

Nigeria Press Review

20.01. – 27.01.2023

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.

Content

Covid-19/Health: International Inbound Travelers to Provide Vaccination Evidence, Nigeria Records 123 Cases and 38 Deaths from Diphtheria Disease

Central Bank Begins Cash Swap Program Across Local Government Area Councils, Launches Nigerian National Domestic Card Scheme (AfriGo), President Buhari Inaugurates Nigeria's First Deep Port, Nigerians Groan as Fuel Scarcity Heightens

INEC Collaborates with Security Agencies to Curb Vote-Buying in Upcoming Elections, Senate Transmits 35 Constitution Amendment Bills to President Buhari for Assent, Tribunal Releases Adeleke as Osun Governor, House Speaker Expresses Readiness to Issue a Warrant of Arrest on Central Bank Governor

Insecurity: Nigeria Air Force Set to Receive 27 Fighter Jets and Attack Helicopters, Defence Headquarters Reports Attacks on Terrorist in the North-East, North-West and North-Central Zones

Covid-19/Health: International Inbound Travelers to Provide Vaccination Evidence, Nigeria Records 123 Cases and 38 Deaths from Diphtheria Disease

The Director of Port Health Services, Geoffrey Okatubo, disclosed that the Federal Government requires that all international travelers arriving in Nigeria must provide evidence of vaccination at the point of entry. This new development results from the reported upsurge in Covid-19 in China, Japan, the United States of America and other countries. Unvaccinated passengers arriving from other countries might have to be vaccinated at the airport. Lara Adejoro, [The Punch News \(24th January\)](#) reports.

Nigeria recorded 123 confirmed cases and 38 deaths of diphtheria disease in different parts of the country as of January 22, 2023. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) breakdown showed records of cases in Kano, Lagos, Yobe and Osun. Meanwhile, the Director General NCDC, Ifedayo Adetifa, noted that diphtheria is a vaccine-preventable disease, urging Nigerians to ensure that their children are fully vaccinated against the disease with the prescribed three doses of the pentavalent vaccine. Also, Minister of Health Osagie Ehanire, who concentrated on the alleged outbreak of an unknown deadly flu in China, said the World Health Organization (WHO) had not made any pronouncement on such an outbreak. However, the minister explained that the nation's port health and other agencies were doing due diligence on arrivals in the country. Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, [The Guardian News \(24th January\)](#) reports.

Central Bank Begins Cash Swap Program Across Local Government Area Councils, Launches Nigerian National Domestic Card Scheme (AfriGo), President Buhari Inaugurates Nigeria's First Deep Port, Nigerians Groan as Fuel Scarcity Heightens

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has launched a cash swap program across local government areas in Nigeria to facilitate the circulation of the new Naira notes. The CBN said the program was in partnership with super agents and deposit money banks (DMBs) in different parts of the country, taking effect from Monday, January 23, 2022. The bank said the old NGN 1000, NGN 500 and NGN 200 notes could be exchanged for the newly redesigned notes and the existing lower denominations (NGN 100, NGN 50 and NGN 20

etc.), which remain legal tender. This service is also available to anybody without a bank account to promote financial inclusion. Ayodeji Adegboyega, [The Premium Times News \(21st January\)](#) report.

Parallely, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has launched the Nigerian National Domestic Card Scheme, AfriGo, to create a more robust payment system that would drive financial inclusion in the country. At a virtual launch, CBN Governor Godwin Emefiele, said that transaction charges on all cards would henceforth be paid in Naira, except for international transactions. According to him, AfriGo would be cheaper and a matter of national pride, potentially boosting financial inclusion. Emefiele added that the effort was not an attempt to prevent international service providers from continuing to provide services in Nigeria. Instead, it aimed at providing more options for domestic consumers while promoting the delivery of services more cost-effectively and competitively. Emma Ujah, [The Vanguard News \(26th January\)](#) reports.

President Muhammad Buhari has inaugurated the USD 1.5 billion Lekki Deep Sea Port during a working visit to Lagos, the biggest port in Nigeria and one of the biggest in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a joint venture enterprise owned by a group of investors led by the Lekki Port Investment Holdings Inc., the Lagos State Government and the Federal Government. The port is projected to generate about USD 20 billion in employee salaries, an estimated USD 201 billion in revenues for state and federal agencies from taxes, royalties and duties as well as an estimated business revenue impact of USD 158 billion across the value chain. Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has thus managed to commission and complete both a light rail line and a deep sea port were. The new port, therefore, represents another milestone in the nation's quest for economic development in Nigeria as well as in the region. Tayo Ogunbiyi, [The Guardian News \(25th January\)](#) reports.

Nigerians have continued to lament the hardship caused by the scarcity of petroleum products across the country. The recent development is coming amid reports of a pump price increase by the Federal Government. A survey of petrol stations in many parts of the country showed that the fuel prices ranged between NGN 240 and NGN 400 across Nigerian states, far higher than the pump price. The black market fuel prices have equally gone through the roof, with 10 litres of petrol selling between NGN 4.000 and NGN 6.000. Traffic gridlocks appeared regularly across Abuja as

many service lanes were closed due to the long queues from petrol stations. The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association Nigeria (IPMAN) also noted that the volume of products supplied to marketers at the loading points has dropped by about 50%. The Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN) attributed the crisis to the high costs of vessels and inadequate trucks to deliver petroleum products from depots to filling stations across the country. IPMAN president Chinedu Chinedu Okoronkwo maintained the situation remained still unclear. Mary Izuaka, [The Premium Times News \(24th January\)](#) reports.

