



August/September 2022  
**Nigeria Office**

## **Nigeria Press Review**

**26.08. – 02.09.2022**

---

### **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.

### **Content**

Nigeria Will Exceed Borrowing in 2023 Following 11 trillion Naira Loan Request, Debt Management Office Puts Nigeria's Debt at 41.6 trillion Naira and Request National Assembly to Control Budget Deficit, FG Threatens to Halt Domestic airlines Over Debt and Gives 30-Day Deadline, UNESCO Says Nigeria Now Has 20 Million Out-of-School Children

Reconciliation between Wike and Atiku Reportedly Hits Gridlock, PDP National Chairman Re-states Position on his Refusal to step Down, Academic Staff Union of Universities Declares Indefinite Strike, Stakeholders Call for Passage of Local Government Autonomy Bill

Insecurity: Jihad Analytics Ranks Nigeria Second Most Attacked Country by ISWAP, Minister of Defence Says Nigerian Borders Unguarded, Report Shows that Nigeria has Lost 50 trillion Naira to Violence

### **Nigeria Will Exceed Borrowing in 2023 Following 11 Trillion Naira Loan Request, Debt Management Office Requests National Assembly to Control Budget Deficit, FG Threatens to Halt Domestic Airlines Over Debt and Gives 30-Day Deadline, According to UNESCO Now 20 Million Out-of-School Children in Nigeria**

The Federal Government has maintained its position on financing the nation's budget deficit in 2023. To be able to do so, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning Zainab Ahmed has said the government will borrow over 11 trillion Naira and sell national assets. Ahmed, while appearing before the House of Representatives Committee on Finance to defend the 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the Fiscal Strategy Paper, disclosed that the government's budget deficit is expected to exceed 12.42 trillion Naira in the event that petroleum subsidy be kept for the 2023 fiscal cycle. She explained two scenarios of the budget deficit, depending on how much the government were to spend on petroleum subsidy. For more details, kindly follow the link. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times News \(August 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Director-General of the Debt Management Office (DMO), Patience Oniha, on Thursday made a call at the public hearing on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) organized by the House of Representatives Committee on Finance. She asked the National Assembly to take steps to control the deficit in the annual Appropriation Acts to reduce the debt profile of the country, to which the budget deficit has been the main contributing factor. She noted that the debt profile will continue to grow as long as lawmakers continue to pass deficit budgets. "From Covid in 2020, the level of borrowing had increased significantly as you know. Those budgets pass through this House. The issue is how do you reduce that debt," Oniha reinforced. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times news \(September 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has disclosed that domestic airlines owed the Federal Government 19 billion Naira and 7.6 million USD. The NCAA thus threatened to shut down domestic airlines over the multibillion-naira debt. "The airlines must enter a Memorandum of Understanding on how they will pay their debts in the next 30 days from August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 or their license will be suspended at the expiration of the deadline," NCAA Director-General Musa Nuhu said at a meeting with representatives of the local carriers. The

Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON), an umbrella body for all the airlines operating in Nigeria, had accused the NCAA of imposing multiple charges on its members. The AON in a letter addressed to the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, said the charges alongside scarcity of foreign exchange and aviation fuel, are choking the airlines. Abdulkareem Mojeed, [The Premium Times News \(August 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in its latest global data report said there are 244 million children and youth between the age of six and 18 worldwide who are still out of school. According to the statistics, India, Nigeria and Pakistan have the highest figures for out-of-school children globally. The figure in Nigeria was between 10.5 and 13.5 million. But with insecurity and kidnapping of school children, most parents are not disposed to sending their children to school. According to the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Silvia Montoya, efficient use of available data is important to address the gaps towards achieving the fourth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is quality education. Iyabo Lawal, [The Guardian News \(September 2<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Reconciliation between Wike and Atiku Reportedly Hits Gridlock, PDP National Chairman Restates Position on His Refusal to Step Down, Academic Staff Union of Universities Declares Indefinite Strike, Stakeholders Call for Passage of Local Government Autonomy Bill**

