

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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Party Crisis: Pandemonium in APC as President Buhari Dissolves National Working Committee, Obaseki Emerges PDP Governorship Candidate

The tussle over the All Progressive Congress (APC) party leadership has continued to escalate following the suspension of Adams Oshiomhole with majority of the party's National Working Committee (NWC) endorsing Abiola Ajimobi as national chairman over Victor Giadom. Yusuf Alli et al, [The Nation \(21st June\)](#) write. Following the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting attended by President Muhammadu Buhari which was convened by the suspended Deputy National Secretary of the party, Victor Giadom, 18 members of the NWC loyal to the sacked national chairman, Adams Oshiomhole, have threatened to drag the party to court over the dissolution of the NWC, insisting that the NEC meeting was illegal. Olalekan Adebayo and John Alechenu [Punch News \(26th June\)](#) write.

Meanwhile, the Edo State governor, Godwin Obaseki, has won the People's Democratic Party's governorship primary election which was conducted on Thursday. The other aspirants had earlier stepped down for Obaseki to run as a sole candidate of the party. Tony Isiguzo and Ighomuaye Lucky write in [Sun News \(26th June\)](#). Godwin Obaseki had joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP) following his resignation from the All Progressive Congress (APC) due to disagreements with Adams Oshiomhole over issues including Obaseki's unverified certificate. [Vanguard News \(19th June\)](#) reports. Meanwhile, Osagie Ize-Iyamu won the Edo APC governorship primary election. Joshua Odeyemi of the [Daily Trust News \(22nd June\)](#) explains.

In a similar note, the Deputy Governor of Ondo state, Agboola Ajayi has resigned from the APC following alleged disagreements with the state governor, Rotimi Akeredolu. [The Cable News \(21st June\)](#) writes. Ajayi alleged, that Akeredolu was involved in the situation where the police harassed him at the government house. He accused him of plans to impeach him. John Ogunsemore, [Herald News \(24th News\)](#) details.

World Bank Provides Credit Facility to Support Power Sector as Federal Government Adopts Measures to Reactivate the Economy

Worried by the poor electricity situation in Nigeria, the World Bank has approved a \$750m credit support for Nigeria's power sector, saying that the country loses about \$28bn annually to power shortages. It said the facility titled "Power Sector Recovery Operation" would assist in improving electricity supply, achieve financial and fiscal sustainability, and enhance accountability in Nigeria's power sector. Babajide Komolafe and Ediri Ejoh report in [Vanguard News \(25th June\)](#)

Meanwhile, as part of efforts by the federal government to reactivate the nation's economy following the Covid-19 pandemic disruptions, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved a N2.3tn stimulus plan to support the nation's economy. Giving details of the funds, the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, said that the funds will be distributed to critical sectors of the economy. Olalekan Adetayo writes in [Punch News \(25th June\)](#).

On Nigeria's debt profile, Zainab said the federal government does not plan to ask for deferment of debt repayment for its commercial and bilateral loans. This contradicts the earlier position of the government in April to approach bilateral and multilateral lenders in May to waive debt payments this year due to the negative effects of the pandemic on Nigeria's economy. Ahmed had said the government did not intend to suspend Euro-bond payments, but planned to seek relief from its biggest bilateral creditor, China [This Day News \(25th June\)](#) details.

ECOWAS: Buhari Speaks on Common Currency as ECOWAS Endorses Okonjo Iweala for WTO Director General

Following President Buhari's nomination of Ngozi Okonjo Iweala for the seat of the Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), against the African Union (AU) consensus candidate, the Economic Community of West-African States (ECOWAS) has jointly endorsed the candidacy of Iweala for the position. [Reuters \(22nd June\)](#) details.

On the proposed ECOWAS common currency, President Buhari has raised concerns that the ambition could be jeopardized if member states

do not comply with the agreed processes of reaching the collective goal especially the decision of some Francophone countries to replace the CFA Franc with Eco ahead of the rest of ECOWAS member states. Terhamba Daka, [Guardian News \(23rd June\)](#) explains. On the same note, experts have backed President Buhari on his opinion. According to the former Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, Obadiah Mailafia, "it was wrong for the Francophone countries to unilaterally take the decision to replace the CFA Franc with Eco. They have simply gone ahead to create a fait accompli. It is not good for Nigeria as it has taken the leadership process from Nigeria, which accounts for up to 70 per cent of West Africa's GDP". Olalekan Adetayo and Femi Asu, [Punch News \(24th June\)](#) explain.

