

## Nigeria Press Review

20.05. – 27.05.2022

---

### 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: Nigeria Receives 4.4 Million Johnson & Johnson Vaccines, Amplifies Security at Entry Over Monkey Pox Outbreak

AfDB Says Nigeria's Economy Will Grow by 3.2% in 2023, Nigeria, Germany Partner on Green Hydro Energy

Presidential Aspirant Peter Obi Quits PDP, Lagos State Governor Wins APC Primary Election for Second Term, Seven Political Parties Merge, Central Bank Governor Redraws Suit against INEC and Attorney General Over Presidential Bid, Court Declares Jonathan Eligible to Run for President, INEC Decries Electoral Reform, Yet Extends Deadline For Primaries, Supreme Court Justice Laments Corruption in Nigerians Judicial System, Nigerians Disappointed Over Nigeria Air Failure to Commence

Insecurity: Terrorists Give 7-Day Ultimatum to FG Over Abuja-Kaduna Kidnapped Train Victims, Nigeria Exits International Maritime Bureau Piracy List

### **Covid-19: Nigeria Receives 4.4 Million Johnson & Johnson Vaccines, Amplifies Security at Entry Over Monkey Pox Outbreak**

The Federal Government has received 4.4 million doses of Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines donated by the Government of Spain. Speaking at the brief ceremony to mark the formal delivery, the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Faisal Shuaib, said that 29.651.708 eligible persons had by now received the first dose of the available Covid-19 vaccines. According to him, this represented 23.4% of the eligible population. Shuaib emphasized that the donation came when it was most needed as the country was rapidly ramping up full vaccination coverage. The single-dose regimen of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would enable the agency move rapidly towards achieving herd immunity. Shuaib further gave update on Covid-19 vaccination saying that 17.702.018 persons are fully vaccinated, representing 15.8% of the eligible population. 1.178.604 persons have received the booster dose. Onyebuchi Ezigbo, [This Day Live News \(May 25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Following the outbreak of monkeypox and its effects in Europe and America, the Federal Government has amplified surveillance at Nigeria's entry points. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mohammad Abubakar, assured Nigerians and the international community that there was no cause for alarm over the outbreak. Yet, if left unchecked the outbreak of the disease would likely affect the population of farmers and significantly lead to low agricultural production and productivity. The Minister thus advised the general public to avoid contact with animals that could harbour the virus including animals that are sick or found dead where monkeypox occurs. Okwe Obi, [The Sun News \(May 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **AfDB Says Nigeria's Economy Will Grow by 3.2% in 2023, Nigeria, Germany Partner on Green Hydro Energy**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) in its African Economic Outlook 2022 report has projected that the Nigerian economy would altogether decelerate and grow by an average of 3.2% between 2022 and 2023 amid low oil production and rising insecurity. The report pointed out that growth in West Africa was driven by Nigeria, being the largest economy in the region. The report further showed that the Nigerian economy would benefit

from the high oil prices, recovery in the service and manufacturing sector and government policy support for agriculture. The AfDB continued to urge the whole continent to boost vaccination rates, apply a cautious monetary policy and increase investments in the healthcare system. Busola Aro, [The Cable News \(May 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Nigeria and Germany on Thursday held a kick-off symposium to foster their cooperation in the field of green hydrogen (H2) as an alternative energy. At the symposium in Abuja organized by the German International Cooperation Agency, GIZ, through the German-Nigerian Hydrogen Office, the Minister of Power, Abubakar D. Aliyu, maintained: "Nigeria is keen on exploring the possibilities that the nascent hydrogen economy could create for our energy transition and we are very interested in establishing a fruitful dialogue with Germany." The Country Director GIZ Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ina Hommers, highlighted the objectives of the project: "We are delighted to welcome the first public event of hydrogen office which aims to support Nigeria in exploring the potentials of green hydrogen and consequently foster the sustainable transformation of the country's industry and economy." Head of the German-Nigerian Hydrogen Office, Gina Lagunes, said Nigeria as a traditional fossil fuel exporting country with existing oil and gas infrastructure and capacity can leverage on the new economy to transition towards sustainable energy. Linda Ifeakor and Mercy James, [The Guardian News \(May 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Presidential Aspirant Peter Obi Quits PDP, Lagos State Governor Wins APC Primary Election for Second Term, Seven Political Parties Merge, Central Bank Governor Redraws Suit against INEC and Attorney General Over Presidential Bid, Court Declares Jonathan Eligible to Run for President, INEC Decries Electoral Reform, Yet Extends Deadline For Primaries, Supreme Court Justice Laments Corruption in Nigerians Judicial System, Nigerians Disappointed Over Nigeria Air Failure to Commence**

Former Governor of Anambra State and presidential aspirant on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi, has resigned his membership of the main opposition party two days before its presidential primary. He said his resignation was because of the difficulty he faced in carrying out his 'Rescue Nigeria' mission through the party. Sources say that Obi's resignation was not unconnected to the contentious

struggle to control the party's structure in Anambra and the Southeast as a whole. However, Director General of Obi's presidential campaign organization, Doyin Okupe, further disclosed that Obi would move to another party to actualize his 2023 presidential ambition. He, however, refused to disclose the party. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh et al., [The Guardian News \(May 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has emerged as the winner of the All-Progressives Congress (APC), governorship primary in Lagos State. He was declared winner on Thursday, polling 1.170 of 1.182 votes cast. Although other contenders had complained they were disallowed from participating in the primary elections, the Governor congratulated other contestants for being a part of the democratic process. Sodiq Oyeleke, [The Punch News \(May 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

