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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 the situation in Nigeria.

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Nigeria's Foreign Exchange Market Gap Dips Like Never Before, Nationwide Blackout Amidst Electricity Grid Collapse, Nigeria to Commence African Continental Free Trade Area in the Last Quarter of 2023, Nigeria and China's Trade Volume Reaches USD 12 Billion

The Naira gained marginally against the United States dollars to N 436.33 at the official market on Friday, while the currency fell to N 715 against the US Dollar at the parallel market, leaving the gap between the two markets at 64% – the widest since 2016, according to Bloomberg data. Last week, the gap between the official and parallel market exchange rates of the naira widened for the most in six years as demand for foreign currency continued to outstrip supply. Dollar scarcity has persisted as Nigeria earns less from oil, its chief export item. Nigeria operates a multiple exchange rates system, a practice that has negative implications for investment. In April, the World Bank Group urged the Nigerian government to rethink its multiple exchange rate policies and its controversial fuel subsidy regime. Abdulkareem Mojeed, [The Premium Times News \(September 26th\)](#) reports.

Nigeria's national electricity grid collapsed on Monday, leaving many parts in the country without power. Electricity distribution firms did not state the cause of the outage. The grid has collapsed at least four times this year, which authorities blaming it on technical problems. Nigeria has an installed capacity of 12,500 megawatts but produces about a quarter of that, leaving many Nigerians and businesses reliant on diesel-powered generators while diesel prices have soared since the start of the year. Businesses often cite the nation's sclerotic power grid and its precarious energy supply as a critical issue hindering growth in Africa's most populous country. [Reuters News \(September 26th\)](#) reports.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) committee has said that Nigeria will be participating fully in the agreement by the last quarter of 2023. However, the committee secretary Francis Anotogu, in an exclusive telephone chat with The Punch on Monday, said that some trading documents were needed before Nigeria's full participation. The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined Gross Domestic Product of USD 3.4 trillion. It has the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, but achieving its full potential will depend on putting in place significant policy reforms and trade facilitation

measures. Speaking on the fears that Nigeria might end up a dumping ground for other countries, Anotogu said there were no African countries that could supply all the Africans' needs. He said that 85% of what Africans needed was imported from the rest of the world. Anozie Ego, [The Punch News \(September 27th\)](#) reports.

Chinese ambassador to Nigeria Cui Jianchun has disclosed that the China-Nigeria trade volume rose 7.1% in the past year hitting USD 12 billion. According to Jianchun, Nigeria remains China's number one trading partner in Africa. "Our efforts are bringing more benefits to the two peoples. Trade is important to improve the quality of life," the ambassador noted. He added that this was "essential for the country's economy. Trade is crucial for development." [News Agency of Nigeria \(September 30th\)](#) reports.

Tinubu Absent as Atiku, Obi, and other Presidential Candidates Sign Peace Accord, House of Representatives Raise Alarm over Risks of Fresh Ebola Outbreak

Presidential candidates of all political parties have signed a peace accord committing themselves to a peaceful campaign for the 2023 elections. The candidates and national chairpersons of all political parties signed the accord that was organized by the National Peace Committee in Abuja on Thursday. Speaking on behalf of the political parties, the Chairman of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Yabagi Sani, who is also the candidate of Action Democratic Party (ADP), said the candidates are committed to peaceful, free, fair and credible elections. Some of the candidates that signed the accord were Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Rabiu Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP). The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Bola Tinubu, was represented by his running mate, Kashim Shettima. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times News \(September 29th\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has raised the alarm over the possibility of the Ebola virus returning to Nigeria, urging the Federal Government to activate preventive measures immediately. At the plenary on Thursday, members of the House unanimously adopted a motion moved by one of them, Dachung Bagos, who warned that the virus might spread to Nigeria as other African countries had been recording Ebola cases. Bagos noted that

the Ugandan health authorities, on September 20, 2022, declared an outbreak of Ebola caused by the Sudan virus. The lawmaker also noted that the World Health Organization expressed concerns that the risk of a potential profound public health impact is high in the absence of licensed vaccines and therapeutics for the prevention and treatment of Sudan virus disease. Adopting the motion, the House mandated the Federal Ministry of Health to "immediately activate strategies to be implemented in monitoring adherence to Ebola guidelines and ensure residents continue to comply with all advisories aimed at curtailing the likely development of the virus in Nigeria." Leke Baiyewu, [The Punch News \(September 29th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: North-West Governors, Niger Republic Seek Ban to the Sale of Boxer Motorcycles, Presidency Reacts to Amotekun's Demand for Arms, Chief of Staff to the President Calls for the Review of Nigeria Defence Doctrine, Nigeria Bureau of Statistics Says it will Provide Data to help Tackle Insecurity in the Country

The Northwest Governors and their counterpart in Maradi Region in the Niger Republic have called for the ban on Boxer motorcycles to curb the activities of bandits during a meeting meant to bring an end to the menace of insecurity in the region. The secretary to the Government of Katsina State disclosed that these motorcycles are being used mainly for terrorist operations and activities. The meeting made a 15-point recommendation in a communiqué which included banning the sale of such motorcycles in the region for 24 months. The meeting also recommended an express approval by the Federal Government to begin clearance operations to be coordinated by land and air. It also agreed that, in the light of the bilateral arrangement on the pursuit of criminals up to 30 km by security agents across each other's border between Nigeria and the Niger Republic, seek an appropriate review of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Article on the movement of persons and arms. Segun Olaniyan, [The Independent News \(October 29th\)](#) reports.

The presidency on Tuesday reacted to demands by the Ondo State Government that the state se-

curity outfit Amotekun was to be armed to enable it to fight insecurity. Holding forth for the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to the President, Garba Shehu, said that under this administration, the President had repeatedly made it clear that nobody is allowed to carry AK-47 rifles or any other automatic weapons illegally and that they must surrender them. However, according to the presidency, under the existing regulations, only the Office of the National Security Adviser can issue such authorization upon proper clearance by the President and Commander-in-Chief. As it is now, no such approvals have been issued to any state government. Willaiams Anuku, [The Daily Post News \(September 27th\)](#) reports.

The Chief of Staff to the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, is advocating the review of the National Defence Doctrine in the face of the changing nature and patterns of the current security threats confronting the country. Gambari made the call while presenting a lecture at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). He emphasized that the overriding objective of any proactive national defence, security and diplomatic thrust should be the safety, welfare, dignity and prosperity of the Nigerian people. Nokai Origin, [The VON News \(September 29th\)](#) reports.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says it will provide the Federal Government with data and evidence to help tackle insecurity in the country. The Statistician-General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer of the NBS, Prince Semiu Adeniran, said this during the Annual Statistical Conference in Keffi. Adeniran said the bureau was working on a new Crime and Security Survey in collaboration with the Nigerian Army, which is expected to commence in 2023. In his paper presentation on consequences of security challenges on the National Statistical System in Nigeria, Adeniran said the spate of insecurity in the country had profound adverse effects on the country's general macroeconomic and socioeconomic conditions. He said no sector or group of persons was immune from the effects of insecurity in the country, adding that it affected the statistical system directly and indirectly. [News Agency of Nigeria \(September 30th\)](#) reports.



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