

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/Health: NCDC Condemns Misinformation on Monkeypox in Nigeria

The Director-General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ifedayo Adetifa, at a virtual media dialogue decried what he described as widespread misinformation on monkeypox, especially in Nigeria. "Prevailing media perception and misinformation on monkeypox has fuelled false narratives about the virus and the potential risk of discrimination and stigmatisation from this requires urgent social and behaviour change intervention," he bemoaned. According to Adetifa, NCDC is supporting the global effort to respond to the disease as well as pushing for the renaming and re-classification of the virus to a "non-discriminatory and non-stigmatising nomenclature". [News Agency of Nigeria \(29th June\)](#) reports.

Nigeria at Crossroads in the International Financial Market, EU to Deepen Ties with Nigeria on Energy Transition

Nigeria is gradually inching towards a financial blockade at the international financial market as its working relationship with international development and funding partners, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), deteriorates to its worst level in recent years. Last month, JP Morgan, an American leading investment bank, delisted Nigeria from the class of emerging market sovereign recommendations that investors should be overweight in. Several external factors such as the global hike in interest rates and high inflation rate have significant impact on the cost of borrowing from the global market. JP Morgan's decision is interpreted as a grave red light with negative implications on the country's investment outlook and credit worthiness. Other credit rating agencies have raised countless questions about the country's competitiveness while calling for reforms. Geoff Iyatse, [The Guardian News \(29th June\)](#) reports.

The European Union (EU), under its European External Strategy (EES) launched recently, has stated that it would be prioritizing Nigeria, Mozambique, Angola and Senegal in its bid to diversifying suppliers and fast-tracking energy transition into renewables on the continent. The EU Ambassador to Nigeria, Samuela Isopi, at a press conference to announce its eighth edition of the EU business forum scheduled to hold on the 30th of June to 1st July 2022, said one of the tools to reduce migration

is to create economic opportunities for the youths, saying that a country like Nigeria needs to diversify its economy away from oil to promote backward integration in its quest to boost local production. "Our dialogue with the Nigerian government on migration issues is on course and getting better. We are also expecting a delegation from Brussels to discuss migration," she added. Femi Adekoya, [The Guardian News \(29th June\)](#) reports.

Senate Sets Course to Mitigate Climate Change in Nigeria and Confirms Seven Ministerial Nominees, Senator Nwaoboshi Jailed for Money Laundering, House of Representatives Investigate Duplication of Federal Government Agencies, Review ECOWAS Contribution to Nigeria's Development, Nigeria Gets News Chief Justice

The Senate has confirmed the seven new ministers nominated by President Muhammadu Buhari immediately after their screening exercise on Wednesday. Buhari had written the Senate last Tuesday, nominating the seven ministers and seeking the lawmakers' confirmation. He said the confirmation request was made in accordance with Section 147(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended. He, however, did not state their portfolios. The President is expected to swear in the ministers in the coming days and announce the ministries they will head. Queen Esther Iroanusi, [The Premium Times News \(29th June\)](#) reports.

The Senate has begun the process that would help mitigate the effects of climate change in Nigeria through its committee on ecology and climate change because of the disturbing high rate of gas emission in the country. Addressing journalists on planned mitigation, chairman of the committee Senator Lawal Hassan Anka noted that a National Green Summit will soon hold for a way out of the imminent environmental disaster. He stressed that Nigeria is a high net gas emitter and has consistently ranked among the 10th highest gas emitting countries in the world. "Cumulatively, the country has witnessed the lake Chad basin rapidly drying up and the entire country has also been assailed by climate – induced conflicts leading to high human casualties and unquantifiable material losses," Anka stated. Henry Umoru, [The Vanguard News \(28th June\)](#) reports.