INEC Collaborates with Security Agencies to Curb Vote-Buying in Upcoming Elections, Senate Transmits 35 Constitution Amendment Bills to President Buhari for Assent, Tribunal Releases Adeleke as Osun Governor, House Speaker Expresses Readiness to Issue a Warrant of Arrest on Central Bank Governor

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said it is collaborating with the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Matters Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to check vote-buying in the forthcoming general elections. INEC resident electoral commissioner (REC) in Rivers State, Johnson Alalibo Sinikiem, said INEC had sensitized youths in various villages to monitor and report anyone involved in the act during the elections. Meanwhile, security agencies, especially the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), have been briefed to watch for people possessing permanent voter cards (PVCs) that do not belong to them. He called on the media to ensure accurate reportage of INEC activities before, during and after the general elections. Sinikiem further said the electoral body would ensure free, fair, credible and violent-free elections. Anayo Onukwugha, [The Leadership News \(25th January\)](#) reports.

The Senate has transmitted 35 of the original 44 Constitution amendment bills to President Muhammadu Buhari for assent. The 35 bills have been considered by 27 State Houses of Assembly (SHA) and approved by at least 24 of them as required by law. The state assemblies, however, failed to vote on the two bills that seek financial and legislative autonomy for local governments. Initially, the National Assembly had passed the 44 Constitution amendment bills in March 2022. However, by October, Omo-Agege, Chairman of

the Constitution Review Committee, complained that only 11 SHAs had considered and voted on the bills. Therefore, on Tuesday, the lawmakers directed the Clerk to the National Assembly to transmit the remaining 35 bills to Buhari for assent. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(24th January\)](#) reports.

The Osun State Election Petition Tribunal has released Ademola Adeleke as the state governor and declared Gboyega Oyetola as the winner of the governorship election. The tribunal annulled the election of Adeleke, candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and declared that Oyetola, the candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) seeking a second term in office, has in fact won the July 16, 2022 Osun governorship poll. Justice Tetsea Kume, while delivering the majority decision, declared that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) did not comply substantially with the Constitution and the provisions of the Electoral Act. He subsequently deducted the over-voting observed from the votes scored by the candidates and declared that Oyetola won the election, having polled 314.921 votes, while Adeleke's score came down to 290.266 votes. The judge directed INEC to withdraw Adeleke's certificate of return and issue another one to Oyetola who won a majority of the lawful votes. Dennis Erezi, [The Guardian News \(27th January\)](#) reports.

The currency redesign policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has a deadline of Tuesday, January 31, to reject the old Naira notes. Nigerians from all parts of the country remain tensed and confused as they are still faced with the challenge of having large amounts of the old notes. In addition, the deadline has led to chaos, over-stretching bank workers due to the breakdown of counting machines in many branches and resulting in bank tellers counting monies manually. Infuriated over the absence of the CBN Governor Godwin Emefiele to address lawmakers, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, has expressed readiness to issue a warrant of arrest on Emefiele if he fails to appear before its committee on January 31, that was set up ad hoc to investigate the scarcity of the new Naira notes at commercial banks all over the country. The Speaker announced that the House would exercise its powers as contained in Section 89 of the 1999 Constitution. He noted that the CBN Act allows the admittance of old Naira notes by banks, even after it had ceased to be legal tender. Collins Olayinka et al., [The Guardian News \(27th January\)](#) report.

Insecurity: Nigeria Air Force Set to Receive 27 Fighter Jets and Attack Helicopters, Defence Headquarters Reports Attacks on Terrorist in the North-East, North-West and North-Central Zones

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amao, has announced that the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) was expecting the delivery of two Beechcraft King Air 360 and four Diamond DA-62 surveillance aircrafts, three Wing Loong II unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) and six T-129 attack helicopters scheduled to be delivered to NAF in the first quarter of 2023. He maintained that the Nigerian military was winning the war against terrorism in the country with the aid of these modern platforms, attributing the operational successes recorded by NAF to newly acquired JF-17 Thunder and A-29 Super Tucano aircrafts as well as UCAVs. Amao, however, warned of being complacent at this point and called for more focus, vigilance and caution. Finally, commenting on the upcoming elections, Amao urged NAF personnel to remain apolitical but only exercise their constitutional

right to vote for any candidate. Kingsley Nwezeh, [Arise News \(22nd January\)](#) reports.

The Defence Headquarters has declared that within the last two weeks the military eliminated more than 84 terrorists and rescued 122 abducted victims in the north-east and north-western parts of Nigeria. In the north-east zone, the Director of Defence Media Operations, Musa Danmadami, said the troops of Operation Hadin Kai neutralized 42 Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists and apprehended 14. He added that the air interdiction mission was conducted in Southern Tumbums of the Lake Chad Basin, Chidike in the Mandara Mountains and Gezuwa area, all in Borno state. Similarly, in north-central, the troops of Operation Safe Haven, Guards Brigades and Whirl Stroke with the Civilian Joint Task Force neutralized seven terrorists. Furthermore, the air component of Operation Hada-rin Daji, recently conducted a well-planned and co-ordinated air interdiction operation at identified terrorist hideouts in Sokoto State. [The Premium Times News \(17th January\)](#) reports.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Resident Representative
Adams Adamu, Project Assistant

Nigeria Office
www.kas.de/nigeria
www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria
marija.peran@kas.de / adamu.adams@kas.de



The text of this publication is published under a Creative Commons license: "Creative Commons Attribution- Share Alike 4.0 international" (CC BY-SA 4.0), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>