

# 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 the overall situation in Nigeria.

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Insecurity: Civil Society Organizations Call for Declaration of State of Emergency On Security, Abuja Businesses Record Drop in Revenue Resulting from Increased Insecurity, 8 People Killed in Fresh Attacks in Benue State, Nigeria Military Bombs 30 Terrorists in Kaduna, Overview of Abductions

### **Central Bank of Nigeria Releases USD 500 Million to Arrest Naira Decline, IMF Downgrades Forecast for Nigeria's Economic Growth, Nearly 71 Million Nigerians Live in Extreme Poverty, Nigeria Police Included in Top 3 African Countries That Demand Bribes, Nigeria Emerges as the 16<sup>th</sup> Largest Producer of Solar Power in Africa**

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced that it had released an additional USD 500 million to address verified outstanding foreign exchange (FX) liabilities to various sectors of the economy. The announcement was targeted at arresting the continuing decline of the naira at both the official and parallel markets. This however did not succeed in mitigating the naira's decline as it sustained its depreciation against the Dollar on the parallel market segment of the (FX) market as it raced towards NGN 1,500 to 1 USD. CBN's acting director corporate communications said the apex bank remained committed to settling all legitimate foreign exchange backlogs within a short time frame. [This Day News \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday downgraded its forecast for Nigeria's 2024 economic growth to 3.0%. This represents 0.1 point below the growth forecast of 3.1% made in October 2023. The IMF however affirmed its 3.1% forecast for Nigeria's economy in 2025. In contrast, the IMF upgraded its forecast for global economic 2024 growth forecast to 3.1% from 2.9% earlier forecast in October last year. Babajide Komolafe, [Vanguard News \(January 31<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The "World Poverty Clock" disclosed, that an estimated 70.92 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty. The figure translates to 11% of the world's extreme poor. This means that, at least, one out of every 10 extremely poor people globally live in Nigeria. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) had earlier reported that over 133 million Nigerians are multidimensionally poor. Nigeria ranks 163 out of 191 countries in 2021 on the Human Development Index (HDI) and 109 out of 125 countries in 2023 on the Global Hunger Index. Joseph Chibueze, [The Guardian News \(February 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

According to a report released by Afrobarometer, a Pan-African, non-profit research organization, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda topped the chart of African countries where the police demands bribes when citizens seek their assistance. In the report

titled "Law enforcers or law breakers?", the organization revealed that it collected data from 39 African countries and 53,444 interviews between 2021 – 2023 to ascertain police misconduct, criminal behavior, brutality and corruption. The report disclosed that 75% of the Nigerians in the survey said they had paid a bribe, given a gift or done a favor when seeking police assistance. Liberia topped the list of countries where police sought bribes from citizens when contacted as 78% of respondents said they were asked for bribes, followed by Nigeria and Uganda. Ayodele Oluwafemi, [The Cable News \(January 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

A report by "Solar Energy Capacity in Africa", a renewable energy company in Nigeria, analyzed the solar energy capacity generated by 54 African countries. From the report, the average solar energy capacity in Africa is 217 Megawatt (MW), but more than 80% of countries in the continent did not produce over 200 MW. The report said Nigeria is the 16<sup>th</sup> country in Africa that produces the most solar power at 70 MW. It said South Africa is the largest producer of solar power capacity at 6, 326 MW, followed by Egypt at 1,724 MW. The report noted that residents of African countries adopt the use of solar energy because of the "unreliable grid power supply" on the continent. Deborah Boudunde, [The Cable News \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **House of Representatives Set to Conclude Review of 1999 Constitution, German Ambassador in Talks with Senate President, Police Restricts Movements in States Holding Bye-Elections on Saturday, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso Withdraw from ECOWAS**

Barring any changes, the House of Representatives is set to complete the activities for the review of the 1999 Constitution in December 2025. Currently, 40 Constitution alteration bills are before the House and are at various stages of consideration. Deputy speaker and chairman of the House Constitution Review Committee, Benjamin Kalu, disclosed this at the pre-inaugural meeting of the panel on Wednesday. Kalu also announced that the Committee will be formally inaugurated on February 26. The pre-inaugural meeting was held to expedite the commencement of preparations, constituting the secretariat, appointing consultants and drafting a work plan. He explained that the proposed December 2025 date was to avoid conflict with electoral activities ahead of the 2027 general election, which could inadvertently affect

