



May/June 2022
Nigeria Office

Nigeria Press Review

27.05. – 03.06.2022

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 Covid-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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Covid-19/Health: Over 18 Million Nigerians Vaccinated, Nigeria Records First Monkeypox Death, Cases Rise to 21

The Federal Government (FG) has revealed that a total of 18.291.072 Nigerians, representing 16.4% of Nigeria's eligible population, have so far been fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Faisal Shuaib, said this at the commencement of Covid-19 vaccination at community pharmacies in Abuja, a first of its kind collaboration between the FG and Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (APCN) in expanding Covid-19 vaccination to the grassroots level. Joseph Erunke, [The Vanguard News \(June 1st\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced the first monkeypox death in Nigeria. The NCDC disclosed that this year as of May 28, 2022, a total of 21 confirmed cases have been reported from nine states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The states that reported cases are Adamawa (5), Lagos (4), Bayelsa (2), Delta (2), Cross River (2), FCT (2), Kano (2), Imo (1) and Rivers (1). The NCDC in its statement said it activated a national multisectoral emergency operations centre for monkeypox at level 2 to strengthen and coordinate ongoing response activities in-country while contributing to the global response. Jesupemi Are, [The Cable News \(May 30th\)](#) reports.

IMF Says Fuel Subsidy May Hit 6 Trillion Naira in 2022, Spain, Nigeria Advocate Global Action to Prevent Impending Food Crisis

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that with Nigeria's fuel subsidy payout averaging N 500 billion monthly, total expenditure on subsidy could hit a record N 6 trillion mark by the end of this year. The IMF also revealed that a macro-fiscal stress test it conducted on Nigeria showed that interest payments on debts in the country could amount to 100% of its revenue to service debts by 2026 if not closely monitored. IMF Resident Representative to Nigeria Ari Aisen made these disclosures while presenting the latest Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook in Abuja. He also recollected that Nigeria received a total of USD 6.8 billion facilities from the IMF following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. According to him, Africa needed USD 425 billion to recover from the pandemic in addition to

between USD 30-50 billion per year for climate adaptation and USD 6-10 billion annually for commodity import. Ndubusi Francis and Nume Ekeghe, [This Day live News \(May 31st\)](#) reports.

Nigeria and Spain have canvassed a global action plan to prevent a threatening food crisis occasioned by the ongoing war in Ukraine. President Muhammadu Buhari and His Royal Majesty, King Felipe VI. of Spain, made the call when the two leaders met at the Royal Palace in Madrid, Spain, on Wednesday. Buhari specifically stressed the need for world leaders to come together and strategize on ways to avert the looming food crisis around the world. The King said looked forward to an opportunity to visit the country especially against the background of stronger cooperation being forged by the two countries. In a separate meeting with President Pedro Sanchez, Buhari said his country looked forward to increasing bilateral relations between both nations. At the end of the visit, nine agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed. [News Agency of Nigeria \(June 2nd\)](#) reports.

APC Postpones Presidential Primary Election, Screens Aspirants, Disqualifies 10 out of 23 Aspirants, Former Vice President Atiku Emerges as PDP Presidential Candidate, PDP Begins Reconciliation to Solidify Atiku's Win, EFCC States Reason for Being Present at PDP Convention, FEC Approves ECOWAS, NNPC Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, Ministry of Aviation Says National Air Carrier will Commence in July

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has once more postponed its presidential primary election. The spokesperson of the APC, Felix Morka, in a statement explained: "Following the Independent National Electoral Commission's extension of deadline for the submission of list of candidates by political parties, the All Progressives Congress hereby postpones its Special Convention for Presidential Primary from Sunday, 29th – Monday, 30th of May, 2022 to Monday, 6th – Wednesday, 8th of June, 2022." Samson Adenekan, [The Premium Times News \(May 28th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari pleaded with the governors under the aegis of the Progressives Governors' Forum to help him find an acceptable candidate that would inspire hope and lead the party to victory in next year's elections. At the meeting, Buhari charged them to be prepared to

throw their weights behind his preferred candidate. Sources within the party disclosed that a plot by some influential aspirants to mobilize forces against the President was anticipated, which led to the drafting of some core-Buhari loyalists from the North into the race. Dismissing the calls on the President not to adopt consensus in choosing the APC presidential candidate, the source disclosed that “what President Buhari has in mind is a compromise candidate and nothing to do with consensus”. Chairman of the Southern Governors’ Forum and Ondo State Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN) has charged the party to work hard to retain power by rotating the presidency to the South. Ahead of the party’s convention in Abuja, 23 aspirants have been screened to participate in the primary, 19 of whom are from across the three geopolitical zones in the South. Leo Sobechi et al., [The Guardian News \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

