



November/December 2023  
**Nigeria Office**



# Nigeria Press Review

## 24.11. – 01.12.2023

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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 overall situation in Nigeria.

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Insecurity: Boko Haram Fighters Kill 11 People in Borno State, Two People Missing and Several Houses Burnt in Communal Clash in Enugu State, ECOWAS Delegation Visits Sierra Leone Following Security Breaches

### **Floods Expose 69% of Nigerian Households to Hunger, ECOWAS Court Rules That Nigerian Press Law Violates Human Rights, Emigration of Medical Practitioners Raise Alarm, Retail Investors Able to Raise USD 94 Billion for Climate Change Financing**

A National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report has shown that over 69% of households in Nigeria were left in hunger due to the impact of flood in 2022 and 2023. The survey report also showed that 52% of households in the flood affected areas recorded total loss of business and income. For many households, the floods caused food insecurity, with 60% reported experiencing hunger, 69.2% experiencing food shortage and 84.9% unable to eat a healthy nutritious meal due to the impact of the floods. Elizabeth Adegbesan, [Vanguard News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

In a suit filed by two Nigerian journalists, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court has ruled that some sections of the Nigerian Press Council Act constitute a violation of citizens' rights, including their right to freedom of expression. The journalists had sued the Nigerian government, alleging that the Nigerian Press Council Act of 1992 was discriminatory and breached their right to freedom of expression. The act in question established the Nigerian press council which is vested with the responsibility of ensuring "the highest ethical and professional standards in the media." The court held that section 19 and section 27 of the Press Act imposing minimum educational requirement, age limit and registration, were restrictive and interfered with the right to freedom of expression and therefore violated Article 9 (2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In reaching its decision, the court acknowledged the impact of technology in the evolving media space with the advent of citizen journalism, influencers and content creators who share news, commentary and analyses on social issues. Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [Premium Times News \(November 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives' committee on health raised concerns over the decline in the country's health manpower. The committee disclosed that due to the relocation of doctors and nurses from the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) to various parts of the world, five wards comprising 150 beds have been shut down. This is because there are no doctors and nurses to work in those wards. LUTH is Nigeria's premier health training institution. Chairman of the committee

described the situation as worrisome, saying the legislative arm is working toward nipping the increasing rate of Nigerians going abroad for medical tourism in the bud. [Vanguard News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Standard Chartered sustainable banking report 2023 revealed that retail investors are able to raise USD 94 billion towards climate change financing in Nigeria by 2030. The report disclosed that 95% of investors in Nigeria were interested in climate investing and 91% of them wanted to increase capital flows towards climate. The research, which was based on investor interest from a survey of 1,800 respondents in 10 growth markets across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, identified a global potential of USD 3.4 trillion for climate investing, highlighting the power of individuals to combat climate change. According to the report, within climate investing in Nigeria, about USD 60 billion could flow into mitigation themes with renewables, energy storage and energy efficiency looking set to attract the most capital. Oluwakemi Abimbola, [Punch News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **President Bola Tinubu Presents 2024 Appropriation Bill to The National Assembly, House of Representatives Disclosed Plans to Involve the Public in the Budget-Process, President Bola Tinubu Appoints NNPC Board Members, Former Chairman Calls for INEC to Be Unbundled, Northern Senators Appeal for Electricity to Be Restored to Niger Republic**

On Wednesday, president Bola Tinubu presented the 2024 Appropriation Bill which he themed 'Budget of Renewed Hope' to the National Assembly. He stated that the budget proposal was aimed at completing critical infrastructure projects that would help address structural problems in the economy, while lowering the costs of doing business for companies and the cost of living for the average Nigerian. In his presentation, he stated that "defense and internal security are accorded top priority." President Tinubu noted that the government expects the country's economy to grow by a minimum of 3.76% despite the current inflationary headwinds which are expected to moderate to 21.4% in 2024. Inflation was 27.33% as of the end of October 2023. The proposal adopted an oil benchmark USD 77.96 per barrel and daily oil production estimate of 1.78 million barrels per day. It adopted a NGN 750 to USD 1 exchange rate for 2024. According to the president, the country

remains committed to meeting its debt obligations with projected debt service at 45% of expected total revenue. Temitayo Jaiyeola et. al., [Punch News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) report.

