

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: Nigeria Experiences Reduction in Cases, Deaths, Receives 9 Million Doses of Cholera Vaccine to Fight Spread

According to the Minister of Health, Osagie Ehanire, Nigeria is experiencing a reduction in Covid-19 cases and deaths. At the Ministry of Health's bi-weekly Covid-19 update he elaborated: "Nigeria at the moment is in a lull with reduction in infection rate and the fatalities. We're still watching closely as we've seen re-emergence that has surprised people in other countries." He advised against gathering of non-essential crowds, adding that non-pharmaceutical measures like wearing face-masks, washing hands, sanitizing and being careful with our interactions be adhered to, in the event that large gatherings be held. Ojoma Akor, [The Daily Trust News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

The Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) has approved about 9 million doses of oral cholera vaccine (OCV) for Nigeria to implement two campaigns in 14 local government areas in 9 states, including the Federal Capital Territory, to mitigate the risk of an upsurge of cholera cases during rain season. The World Health Organization (WHO) country representative to Nigeria, Walter Molumbo, observed that Nigeria degraded its biggest cholera outbreak which commenced in 2021 with over 100.000 suspected cases reported and stressed the need for the early allocation and shipment of the vaccines to ensure vaccinations are carried out sooner than later to stop the outbreak from becoming a big epidemic. Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, [The Premium Times \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

EndSARS Panel Orders Arrest of Two Police Officers, 83% Taxpayers in Nigeria Evade Payment of Tax, Nigeria Loses 500 million Dollars to Cybercrime, Total Energies Put of Sale of Minority Stocks in Nigeria, UK-Nigeria to Improve Trade Partnership with 3.2 billion Pounds, Nigeria Risks Third Recession in Seven Years, FG to Position Export-Oriented Businesses in Nigeria, President Buhari Says Farmer-Herders Crisis Costing Nigeria 14 billion Dollars Loss Annually, Nigeria is Behind on Ending Child Malnutrition by 2030

Two police officers have been summoned by the EndSARS panel in Abuja, one commissioner of police in charge of legal services at the headquarters and one inspector of police. The EndSARS panel set up to investigate cases of police brutality, on Monday issued arrest warrants against these two

police officers who have several times shunned its summons and orders. The inspector of police is named as a respondent in a case of unlawful arrest, detention and seizure of properties of a citizen. Meanwhile, the commissioner of police in charge of legal affairs is wanted by the panel in respect of a case of alleged unlawful arrest, detention and enforced disappearance of another citizen that is said to have been missing from police custody since June 25, 2017. Samiah Ogunlowo, [The Premium Times News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

According to a taxpayer perception survey conducted by the Nigerian Governors Forum for 2021, 83% of eligible Nigerian taxpayers working in the informal sector are likely to evade tax payments because they do not believe tax authorities have the right to make people pay taxes. The survey revealed the distrust between the citizens and government. At a workshop organized by the National Coordinating Office of the States Fiscal Transparency Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) Program, it was disclosed that weak transparency and accountability by the Federal Government and States internal revenue services, misunderstood tax laws, incomplete revenue codes and multiplicity of taxation systems, fees, levies and charges are some of the factors responsible for the distrust. The survey also revealed that poor collaboration between the state revenue services, institutional capacity constraints due to inadequate funding and professional staffing to deliver on their mandate, amongst others, were responsible for the poor tax compliance level in Nigeria. Mark Itsibor, [The Leadership News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has disclosed that cybercrime remains one of the dangers of digital transformation in Nigeria. The NCC noted that cybercrime alone contributes to 0.08% of the GDP loss, about USD 500 million. Other risks associated with an increasingly digitally literate, mobile dependent economy are tax evasion, terrorism and health and safety violations. According to the NCC, "all these potential risks necessitate the need to have adequate tools and resources, backed by conscientious regulatory measures, to manage the growing mobile economy". This is why the NCC has disclosed the deployment of a device management system (DMS) called Project Information Memorandum (PIM). DMS are a type of central remote management software used to monitor, manage and secure mobile devices that are deployed across the various mobile service providers, and across various mobile operating systems in Nigeria. Adeyemi

Adepetun, [The Leadership News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

Total Energies will join the exit of oil majors from onshore fields in Nigeria, Africa's largest crude producer, as it puts its minority stake in a Nigerian oil joint venture up for sale. Chief Executive Officer Patrick Pouyanne explained the company would look to offload its 10% interest in a firm that holds 20 onshore and shallow water permits in the country because international firms want to focus on deep-water fields away from the difficulties of operating in close proximity with local communities. Total Energies also operates four other onshore and shallow water licenses in Nigeria. "Disruption of local communities are sources of great concerns" in the country, Pouyanne said. Emmanuel Addeh, [This Day Live News \(April 29th\)](#) reports.