the alteration process. James Kwen, [Leadership News \(January 31<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The German government has raised the alarm that the security situation in Nigeria caused by multiple crimes, banditry and spate of kidnappings across the country, is worrisome to the people of Germany. Speaking in Abuja when she visited the president of the senate, Godswill Akpabio, the German ambassador to Nigeria, Annette Gunther, said, "The security situation in Nigeria is worrisome to Germany as well as Nigeria." The German envoy gave the assurance of Germany's commitment to assisting Nigeria to overcome its security and power challenges. Akpabio acknowledged the fact that a robust relationship exists between the two countries. He stated further that "Nigeria wants to improve on the existing relationship between us and the Nigerian parliament would be very glad to join the president Bola Tinubu-led administration to improve on that relationship." Henry Umoru, [Vanguard News \(February 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The inspector general of police, Olukayode Egbetokun, has ordered restriction of all forms of vehicular movement on roads, waterways and other forms of transportation from 12 am to 6 pm in 26 states holding bye-elections on Saturday. This however excludes those on essential duties. The affected states are Ebonyi, Yobe, Kebbi, Lagos, Ondo, Taraba, Benue, Borno, Kaduna, Plateau and Akwa Ibom. Others are Anambra, Cross River, Delta, Enugu, Jigawa, Katsina, Adamawa, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Kano, Nasarawa, Niger, Oyo, Sokoto, and Zamfara. The movement restrictions, including the ban on VIP aides, escorts and state security outfits, are crucial measures aimed at preventing any undue interference or intimidation during the electoral process. Abiodun Sanusi, [Punch News \(February 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

Mali and Burkina Faso and Niger disclosed that they had sent a formal notice of withdrawal of membership from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The three states had earlier on announced plans to withdraw from the bloc, accusing it of posing a threat to their sovereignty. The foreign affairs ministry in Mali disclosed a copy of the letter sent to ECOWAS, while Burkina Faso's official news agency reported it had sent an official notice. Under the bloc's statutes, withdrawal can't take effect for at least a year after official notification. Nigeria, in a statement through its foreign ministry expressed that it stands with ECOWAS. It added that Nigeria had

worked "in good faith to reach out to all members of the ECOWAS family to resolve the difficulties we face" but that it was "now clear" that not all members shared "the same good faith". [Daily Trust News \(January 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Civil Society Organizations Call for Declaration of State of Emergency On Security, Abuja Businesses Record Drop in Revenue Resulting from Increased Insecurity, 8 People Killed in Fresh Attacks in Benue State, Nigeria Military Bombs 30 Terrorists in Kaduna, Overview of Abductions**

A coalition of 48 civil society organisations in Nigeria has called on president Bola Tinubu to declare a state of emergency on the current security situation in the country. Executive director of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Musa, said they are deeply concerned about the rising insecurity across the country and urged the government take serious steps towards ending it. He said its tracking of the state of insecurity shows that at least 2,423 people have been killed in mass atrocities-related incidents while about 1,872 persons have been abducted between May 2023, when president Tinubu assumed office, and 26 January this year. This alarming trend has continued despite Tinubu's assurance at the beginning of his presidency that he would tackle insecurity. He expressed particular concern over the upsurge in abductions, noting that at least 230 incidents, in most of which multiple victims were involved, occurred within the first two weeks of January 2024 alone. Consequently, Musa called on president Tinubu to urgently undertake 12 measures to tackle insecurity in the country, among which are to fulfil the constitutional imperative of safeguarding the lives of Nigerians and also declare a state of emergency on kidnapping and other forms of terrorism. Ademola Popoola, [Premium Times News \(January 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In a report by "SBM Intelligence" a research advisory firm, titled 'Inside Nigeria's Hostage Capital: Unraveling the Economic Impact of Abuja's Kidnap Epidemic', it was disclosed that the current atmosphere of insecurity in Nigeria's capital has contributed to a downturn in economic activities by 33%. The rate of kidnap in Nigeria's capital city in recent months has left residents afraid for their safety. It further stated that in recent times, Abuja has witnessed a significant surge in minor thefts, one-chance robberies, armed robberies and home break-ins, with the recent kidnap cases indicating

a rapid deterioration in the country's security situation. The report further disclosed that there has been a 10%-50% rise in rent in upscale areas. It explained that transportation fares are up by 100%-250% due to the prevailing crisis. Mary Izuaka, [Premium Times News \(February 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

Attacks in communities in Benue state by gunmen on Saturday evening have left at least 8 people dead. According to information gathered, the assailants stormed the villages and started shooting sporadically. The army said troops dislodged the gunmen from the communities after a three-hour gunfight. However, two soldiers and one civil defense corps personnel died in the battle. An eyewitness explained that "Everyone run into the bush. No one can say the number of the casualties". Following the unabated attacks, locals have called on the authorities to permanently deploy troops to the area to avoid attacks. El-ameen Ibrahim, [Premium Times News \(January 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The air force has killed 30 terrorists on motorcycles in Kaduna state. A statement on Monday by the air force said the eliminated terrorists were responsible for the ambush of troops recently as well as several attacks and abduction of innocent civilians. Solomon Odeniyi and Olaide Oyelude, [Punch News \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) report.

In Abuja bandits kidnap a federal housing authority director [Daily Post News \(February 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#), other kidnappers abduct two teenage sisters [Daily Trust News \(January 31<sup>st</sup>\)](#) while four people have been kidnaped around Lugbe [Vanguard News \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#). In Ekiti state a yet to be identified number of pupils were abducted [Vanguard News \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) and, following an attempt to kidnap them, two traditional rulers were killed [Tribune News \(January 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#). In Zamfara state bandits abduct two people [Daily Post \(January 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#). After killing a traditional ruler in Kwara, gunmen abduct his wife and two others [Vanguard News \(February 2<sup>nd</sup>\)](#).

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