Demolition of Nigerian High Commission Building in Ghana: Ghana Government to Rebuild Demolished Structure

The President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, has tendered an apology to the Government of Nigeria and has promised to rebuild the structure within the Nigerian High Commission in Ghana which was demolished early in the week. He also promised to take action against the perpetrators. [BBC News \(24th June\)](#) and Fortune Abang, [PM News \(25th June\)](#) explain.

The Nigerian High Commission in Ghana was demolished after a Ghanaian businessman claimed that the building was sitting on his land. It was reported that he had earlier presented evidence to support his claim before the demolition. However, Nigeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, condemned the act and described it as a criminal attack while demanding for urgent action from the Ghanaian government. Dennis Ezeji, [Guardian News \(21st June\)](#) writes. Similarly, the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) condemned the attack saying it was a breach of international conventions. Samson Atekojo Usman, [PM News \(24th June\)](#) explains. Defending the action, a Ghanaian Chief blamed the Nigerian High Commission for trespassing on the land. Aishat Babatunde, [Premium Times \(22nd June\)](#) details.

Reacting to the development, the House of Representatives faulted the action of Onyeama and urged President Buhari to invoke the diplomatic principle of reciprocity against Ghana. Tordue Sa-

lem writes in [Vanguard News \(23rd June\)](#). Similarly, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) said that the incident exposed incompetence in the presidency. Seun Opejobi, [Daily Post News \(22nd June\)](#) details. Meanwhile, the presidency has said that it would not engage in any fight with Ghana over the issue. Innocent Oweh, [Independent News \(25th June\)](#) details.

Anti-Corruption: Controversy Rages over Magu's Replacement as AGF submits Damaging Report to Buhari

The tenure of the current acting chairman of the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ibrahim Magu, has been marked by controversy from several quarters especially with the report of corruption against Magu by the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami which was submitted to President Buhari. In the report, Malami outlined various violations including corruption, diversion of confiscated assets, among others. Dike Onwuamaeze, [This Day \(19th June\)](#) explains. Malami also submitted the names of three persons to President Buhari to consider one of them as possible replacement for Magu. [Vanguard News \(22nd June\)](#) details. Meanwhile, Malami's report has sparked outrage in the media as citizens have called on the president to sack Malami over the allegations against Magu. A northern Nigerian group, Kanuri Collective Agenda (KCA), in calling for Malami's sack said, "Malami has provided opposition parties with weapons to rubbish Buhari's anti-corruption war and take his administration to the cleaners". [Nigeria Tribune \(21st June\)](#) and [The Nation \(22nd June\)](#) report.

Similarly, the People's Democracy Party (PDP) has restated its call for the sack of Magu citing the memo by the AGF as an affirmation of its stance of Magu's financial impropriety which has further exposed the corruption that has marred the integrity of the Buhari government. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh of the [Guardian News \(20th June\)](#) writes. Meanwhile, the inability of President Buhari to include Magu's name for confirmation along with over 207 names sent by the President and confirmed by the Senate in the last one year, has raised concerns among citizens that the President may have been aware of Magu's unsuitability for the position. Eniola Akinkuotu of [Punch News \(21st June\)](#) details.

Insecurity: Security Agencies Seek Collaboration as Senate President, Others call for Sack of Service Chiefs over Increased Attacks

The increasing attack by insurgents especially in the Northern region has continued to devastate the region with cases escalating daily. The recent killings in Katsina and in Zamfara states have left the residents in constant fear. Abubakar Ahmadu Maishanu, [Premium Times \(21st June\)](#) details. The Zamfara state government has urged collaboration among security agencies to neutralize bandits in the state. Jarawa, [Daily Trust \(22nd June\)](#) details.

Reacting to the recurring attacks, President Buhari had last week charged the service chiefs to intensify their efforts in addressing the security issues in the country. In a similar vein, the Senate President, Ahmed Lawan, berated the service chiefs over the security challenges in the

country. Omololu Ogunmade writes in [This Day News \(22nd June\)](#). However, citizens who expressed dissatisfaction with the increasing insecurity have called on President Buhari to sack the service chiefs over the deteriorating security situation in the country. [Vanguard News \(21st June\)](#) and Bashir Bello, [Vanguard News \(21st June\)](#) explain.

In his response to the increasing activities of bandits, the Chief of Defence Staff met with the security chiefs and discussed how to re-strategize, collaborate and reinforce their efforts in tackling the increased attacks by the insurgents. Ronald Mutum, [Daily Trust \(23rd June\)](#) details. Meanwhile, a Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) has given the federal government a 3 month ultimatum to end insecurity in the country. Patrick Okohue writes in [Daily Times \(25th June\)](#). An article, by the editor of [Leadership News \(22nd June\)](#) examines the issue.

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