The United Kingdom (UK) and Nigeria have agreed to promote trade among the two countries and boost a partnership worth over GBP 3 billion, which will generate over USD 300 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) for Nigeria and directly create 5,000 jobs. Both countries at the Economic and Development Forum (EDF) held in London, marked increased support for small and medium sized enterprises in Nigeria including the UK Manufacturing Africa programme, which has helped 12 firms in Nigeria secure foreign investment. The UK and Nigeria agreed to start discussions on an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) to strengthen trade and high value investments across both countries. An official working level group will be set up to explore the benefits of an ETP in priority sectors. UK officials expect the increased ambition to build on long standing economic ties between the UK and Nigeria already worth GBP 3.2 billion in 2021. Sylvester Enoghase, [The Independent News \(April 29th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) has called on the Federal Government to urgently implement policies to prevent Nigeria falling into a third recession by the end of 2022, noting that the declining trend in the nation's economic growth is worrisome. A recession occurs upon two consecutive quarterly negative growth of Gross Domestic Product. NACCIMA National President, Ide Udeagbala, gave the warning at a press briefing to review the state of the economy and NACCIMA's position on issues and policies. He noted that the Nigerian economy grew by 3.98% in the fourth quarter of 2021, a drop from 4.03% in the third quarter, and 5.01% in the second quarter

of 2021. "We emphasize this slight but continuous drop-in growth rate even as we acknowledge that the Nigerian economy bounced back from the Covid-19 pandemic in the fourth quarter of the year 2020 to reach the peak growth rate for the period, of 5.01% by mid-2021", Udeagbala spoke. Yinka Kolawole, [The Vanguard News \(April 29th\)](#) reports.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo on Tuesday in Abuja said that the Federal Government through the Export Development Fund, under the National Export Promotion Council, had committed N 50 billion toward positioning export-oriented businesses in Nigeria. According to Osinbajo, the Federal Government is determined to enhance the competitiveness of businesses within what is poised to become one of the largest regional single markets in the world. While emphasizing the need to reinvigorate the non-oil sector, the Vice President said, there was the need to increase productivity to support the country's economic diversification drive. The Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, Mariam Katagum, said that the Ministry was actively implementing the National Quality Policy meant to guide Nigeria build sustainable quality infrastructure. [News Agency of Nigeria \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Agriculture, Andrew Kwazari, has said Nigeria loses about USD 14 billion annually to the incessant conflicts between farmers and herders. To resolve the lingering crises between farmers and herders as well as reposition the livestock sector in the country, Kwazari said the Federal Government in collaboration with the States have begun the implementation of the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) 2019–2028. He noted that already 22 States have sent letters of expression of interest to the office of the Chairman of the National Economic Council and Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, adding that 10 States have set up a States Livestock Transformation Office. Williams Anuku, [The Daily Posts News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

Despite the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 to end hunger by 2030, Nigeria is demonstrating a status of second highest burden of underdeveloped children in the world with a national prevalence rate of 32% of children under five. While said SDG requires the world to ensure that all people have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, particularly the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, Good Health Weekly reports that

poor diets, among others, are threatening Nigerian efforts to achieve SDG 2 as well as damaging Nigerian children's health. With new estimates from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) showing that 19.4 million Nigerians are at risk of food insecurity between June and August 2022 if no action is taken urgently, Nigeria will unlikely meet the nutrition needs of its citizens, particularly women and children. Chioma Obinna, [The Vanguard News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

250 Plus Female Candidates Aspire for Various Position Under PDP, former Senate President Says Lack of Accountability is Responsible for Insecurity, Vice President Osinbajo Describes his Presidential Aspiration as True Loyalty to Nigeria, Senate Assure Quick Passage of Nigeria Startup Bill Following Protest