Against the insistence of Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike, his allies and some serving Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors, that the serving PDP National Chairman, Iyorchia Ayu, step down from his chairmanship, the presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar, is rallying critical organs of the party to support the retention of the Ayu until after the 2023 general elections. A source said Atiku was seeking the support of the National Executive Committee (NEC), the Board of Trustees (BoT), the National Caucus, the National Assembly Caucus, the National Working Committee (NWC) and the 36 PDP state chairmen and that of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to ensure that Ayu is not ousted. Confirming the proposed move, a close Atiku source said stakeholders have canvassed the need to adopt persuasion instead of a confrontational approach in the proposed discussion with Wike and his loyalists. Gbade Ogunwale, [The Nation News \(August 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, with calls for his resignation coming from different groups amid the party's internal crisis, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) national chairman Iyorchia Ayu, in the middle of the controversy between the party's presidential flag-bearer Atiku Abubakar and Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike, has described persons calling for his resignation as 'children.' Speaking in an interview with BBC-Hausa on Thursday, Ayu said he is not bothered by calls for his resignation. "I was voted as PDP chairman for a four-year tenure and I am yet to complete a year," he said. When asked in specific terms to comment on the conditions of Wike's camp's call for his resignation among others, he said: "All that he is doing does not affect me because I know I am fixing the party, I am doing my work diligently. We will not allow one person to become a spoiler, this is our party, so, all that is expected of us is to fix the country, provide security and dividends of democracy when we take over power in 2023." Adamu Abuh et al., [The Guardian news \(September 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has proclaimed dissatisfaction with the Federal Government's response to its demands. University lecturers have been on strike since February 14, 2022 over the alleged failure of the government to keep to agreements entered with the unions. The demands of the striking university staff members include issues bordering on funding of universities, salaries and earned allowances of lecturers, among others. ASUU, however, has now declared a "comprehensive, total and indefinite" strike. ASUU President Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke made this known in a statement issued at the end of the Union National Executive Council (NEC) emergency meeting on Tuesday. "The draft renegotiated FGN-ASUU Agreement (second draft) remains unsigned; the University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS) has not been adopted and deployed to replace the discredited Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS)", the ASSU president said. [News Agency of Nigeria \(August 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) and the Chairmen of Local Government Service Commissions have called for the speedy passage of the Local Government Autonomy Bill for effective grassroots development at a conference on local government administration in Abuja on Tuesday. They said a full autonomy for local governments in Nigeria will help to solve challenges of insecurity and unemployment.

"What we are witnessing today, be it harrowing poverty, joblessness, hopelessness, banditry, insurrection, has a deep root in lack of functional local government system," President of NULGE Am-bali Olatunji said. Local government autonomy is part of the 44 alterations to the nation's constitution recently passed by the National Assembly and now awaiting approval from the State Houses of Assembly before it is passed on for presidential assent. [Channels News \(August 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Jihad Analytics Ranks Nigeria Second Most Attacked Country by ISWAP, Minister of Defence Says Nigerian Borders Unguarded, Report Shows that Nigeria has Lost 50 trillion Naira to Violence**

Despite 11.18 trillion Naira security budgets between 2015 and 2022, Nigeria remains the second most attacked country by the Islamic State terrorist group globally, according to data by consultancy firm Jihad Analytics. In its report covering January to June 2022, Jihad Analytics has said Nigeria recorded 305 attacks with Iraq being first (337) and Syria third (142). A Development Economist, Aliyu Ilias, said the increase in budgetary allocation was in line with the increasing insecurity in the country. "Security (budget) keeps increasing and there is the need to buy more equipment, so it is understandable that there is an increase in budget allocation," he said. Sami Tunji, [The Punch News \(September 2nd\)](#) reports.

Delivering a lecture on security, defense and development in Nigeria at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) in Lagos, Chief of Defense Staff Lucky Irabor has disclosed that porous borders accounted for the easy access of terrorists from neighboring countries into Nigeria. He said the porous nature of the borders "has made it easily accessible for terrorists and bandits to enter the country to commit mayhem. For instance, there are about 364 approved international border points in Nigeria with about 261 in the north-east and north-west regions. Out of this 261 only 124 are manned leaving the remaining 137 unmanned by security agencies." Intelligence suggests that violent actors are using some of these regular border points to move freely from neighboring countries into Nigeria. He called for the use of technology as a tool in strengthening the Nigerian borders and to erect physical structures as well as effective management. Claire Mom, [The Cable News \(August 25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) has released a 2021-2022 (January 2021 – June 2022) report which showed that violence had affected eight percent of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), leading to a 50 trillion Naira loss within 18 months. The research was organized by Nextier SPD, a development consulting firm, at the presentation of their Nigeria Security Analysis Report. In the report it was alleged that the Nigerian government spent at about 8 trillion Naira on security without achieving the desired results. Despite the decrease in terror-related deaths, Nigeria recorded the ninth highest number of persons killed by terrorist incidents worldwide in 2022 due

to a recurrent crisis in 2022, including banditry, terrorism, cultism, extrajudicial killings, farmer-herder struggle and secessionism. "Escalating violence in the South East is hampering economic progress and social order. According to the report, every time there is a sit-at-home, the Southeast geopolitical zone loses about 10 billion Naira. The region's core manufacturing and commercial hubs are negatively impacted by the insecurity in the region. Manufacturing accounts for 31% and 30% of businesses in certain communities. These commercial centers are also export routes to Central and West African nations. Johnbosco Agbakwuru, [The vanguard News \(August 31<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

### Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

Marija Peran, Resident Representative  
Adams Adamu, Project Assistant

Nigeria Office

[www.kas.de/nigeria](http://www.kas.de/nigeria)

[www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria](https://www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria)

[marija.peran@kas.de](mailto:marija.peran@kas.de) / [adamu.adams@kas.de](mailto:adamu.adams@kas.de)



The text of this publication is published under a Creative Commons license: "Creative Commons Attribution- Share Alike 4.0 international" (CC BY-SA 4.0), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>