According to a communique on Monday, seven political parties have joined forces ahead of the upcoming 2023 general elections to become the '3rd Force' in a bid to put up a stronger fight against the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and frontline the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The coalition said it took 15 months of deliberations and agreements to decide to join forces with the Labour Party to present a joint Presidential Candidate for the 2023 polls. According to the spokesperson for the National Consultative Front (NCFront), the parties in the coalition are New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), African Democratic Congress (ADC), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Allied Peoples Movement (APM), People's Redemption Party (PRP), Labour Party (LP) and National Rescue Movement (NRM). The '3rd Force' coalition leaders and parties are expected to jointly address the nation sometime this week in a bid to announce their new agenda "to save Nigeria from imminent collapse and anarchy foisted by the ruling parties in Nigeria". Soonest Nathaniel, [Channels News \(May 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Godwin Emefiele, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), on Monday, withdrew his suit against the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Attorney-General of the Federation over his presidential ambition. Emefiele, through his counsel S.T. Maliki, told Justice Ahmed Mohammed that a notice of discontinuance had been filed and served on the defendants in the matter. The development occurred shortly after the matter was called. Initially, Emefiele had sought an order of the court, restraining the Federal Government from removing

him from office over his presidential ambition, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive matter. [News Agency of Nigeria \(May 23<sup>rd</sup>\)](#), reports.

The Federal High Court sitting in Bayelsa State capital Yenagoa has ruled that former President Goodluck Jonathan was eligible to run for president in next year's general elections. The presiding judge, Justice Isa Hama Dasha, held that Jonathan's right to vie for the office of president again "cannot be stopped by any retroactive law." Bode Olagoke, [Blueprint \(May 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmood Yakubu, has deplored monetization of Nigeria's electoral process. His predecessor, Attahiru Jega, warned the commission against altering the election timetable, saying doing so, would amount to "electoral disaster". The duo spoke on Wednesday in Abuja at a one-day stakeholders' colloquium on "Emerging issues that would shape the 2023 general elections in Nigeria" organized by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) and Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). Yakubu said the act of swaying delegates with money during primaries was a thing of concern to the electoral umpire. An addition to this, the INEC chair noted the increasing insecurity and dissemination of fake news across the federation. Yakubu, however, assured Nigerians that the electoral body would work with anti-graft agencies to redress the situation. Sodiq Omolaoye, [The Guardian News \(May 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Against its earlier stance, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has extended the deadline for the conduct of party primaries. The Commission made the adjustments on Friday after a meeting with the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), an umbrella body for the 18 registered political parties in Nigeria. The deadline has been postponed until June 9, an extension by six days from June 3 it had earlier fixed for the activities. Bowing to party pressure, INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu in a statement released on Friday night, said an extension of the date would not hurt its schedule of activities. The newly approved six-day extension would afford the parties to conclude outstanding primaries and prepare the list of candidates and upload their affidavits on the commission's portal. According to Yakubu, the extension covers political parties who have not conducted their primaries. Samson Adenekan, [The Premium Times News \(May 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

A retired justice of the Supreme Court, Ejembi Eko, lamented the corruption in the Nigerian judiciary, especially in the handling of its finances. He therefore called on anti-graft agencies to probe the financial records of the judiciary: "Nothing stops the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, the ICPC and other investigatory agencies from opening the books of the judiciary to expose the corruption in the management of their budgetary resources." Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [The Premium Times News \(May 23<sup>rd</sup>\)](#) reports.

With about one year to the end of the current administration, the much-anticipated Air Nigeria has failed to commence operations despite the promises by the Federal Government. Air Nigeria, which was established in 2004 as a joint venture between Virgin Group and Nigerian investors before ceasing operations in 2012. The 'Presidential Aviation Roadmap' was launched in 2016 along with a new national carrier aimed at developing cargo airports, a new Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility, a national leasing company and other initiatives. In November 2021, the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, assured that Nigeria Air would be launched in April 2022 after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) gave approval. It is believed that Air Nigeria would have softened some of the crisis bedeviling the country's aviation sector. The cost of air travel in Nigeria recently increased astronomically due to the hike in the price of aviation fuel, Jet A1. Seun Opejobi, [The Daily Post News \(May 24<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Terrorists Give 7-Day Ultimatum to FG Over Abuja-Kaduna Kidnapped Train Victims, Nigeria Exits International Maritime Bureau Piracy List**

The Federal Government has been given an ultimatum of seven days by terrorists to enter into meaningful dialogue over the kidnapped victims of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack, otherwise they would be killed. The terrorists alleged the Federal Government of being insincere about the release of the abducted passengers, putting their lives at risk. The leader of the group warned that if within seven days the Government does not respond to their demands, they would stop feeding the victims and start slaughtering them one after the other. Oditia Sunday and Saxone Akhaine, [The Guardian News \(May 25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has exited Nigeria from the IMB Piracy List for fighting piracy through the Nigerian Navy and ensuring a successive decline in reported cases of robbery attacks within Nigeria's maritime domain. This major effort was achieved just as the Navy through Operation Dakarta Da Barawo has arrested a total of 45 suspects, deactivated 172 illegal refining sites as well as 745 metal storage tanks within seven weeks of its offensive against crude oil thieves. The delisting of Nigeria from the world piracy list has led to improved shipping into Nigeria's waters with a positive impact on the economy. Kingsley Omonobi, [Vanguard News \(May 24<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

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

Marija Peran, Deputy Resident Representative  
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

[www.kas.de/nigeria](http://www.kas.de/nigeria)

[www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria](https://www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria)

[marija.peran@kas.de](mailto:marija.peran@kas.de) / [adamu.adams@kas.de](mailto: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>