Just this Friday, the Lagos Division of the Court of

Appeal convicted and sentenced the Senator representing Delta North Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Peter Nwaoboshi, to seven years of imprisonment. The court also ordered that the senator's two companies, Golden Touch Construction Project Ltd and Suiming Electrical Ltd, be wound up in line with the provisions of Section 22 of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2021. Sodiq Oyeleke, [The Punch \(1st July\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives on Wednesday constituted an adhoc committee to investigate the duplication of functions of agencies of the Federal Government. The constitution of the committee follows a motion passed earlier this month in the House that 1.484 agencies of government have duplicated responsibilities and must be consolidated. Speaker of the House, Femi Gbajabiamila, said the task of the committee will include investigation of duplication of duties, overlapping functions and counter-productivity of established Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the country and establishing areas of mergers, synergies and justification of the existence of some of the established MDAs. The committee headed by Hon. Victor Mela Danzaria is said to address the uncertainty that sets in when there are multiple agencies carrying out the same functions, leading to bickering, suspicion and eventually duplication of efforts and waste of hard-earned government resources and time. Danzaria maintained the consequences of inter-agency rivalry are multifaceted and have far reaching implication on national security according to a study commissioned by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in 2020. These, he said, include a weakened security system unable to respond to security challenges. He added that the mentioned study also found that there is clear overlap between agencies mandated to fight corruption and crime in the country. Nicholas Kalu, [The Nation Online News \(29th June\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has resolved to review the benefit and contribution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to Nigeria's social and economic development. At Thursday's plenary session, the House mandated the committees on inter-parliamentary relations and ECOWAS parliament as well as foreign affairs to investigate Nigeria's financial contribution to ECOWAS in the past 10 years. As part of the investigation, the committees will determine if the country's financial contribution to ECOWAS is justifiable or not. The committees have six weeks to carry out the investigation and report back to the

House for further legislative action. Samuel Akpan, [The Cable News \(1st July\)](#) reports.

In a swearing-in ceremony on Monday, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola took the oath of office as acting Chief Justice of Nigeria to replace Tanko Muhammad who stepped down earlier in the day, citing health reasons. At the ceremony, President Muhammadu Buhari said he had received Justice Tanko Muhammad's resignation as the land's highest judicial officer and was "constrained to accept his retirement, albeit with mixed feelings". According to the President, the former Chief Justice was scheduled to retire from the Supreme Court on the last day of 2023 but fell ill. Until his swearing-in, Ariwoola was the second most senior justice of the Supreme Court. Before his appointment to the apex court in 2011, he spent six years at the Court of Appeal. He was elevated to the appellate court after serving with the State High Court of the southwestern state of Oyo. [Aljazeera News \(27th June\)](#) reports.

Military to Re-engage Retired Personnel to Fight Security Threats, NSCDC Tells Nigerians to be Vigilant in the Face of Current Challenges, Experts Report 33.127 Deaths by Boko Haram in 10 Years, Nigeria Records Staggering Up-surge in Mass Killings

Chief of Army Staff Faruk Yahaya has said the Army would re-engage the service of retired military officers in the fight against Boko Haram, banditry and kidnapping in the country. He intimated the retired personnel of the efforts being made by the Army to re-engaged the services of qualified retired/discharged personnel to draw more from their wealth of priceless experience and professionalism in the interest of peace and harmony in the country. Yahaya assured that the expertise of the retired personnel was highly needed to enhance the fighting efficiency of the Nigerian Army in the ongoing numerous operations across the country. Gyang Bere, [The Sun News \(29th June\)](#) reports.

Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Ahmed Audi, has advised Nigerians to be vigilant in the face of current challenges in the country, stating that security is everybody's business. He gave the advice at the quarterly media briefing of the agency. Audi said his team was deploying fresh strategies in taming the various threats for effective protection of the

masses and electorate before, during and after the 2023 general elections. Sodiq Omolaoye et al., [The Guardian News \(1st July\)](#) reports.

A latest study carried out by Nextier, a think-tank in Nigeria, profiling the entire security situation in the country, showed that for over two decades violent insecurity surged in scale and sophistication, posing an unprecedented threat to livelihoods and the state's territorial integrity. The experts asserted that statistical mapping based on armed conflict location and event data as well as the Nextier violent conflict database reveals that between January 1997 and March 2020, 2.203 incidents of hostility between and among ethnic-based militia groups resulted in 16.328 fatalities. It noted that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) was federalized in 1930, but despite several undertakings to reform the police none of the strategies were implemented. This federalization of the NPF is not in line with global policing best practices that underscore the devolution of functions to security communities at the grassroots. "The centralization is also inconsistent with the spirit of federal practice.

Furthermore, the centralization is at variance with the dynamics of insecurity in the country. Crime and violence have become sophisticated in recent years," the report signified. William Anuku, [The Daily Post News \(27th June\)](#) reports.

One week after the 2022 Global Peace Index ranked Nigeria 143 among 163 independent nations according to the level of peacefulness, the nongovernmental organization ActionAid Nigeria has raised concern over the mass killings across the country, revealing that such incidents have increased by 116% between 2019 and 2021. Nigeria had last week, moved three places up on said peace index from the 146th position it was ranked last year. However, quoting from research conducted by Global Rights, the Country Director of ActionAid Nigeria, Ene Obi, said at least 14.641 people have died from mass atrocities perpetrated across all geo-political zones in Nigeria between January 2019 and December 2021. She lamented that the trend is increasing daily. Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze and Joke Falaju, [The Guardian News \(30th June\)](#) reports.

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