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, has disclosed plans by the 10th National Assembly to convene a town hall meeting with stakeholders on the 2024 Appropriation Bill about to be laid before a joint session of the National Assembly by president Bola Tinubu. This, he said, would allow Nigerians to participate in the consideration and passage of the budget. He made this known while declaring open a one-day capacity building retreat for chairmen and deputy chairmen of house committees organized by Konrad Adenauer Foundation and other partners in Abuja on Monday. The speaker expressed the commitment of the 10th house to greater transparent engagement with the public, in line with its mantra "Peoples House". This will be the first time such an engagement is planned at the national level. Torkwase Nyiekaa, [Independent Nigeria News \(November 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu appointed Pius Akinyelure as the new board chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) with effect from December 1, 2023. He also reappointed the incumbent group chief executive officer of the company, Mele Kyari, for another term, while several other board members have been appointed. He tasked all appointees to implement energy policies that would monetize all of Nigeria's available oil and gas resources while paving the way for new and cleaner energy sources going forward. Stephen Angbulu, [Punch News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Prof. Attahiru Jega, a former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has urged the National Assembly to unbundle the commission to make it more effective. He also stated that in order to improve Nigeria's electoral process, the issue of cross carpeting by politicians must be proscribed. He admitted that the 2022 electoral reforms are the best in recent times, however "there is room for improvement". Prof. Jega expressed support for the recommendation that the appointment of the INEC chairman and the resident electoral commissioners (RECs) should be reviewed. According to him, when the president nominates, there is no serious screening. The senate president said the National Assembly will work hard to ensure that they make INEC

truly independent. Abbas Jimoh, [Daily Trust News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Northern Senators Forum (NSF) have asked president Bola Tinubu to restore electricity to Niger Republic. The NSF appealed that the restrictions be lifted in the interest of border communities. According to them, it would be important that Nigeriens should not suffer as a result of coup in their country, just as can be seen in Gaza. The appeal is coming about four months after Nigeria cut power supply to Niger Republic, as one of the sanctions against the coupists in the country. The lawmakers strongly condemned the coup and called on the military junta in Niger to heed the demands of other African leaders to free deposed president Mohamed Bazoun and his family from detention as well as restore democracy in the country. They further urged the junta to come up with a transition timetable that would not exceed two years. Abdulqudus Ogundapo, [Premium Times News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Boko Haram Fighters Kill 11 People in Borno State, Two People Missing and Several Houses Burnt in Communal Clash in Enugu State, ECOWAS Delegation Visits Sierra Leone Following Security Breaches**

Gunmen suspected to be members of the Islamist group, Boko Haram, killed eleven people making charcoal in a bush in Borno state. A resident of the village confirmed that the insurgents rode into the village on camel backs. A witness who managed to escape said the insurgents numbering about 15 surrounded the victims as they worked. "They were armed with guns but they used knives to slaughter their victims one after the other," the source said. Those who escaped did so because they knew the terrain well. The spokesperson of the Borno state police command said he was not aware of the incident. Muhammad Alabira Nabordo, [Premium Times News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In a communal clash in Enugu state, two people have been declared missing and 17 houses burnt, with property worth millions of naira lost. It was gathered that the gun battle, which occurred early morning of Tuesday, raged till the arrival of reinforcement of combined operatives, who repelled the attack. As a result, hundreds of women in the community, who protested against the attack, called on the state government to intervene as

they were helpless in the face of the unprovoked carnage. The traditional ruler said the community had been locked in a long-standing land dispute with the neighboring town. He said every November, his people experience severe heavy attacks from their neighbors. Further, four people were reportedly killed in a gun battle between gunmen and security operatives in Anambra State. The casualty figures are yet to be ascertained. Nwabueze Okonkwo and Chinedu Adonu, [Vanguard News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) report.

A delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has visited Sierra Leone following recent security breaches in the

country. The delegation was led by Omar Alieu Touray, the president of the ECOWAS Commission. Julius Bio, the president of Sierra Leone, said the team conveyed a message of solidarity from president Bola Tinubu, chairperson of ECOWAS as well as from other ECOWAS heads of states and governments. The delegation assured the government of Sierra Leone of their readiness to work with them to forestall any future security occurrences. This visit was prompted by the security lapses the country has witnessed in recent times including a coordinated jailbreak masterminded by gunmen and an attack on a military barracks which houses foreign embassies. Claire Mom, [The Cable News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

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