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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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President Bola Tinubu said all diplomatic options will be exhausted with the military junta in Niger Republic before any last resort of military intervention comes into the picture. Receiving a delegation of the Nigeria Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), led by the Sultan of Sokoto, president Tinubu in a statement noted that the alternative of kinetic intervention in Niger Republic had not been jettisoned. "Nobody is interested in a war. We have seen the devastation in Ukraine and Sudan. But, if we don't wield the big stick, we will all suffer the consequences together," the president warned. He noted that Nigeria instituted a nine-month transition program in 1998 and it proved very successful, leading the country into a new era of democratic governance, saying he sees no reason why such cannot be replicated in Niger if Niger's military authorities were sincere. Tinubu urged the Sultan to continue in his efforts to resolve the crisis diplomatically. Jonathan Nda-Isaiah, [Leadership News \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

On August 30, coupists annulled Gabon's presidential election from August 26 and ousted president Ali Bongo and put his family members under house arrest. The soldiers announced the dissolution of all the institutions and the parliament as well as shut down Gabon's borders, saying their actions were on behalf of the central African nation's security and defence forces. Following the military coup in Gabon, president Bola Tinubu has expressed concern for the socio-political stability not just in Gabon but across Africa. He further emphasized the significance of the rule of law for democracy in the face of autocracy. Next steps and responses in dealing with the developing situation in Gabon are being discussed between Tinubu and other heads of state in the African Union. Muideen Olaniyi, [Daily Trust News \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

During its inaugural cabinet meeting, the Federal Executive Council presented a 3-year economic revival plan. Addressing the ministers, president Bola Tinubu appealed for his administration's eight-point plan to be met and reiterated the importance of improving Nigeria's socio-economic

situation. The eight-point-agenda contains: food security, ending poverty, economic growth and job creation, access to capital, inclusivity, security, improving the playing field on which people and particularly companies operate and the rule of law. Moreover, Tinubu warned appointed cabinet members from disappointing the expectations set for them. Minister of finance and coordinating minister of the economy, Wale Edun, noted that the improvement of Nigeria's critical economic situation as well as the resolution of current societal challenges relied heavily on the success of the administration's vision. Deborah Tolu-Kolawole, [The Punch News \(August 29th\)](#) reports.

The Board of Trustees (BoT) of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) has suspended its candidate in the presidential election 2023, Rabiu Kwankwaso, for alleged anti-party activities. This suspension is to last for 6 months. The BoT also suspended the national working committee of the party. This suspension took place in its special general meeting held in Lagos on Tuesday. Addressing newsmen at the end of the meeting, secretary of the BoT Babayo Abdulahi accused Kwankwaso of hobnobbing with president Bola Tinubu, the People's Democratic Party presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar and the presidential candidate of the Labour Party Peter Obi without the board's authorization. Kwankwaso came fourth in the presidential election. [The Punch News \(August 29th\)](#) reports.

The Presidential Election Tribunal in Abuja has said no date has been fixed yet to deliver its judgments on the respective petitions challenging the outcome of the presidential elections 2023, with president Bola Tinubu declared as winner. Secretary of the Presidential Election Petition Court Josephine J. Ekperobe confirmed this while reacting to a viral report that the Tribunal had fixed September 16 as the judgement date for the petitions. [Sahara Reporters \(August 28th\)](#) reports.

Government Warns Flood-Prone Areas as Cameroon Plans to Open Dam, Nigeria Records a NGN 4.9 Trillion Agricultural Trade Deficit, 37.04% of Nigerians Unconnected from Internet Services

Addressing the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the High Commission of Cameroon has announced the opening of the Lagdo dam on the Benue river in Cameroon following heavy rainfalls. The water release is anticipated to

affect 11 states including Adamawa, Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Anambra, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Cross River. The federal government in preparation for this event announced that measures necessary for damage and casualty prevention have been advised to the affected state governments. Executive secretary of the Benue state emergency management agency James Iorpuu noted that 22 local government areas (LGA) in Benue state as well as 13 LGAs in Nasarawa state are expected to experience effects of flooding. The state emergency management authority in Anambra state maintained that the LGAs have been informed and have commenced evacuation of flood-prone areas along the Benue river. Okechukwu Nnodim, John Charles et al., [The Punch News \(August 28th\)](#) report.

Nigeria has recorded a foods trade deficit worth NGN 4.92 trillion between 2018 and 2022. Available data shows that the country is not growing enough food for its populace, leaving the country with no option but to import. Consequently, to feed its steadily rising population, the country recorded a 121.7% increase in the value of imported foods within the 5-year period, rising to NGN 1.9 trillion in 2022 from NGN 857 billion in 2018. This development has been attributed in part to the rising insecurity in the country especially around the agricultural middle belt in North-Central, forcing farmers to abandon their farms. A report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that another factor responsible for this turn of events is the sharp increase in the prices of key farming inputs such as seeds, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and agro machinery. In spite of the fact that the federal government has spent trillions of Naira on different agricultural programmes over the years, there is still yet to be recorded a significant impact as the country still has a huge supply gap in most of its staple foods, especially as the population growth rate continues to soar. Yinka Kolawole, [Vanguard News \(August 28th\)](#) reports.

The chief regulatory officer of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association, John Giusti, disclosed that 45% of the world population has no access to internet services. In Africa, 61% of the population are not connected to the internet due to issues including unaffordability and usability difficulties. The Nigerian Communications Commission said the number of Nigerians without

access to telecommunications services fell by 37.04% to 27 million. It noted that the number of identified clusters in the country without access to communication services fell to 53.1% as of the end of the year. Giusti expressed concern for global efforts for digitalization and explained that coverage and usage gaps constitute this disconnect. For Nigeria and Africa this is regarded as a huge threat to digitizing economies efforts. Adeyemi Adepetun, [The Guardian News \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Over 60,000 Deaths in 22 Years Due to Farmer-Herder Clashes, Nigerian Air Force Destroyed Illegal Refining Sites in Rivers and Cross River States

The House of Representatives has revealed that 60,000 people have died at the cause of clashes between herders and farmers since 2001 with the conflict spreading further throughout to the the North-East. Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu stated that the consequences of these violent altercations affected national security also in regard to food-security. Furthermore, national security adviser Mallam Ribadu raised concern for Nigeria's socio-economic interests. The president of the cattle rearers association of Nigeria claimed that the inaction of the states and federal government is at fault for the emergence of the conflict. Sodiq Omoaoye, [The Guardian News \(August 29th\)](#) reports.

Several airstrikes conducted by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) have successfully destroyed three illegal refining sites in Rivers state and three militant/pirates camps in Cross River state respectively. The NAF spokesperson stated that the airstrikes were executed in continuation of efforts aimed at containing the activities of terrorists, militants and other criminals. He confirmed that the airstrikes were undertaken after the sites were observed to consist of illegal refining sites. He further stated that the strikes led to a commotion with several kidnapped victims seen escaping. According to the spokesperson, some of the militants who attempted to escape through their various escape routes were caught. He called on Nigerians to see themselves as part of the solution to these challenges through the provision of actionable information to security agencies. Jacob Segun Olatunji, [The Nigerian Tribune \(August 28th\)](#) reports.



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