Just days before the presidential primary, the All Progressives Congress (APC) screening panel announced it had disqualified 10 out of 23 presidential aspirants from participating. According to the chairman of the screening panel, John Oyegun, the decisions were taken “based on the quality of the people that want to govern this country”. The names of those disqualified have not been disclosed yet. Dyepekazah Shibayan, [The Cable News \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has emerged as the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Atiku defeated 12 other candidates in a highly contested presidential primary held at the Moshood Abiola Stadium in Abuja on Saturday. His victory at the primary is his second successive attempt and his fifth try to become president. Of the 767 accredited ballots at the election, he polled 371 votes while his closest challenger Nyesom Wike, Governor of Rivers State, came second with 237 votes. Former Senate President Bukola Saraki scored 70 votes to come a distant third while Governor of Akwa Ibom, Udom Emmanuel, came fourth with 38 votes. The only female in the race, Oliver Diana, scored one vote each. In his acceptance speech, Atiku described his emergence as the making of another history. He said the election is the freest and fairest election in the history of the party. Samson Adenekan, [The Premium Times News \(May 28th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and other top politicians particularly from the North have begun a reconciling strategy to strengthen the candidature of Atiku Abubakar

and the chances of the party ahead of the February 2023 election. The reconciliation move has begun to yield results as the PDP Chairman Iyorchia Ayu met with Atiku, Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike, Sokoto State Governor Aminu Tambuwal and other key stakeholders. Regarding the choice of a vice-presidential candidate, two zones, the South-East and South-South have been mentioned in previous discussions. However, many have expressed the view that the choice of vice-presidential candidate should not emerge from considerations such as past and present loyalty to the presidential candidate. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, [The Guardian News \(May 30th\)](#) reports.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has explained why its operatives were sighted at the national convention of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). EFCC spokesperson Wilson Uwajaren confirmed the presence of EFCC to observe the activities of the PDP presidential primaries. EFCC chairman Abdulrasheed Bawa had vowed to monitor campaign finances including the legitimacy of funds used to purchase political parties’ nomination forms ahead of the 2023 general elections. Kunle Sanni, [The Premium Times \(May 28th\)](#) reports.

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has given approval for the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) to enter into an agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the construction of the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline. The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva, briefed State House correspondents after the FEC meeting presided over by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo on Wednesday at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. Sylva said the project was still at the point of the front-end engineering design after which the cost would be determined. The Minister said the council also approved the construction of a switchgear room and installation of power distribution cables and equipment for the Nigeria oil and gas park in Ogbia, Bayelsa, in the sum of N 3.8 billion to support local manufacturing of components for the oil and gas industry. [Premium Times News \(June 1st\)](#) reports.

Despite multiple delays, the Ministry of Aviation has announced that the new national carrier, Nigeria Air, will begin operations by July 2022. The Special Assistant to the Minister of Aviation, James Odaudu, has disclosed that the proposed date remains inviolable as the interim management of the airline was busy working to ensure the take-off

on schedule. The reassurance was made despite the non-readiness of the Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) and the Air Transport Licence (ATL), coupled with the ongoing search for bidders to drive the public-private venture. Wole Oyejade, [The Guardian News \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: United Nations Urges Nigeria to Step up Security Measures

The United Nations (UN) charged Nigeria to intensify their approach towards taming insecurity in the country. One of the best approaches to address issues of insecurity was to adopt a preventive security deployment in all facets of the country. The UN Resident Coordinator and Representa-

tive of the UN Secretary-General in the Kyrgyz Republic, Ozonnia Ojielo, made this call during a seminar on peacebuilding in. According to him, adopting a preventive security model would ensure that grounds were prepared for other actors with the mandate, capacity, skills and experience to step in. He maintained that early approach to addressing issues of insecurity, if accepted, would give room for community peacebuilding. "What we need is to break the cycle of violence, that when one group attacks, the other group feels the need to respond. You break it by engaging in early warning mechanisms and you have the whole community", Ojielo said. He pointed out the role of an active civil society and the use of technology. Ezra Ukanwa, [The Premium Times News \(May 31st\)](#) reports.

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