

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 COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

Content

COVID-19: FG Considers Sanctions on Vaccine Hesitations, Disclose Plans to Make Vaccination Mandatory to Federal Civil Servants

President Buhari Sacks Cabinet Ministers, National Electoral Commission Receives 3 Million Voter Applications, Osinbajo Blames State Governments for Underperforming Educational System

Finance Minister Says "Stunted" GDP Growth Caused by Insecurity, Labour Threatens Strike Action Over Proposed Hike in Electricity Tariff, ActionAid Describes Electricity Hike as "Ill-timed and Insensitive"

Insecurity: Analysis on Nigeria/Russia Military Deal, United States Indicate Interest in Fight Against Boko Haram, Controversy on Amnesty for "Repentant" Terrorists, States Impose Restrictions to Tackle Insecurity

COVID-19: FG Considers Sanctions on Vaccine Hesitations, Disclose Plans to Make Vaccination Mandatory to Federal Civil Servants

The Executive Director of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Faisal Shuaib, has revealed that the federal government has plans to sanction eligible citizens who refuse the covid-19 vaccination. Shuaib revealed at a press briefing that the government may “apply the basic rule of law” against citizens because they will be endangering the lives of others. Deborah Tolu-Kolawole, [Punch News \(August 31st\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, at the meeting with Health Commissioners Forum of Federal Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and health partners on Thursday 2, disclosed that covid-19 vaccination would be compulsory for federal civil servants once vaccines are available for everyone. He added that civil servants would be travelling to represent the country, hence the decision on mandatory vaccination for every employee in its service. Nike Adebawale, [Premium Times News \(September 2nd\)](#) writes.

President Buhari Sacks Cabinet Ministers, National Electoral Commission Receives 3 Million Voter Applications, Osinbajo Blames State Governments for Underperforming Educational System

The Special Adviser to President Muhammadu Buhari on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, on Wednesday 31, following the Federal Executive Council Meeting announced the sack of the Minister of Agriculture, Mohammed Nanono and the Minister of Power, Saleh Mamman. President Buhari said he considered “significant review steps” as helping to identify and strengthen weak areas in his cabinet. While hinting that the contributions of the ministers could be considered as “weak” he revealed that the sack was necessary to close gaps, build cohesion and improve the delivery of public good to the citizens. Sodiq Oyeleke, [Punch News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), said it had received over three million applications from the on-going nationwide Continuous Voters Registration (CVR). INEC noted that applications it received included voter transfer, request for replacement of Permanent Voters Cards, and update of voter information record. [News Agency of Nigeria \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, has said that state governments should be held responsible for most of the problems association with the education sector, adding that the federal government’s role was to provide support. He spoke at the “National Dialogue on Girls: Towards a Girl-Friendly Nigeria” in Abuja saying “we run a federal system, and questions of education and medical care are essentially state matters,” Osinbajo pointed out that of about hundred thousand schools in the country, the federal government has only around one hundred as its responsibility. Sodiq Omolayo, [Guardian News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.

Finance Minister Says “Stunted” GDP Growth Caused by Insecurity, Labour Threatens Strike Action Over Proposed Hike in Electricity Tariff, ActionAid Describes Electricity Hike as “Ill-timed and Insensitive”

The Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, has described the latest economic growth of the country as impressive, however, she disclosed that if the country had been in a more secure state the gross domestic product would grow higher. Ahmed said that insecurity had affected growth in agriculture, she blamed attacks by bandits and boko haram jihadists for driving farmers from their fields and pushing food prices and headline inflation to the highest levels in decades. Ahmed added that borrowings by the government to finance critical projects amid dwindling revenue have so far been done “sensibly.” Ayodeji Adegboyega, [Premium Times News \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

The National Labour Congress (NLC) has handed down the notice of an industrial strike action due to speculations of increased electricity tariffs. The NLC claimed that the federal government reached agreements with the Organised Labour Committee on Electricity Tariff in September 2020, to stop further increase to electricity tariff. The NLC President, Ayuba Wabba, noted that “Organized Labour would be left with no option than to deploy the industrial mechanisms granted in the laws for the defense of workers’ rights.: Adelani Adepegba, [Punch News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Country Director of the ActionAid Nigeria, Ene Obi, has called on the National Electrical Regulatory Commission (NERC) to halt the reported electricity tariff increase across the country. she described the increase as “ill-timed and insensitive to the precarious plight of citizens whose lean disposable incomes are decapitated.” She

also added that if the decision was not reconsidered cost of basic items produced in the country would also increase, in addition to possible job losses in the small and medium scale sector in the country. Abiola Odutola, [Naira Metrics News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Analysis on Nigeria/Russia Military Deal, United States Indicate Interest in Fight Against Boko Haram, Controversy on Amnesty for “Repentant” Terrorists, States Impose Restrictions to Tackle Insecurity

John Campbel in the [Council on Foreign Relations \(August 31st\)](#) gives deeper insight on the new military cooperation between Nigeria and Russia. President Muhammadu Buhari reportedly had in 2019 raised the possibility of the military deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the media perceives the military-technical cooperation which provides for “after-sales services, training of personnel in educational establishments and technology transfer” as related to the U.S Congress hesitance to authorize sale of military equipment due to human rights concerns. Russia is reportedly more transactional with this new agreement with no undertone of accompanying political influence but rather concerns on how much its companies can make from this new deal.

Meanwhile, the United States (U.S) Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Leonard, has disclosed the position of U.S in its readiness to identify sponsors of terrorism in the country. Leonard spoke to journalist revealing that talks were ongoing on the matter, she responded to questions that likened the Afghanistan situation to Nigeria saying, “it does not match up” the Commander, U.S Air Forces in Europe, Jeffrey Harrigan, said the purchase of Tu-

cano fighter jets would cement the U.S relationship with Nigeria and help curb insecurity in the country and entire region. Solomon Odeniyi, [Punch News \(August 30th\)](#) reports.

The 12 years of terror that caused the loss of lives of thousands and saw millions of citizens displaced, has been met with a solution by the federal government to offer “amnesty” to the individuals who kidnapped, killed and spread dismay and fear in the country and especially in the North-East. Citizens have begun asking questions on the proposed amnesty exercise for “repentant boko haram members” that has received endorsement from prominent citizens like the President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan. How genuine is their surrender, do the people really want them back, will they be allowed to enjoy all their civil rights? Among so many other questions citizens have raised as the government seeks to put an end to the boko haram conflict. Soonest Nathaniel, [Channels News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.

In new reports, four states in the northern and central parts of the country in an attempt to stop mass kidnappings and other forms of crimes have imposed series of restrictions to activities in their states. In Niger state, cattle markets have been suspended, in Kaduna state authorities banned the cutting of trees due to fears that loggers collaborate with bandits. In Zamfara state, the latest kidnappings have been met with strong directives from the commissioner of police in the state to citizens to fully comply with security agencies In their quest to end insecurity in the state. [Aljazeera News \(September 1st\)](#) reports.



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