The National Women Leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Stella Effah-Attoe, has disclosed that over 250 female aspirants in the party are contesting for different elective positions in the 2023 general elections, ranging from the Presidency, Senate, House of Representatives and State Houses of Assembly. An interactive meeting, which held at the PDP National Secretariat, was aimed at enhancing women's participation in politics as well as creating avenues for female aspirants to win tickets and, subsequently, elections at various levels. Effah-Attoe urged women to take politics seriously like men do. She also stressed the need to identify ways to make more women emerge after the primaries. Speaking with journalists after the event, a female presidential aspirant, Teriela Diana, expressed confidence and determination to win the ticket and eventually, the main election in 2023. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Former Senate President and presidential aspirant on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Bukola Saraki has declared that insecurity has continued to sprawl in Nigeria because of the lack of accountability and the will to move against the perpetrators. He noted that while he was Senate President for four years, "we sat down with the security agencies and we wrote a road map to address the issue of insecurity but today that report is still there. Maybe God wants one of us from the North Central to implement it." While addressing PDP national delegates in Plateau State, Saraki said the time has come for the North Central to produce the next president of Nigeria,

adding that it is only a president from this geopolitical zone that can unite the country. Isaac Shobayo, [The Premium Times \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, while visiting the Governor of Ondo State, said it would be a betrayal of his country for him to retire with all his exposure in government. He hailed President Muhammadu Buhari's open-mindedness in delegating to him serious tasks that had aided his experience. "It will be great injustice to our country, that is why I throw my hat in the ring and ensure I make the best case for the position of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria", Osinbajo said. Segun Giwa, [The PM News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Senator Yakubu Oseni, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Communications Technology and Cybercrime, welcomed the delegation of a coalition of youth groups who held a rally at the National Assembly to demand the speedy passage of the Nigeria Startup Bill. Speaking on behalf of the group, Tracy Okoro said: "If there is one thing young people in Nigeria demand of their government, it is an enabling environment that would encourage the growth of enterprise, innovation and ideas. Government now has a huge opportunity with the Nigeria Startup Bill to give Nigerian youths something they can use to create a pathway for themselves." Senator Oseni assured them his Committee had looked at the Bill, saying there was no reason it wouldn't get passed. Continuing, he hailed the Bill, describing it as what Nigeria needs. [The Vanguard News \(April 28th\)](#) writes.

Insecurity: Nigeria Army to Deploy Troops to Gambia, Death Toll in Imo Explosion Rises to 110, State Security Service Warn of Impending Bomb Attack

Chief of Operations at the Army Headquarters, Olufemi Akinjobi, has disclosed that the Nigerian Army is set to deploy 197 troops for the ECOWAS Peacekeeping Mission in The Gambia. At the graduation ceremony of Nigerian Company 7 Akinjobi announced that it will head to The Gambia next. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that before now, Nigeria had deployed six separate companies to the country. He said Nigeria was committed to deploying quality peacekeepers for global peace and security. Out of the 197 heading to The Gambia, 185 are soldiers and 12 are officers. He maintained that the ECOWAS Mission in The Gambia was established as an intervention

mission to resolve the constitutional crisis that followed the disputed presidential election of 2016. [The Premium Times News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

Following Sunday's explosion at the illegal refinery at Abaeze community in Ohaji-Egbema Local Government of Imo State, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has disclosed that the death toll had risen to 110. Acting Head of Imo/Abia Operations Office of the Agency, Ifeanyi Nnaji, disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday. Emergency workers in Imo led by Nnaji had been on ground since the incident to carry out rescue operations and evacuate dead bodies. He further appealed to the Government to create the enabling environment for genuine business to flourish within the oil-producing communities in Imo to discourage youths from engaging in illegal activities. [News Agency of Nigeria \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

The State Security Service (SSS) has alerted Nigerians on alleged plans by some elements to launch bomb attacks on critical infrastructure and public places like worship and relaxation centers, especially during and after the festive celebrations. The SSS issued the alert on Tuesday in a statement by its spokesperson, Peter Afunanya. He said the criminal elements were planning to return the country to the pre-2015 era reminiscent of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks on soft and hard targets. The warning by the SSS comes a few days after suspected Boko Haram/Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists detonated IEDs at a popular relaxation center in Taraba State. However, the Service enjoined residents "to go about their lawful businesses and share, with security and law enforcement agencies, useful information on the activities of criminals". Nasir Ayitogo, [The Premium Times News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

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

Nigeria Office

www.kas.de/nigeria

www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria

marija.peran@kas.de / adamu.adams@kas.de



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