the case until February 2023. The court reordered the FG and domestic airlines to maintain the status quo in their suit relating to the airline's establishment. Meanwhile, a new case was instituted by one of the Chief Executive Officers of the domestic carriers, seeking the name of the Board of Registered Trustees of the Airline Operators of Nigeria to be removed from the suit because members of the association did not agree to sue the FG over the national carrier project. While reacting to the court's order on Thursday, the media aide to the Minister of Aviation, James Odaudu, said the ministry was law-abiding but would do what was necessary to vacate the order. Okechukwu Nnodim, et al, [The Punch News \(November 25th\)](#) reports.

The immediate past Chairman of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Asue Ighodalo, has tasked those entrusted with drafting the Nigeria Agenda 2050 to endow the country with an economy whose size would be between USD 4.5 trillion and USD 9 trillion in the next 25 years to attain shared prosperity. According to him, Nigeria must identify avenues to accelerate its growth "over and beyond the ordinary". Furthermore, Ighodalo emphasized that creating and sharing the wealth in a relatively equitable and just manner must go hand in hand with rethinking and redesigning inclusion policies and programs to be prosperity-enhancing. The chairman of NESG also said successful national turnarounds start with addressing and fixing fundamental internal problems to set the country's sights on externally driven growth possibilities. Dike Onwuamaeze, [This Day Live News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

On Tuesday, Nigeria's state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) started drilling for oil and gas at a field in northern Nigeria with reserves of 1 billion barrels as the country seeks to produce crude oil outside the Niger Delta for the first time. NNPC said that phase one of the Kolmani project in the northeast would have an oil refinery, gas processing unit, a 300-megawatt power plant as well as a fertilizer plant producing

2.500 tons a day. Oil majors in Nigeria are divesting from onshore to focus on offshore drilling due to increasing insecurity and oil theft, which have led to a decline in production and caused Nigeria to lose its status as Africa's top oil producer. President Muhammadu Buhari urged NNPC and its partners to work with local communities and draw lessons from the restive Niger Delta where militants have blown up pipelines in the past, accusing oil companies of neglecting local communities. Felix Onuah, [The Reuters News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: National Security Adviser Says Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapon Remains Threat to Nigeria, Borno State Government Requests Militia to Combat Insurgents, Gunmen Abduct Over 100 in Zamfara State, NDLEA Amendment Act Will Strengthen Nigeria's Drug War, Gulf of Guinea Pirates Move from Kidnapping Seafarers to Stealing Oil

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Babagana Monguno, has said that the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) remained a huge threat to Nigeria's security. He disclosed this during the destruction of over 3,000 small arms recovered from across the country by the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The NSA noted that the failure of the global community to control the availability of illicit SALW had continued to undermine international peace and significantly hinder development, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Monguno said that establishing the Centre in 2021 by the President was a historic step towards addressing the problem of small arms proliferation through an institutional platform. [The Punch News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

Security sources have reported that the Borno State Government has asked for 300 militias to help the military clear out Islamist insurgents after killing at least eight soldiers during an attack by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in the northeastern town of Malam Fatori. ISWAP confirmed the attack but claimed the death toll was 20 soldiers and that it had seized weapons and ammunition. Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum convened a security meeting in the state capital Maiduguri and ordered 300 Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) members to help the military in Malam Fatori. [Reuters News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

More than 100 people, including women and children, were abducted when shooters raided four villages in Zamfara State last Sunday. The Commissioner Information, Ibrahim Dosara, accused the shooters of using abductees as human shields against air raids from the military. [Guardian News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mohamed Marwa, has disclosed that the ongoing amendment of the NDLEA Act at the National Assembly would further boost the country's fight against substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in Nigeria. In addition, he dispelled reports of alleged drug abuse problems in every household in the country, stating that there were indeed families not afflicted by this menace. He applauded the continuous efforts of President Muhammadu Buhari who approved the recruitment of additional 5.000 officers and men to further strengthen the agency. Sunday Ejike, [The Tribune News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

Despite a significant drop in piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea in recent times, more decisive action is still required to address the changing dynamics of piracy in the region. Criminal groups have not gone away but have transitioned to other activities. The Gulf of Guinea is witnessing a shift in the dynamics of piracy, with criminal networks moving away from targeting commercial maritime and switching to oil bunkering, theft and illegal fishing, so the global community must remain vigilant. Martha Pobee, Assistant Secretary-General in the United Nations (UN) Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, who presented the UN's Secretary-General's latest report on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, warned that the shifting dynamics would require a more excellent response from countries in the region but also international partners. Part of recent measures to wage a coordinated war against the piracy networks includes conducting a maritime exercise involving 17 of the 19 countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea. [The Maritime Executive \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

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