

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.

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Following corresponding allegations by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has filed a lawsuit against President Muhammadu Buhari "over his failure to probe allegations that over N 3 billion of public funds are missing from the Federal Ministry of Finance, to ensure the prosecution of those suspected to be responsible, and the recovery of any missing public funds". According to SERAP, "investigating and prosecuting the allegations, and recovering any missing public funds would serve the public interest, and end the impunity of perpetrators". According to SERAP, the allegations amount to a fundamental breach of national anti-corruption laws and the country's international obligations including under the UN Convention against Corruption to which Nigeria is a state party." [Premium Times \(January 30th\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has introduced a bill seeking to scrap the National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). The bill, sponsored by Shina Peller (APC, Oyo), was read the first time on Tuesday. It seeks to repeal the NSCDC Act of 2007 and transfer the personnel and assets of the NSCDC to the Nigeria Police Force. Arguing that the expansion of the mandate and functions of NSCDC is a counterproductive duplication of the mandates of the police, Hon. Peller is proposing to create a transition management committee to superintend over the NSCDC, develop regulations, and implement procedures for the transfer of assets and personnel. Bakare Majeed, [Premium Times News \(February 2nd\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives Speaker, Femi Gbajabiamila, has said that the Covid-19 pandemic exposed the "ills" burdening the nation's health sector, leading to interventions by the parliament. Stating that health reform is a cardinal part of the legislative agenda, the Speaker explained: "We're all aware that in Nigeria, we have health problems: problem with our infrastructure, problem with our health personnel and so many other things". Gbajabiamila, who spoke at the closing of a three-day training for health workers, assured that the National Assembly and his office would continue to provide funds to strengthen the health sector. Tony Akowe. [The Nation News \(February 1st\)](#) reports.

President Buhari Speaks on Addressing High Fertility Rate, FG Set to Reach 40 Million Nigerians with Electricity, United States Initiates New Visa Policy for Nigeria, FG Misses OPEC January Quota, Nigeria Seeks Increased African Collaboration in Public Health, Climate Change Challenges, APC Youths Promise Nigerians a Transformative Government

President Muhammadu Buhari has launched the Revised National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development and inaugurated the National Council on Population Management, chaired by him and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo as deputy chairman, with heads of relevant MDAs as members. He said the revised population policy was aimed at improving the quality of life and standards of living of all Nigerians. The policy emphasizes the urgency to address Nigeria's sustained high fertility rate through expanding access to modern family planning, counselling, and commodities as well as promoting birth spacing. Buhari, while noting that the implementation of the policy would require credible, reliable, timely, robust, geo-referenced, and well disaggregated data, expressed confidence that the data generated from the forthcoming census would provide a solid foundation for the successful implementation of the new policy. Muideen Olaniyi, [Daily Trust News \(February 4th\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government has attested its electricity deal with Siemens was on course, stating that the first phase of the programme under the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI) would increase power supply to about 40 million citizens. The contract would eventually see a significant increase of the country's generation capacity and create at least 11,000 direct and indirect jobs, the government stated. Speaking in Abuja at the commencement of the PPI training on network development studies by FGN Power Company, the government firm overseeing the Siemens power project, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Dr. Zainab Ahmed, said the unveiling of the training session was a milestone under the initiative. Emmanuel Addeh, [This Day News \(February 1st\)](#) reports.

The United States Embassy in Nigeria has initiated a visa interview waiver programme with the pilot project commencing at the US Consulate in Lagos for applicants. Speaking during a press conference on Tuesday in Lagos, the US Mission Country Consular Coordinator, Susan Tuller, noted that the project was about no-interview visa renewals.

Tuller explained that it would be limited initially and applied only to applicants for academic exchange, work, study, and tourist visas seeking renewal of their existing visas. According to her, every eligible applicant must have a previous visa that expired within the last 24 months or will expire in the next three months from the date of application. Gbenga Adeniji, [The Punch News \(February 1st\)](#) reports.

Nigeria has reportedly missed its crude oil output target for January 2022, pumping 1.46 million barrels per day against a target of 1.683 million barrels per day as approved by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Officials of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company attributed Nigeria's prolonged inability to meet its OPEC production quota to ongoing oil pipelines vandalism and the delay in the full implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act, among others. Okechukwu Nnodim, [The Punch News \(February 2nd\)](#) reports.

Nigeria has called for greater collaboration among Africans to effectively confront challenges such as climate change, public health, and local vaccine production. President Buhari spoke at a meeting of the African Union (AU) on the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), stating the continent needed to prepare for wider cooperation in public health. The meeting was under the auspices of the 39th session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee at the margins of the 35th ordinary session of the AU. [News Agency of Nigeria \(February 3rd\)](#) reports.

The Progressives Youth within the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) met in Lagos at the weekend at a parley which had in attendance young business stakeholders, political aspirants, and other young stakeholders within the government and party system. According to speakers at the conference, the Progressives Youth's vision is to have young people better represented in decision-making structures, both within the leadership of the party and in government. The conference, tagged the "Pre-festival business meet", was organized with a view to ensuring adequate representation of young people in the new leadership of the party, set to emerge at the upcoming national convention. [This Day News \(January 31st\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: 10.366 Reportedly Killed in 2021, President Buhari Pledges Change in North-East, Financiers of Boko Haram Uncovered Between 2020 and 2021, Pledges Commitment to a Democratic Government

President Muhammadu Buhari has assured citizens, particularly residents of the north-east, that they will see a change from the protracted insurgency to an era of peace and development. He made the pledge in Abuja while speaking at the inauguration of the Presidential Committee on Repatriation, Return and Resettlement of internally displaced persons in the north-east of Nigeria. With regard to the death toll of 10.366 persons in 2021 owing to the conflict, Buhari added that his administration was embarking on a revised approach to addressing the 13-year insurgency in the region and would not relent in efforts towards a return to the path of development and growth. Terhemba Daka, John Akubo and Rotimi Agboluaje, [The Guardian News \(February 3rd\)](#) reports.

The Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, on Thursday addressed the current administration's fight against corruption and money laundering as well as examination of terrorism financing in Nigeria. An analysis by the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit discovered 96 financiers and 424 associates/supporters of financiers as well as the involvement of about 123 companies and 33 bureaux de change. Adding that "the analysis has resulted in the arrest of 45 suspects who will soon face prosecution and seizure of assets", the minister praised the reforms undertaken by the Federal Government. Ebunoluwa Olafusi, [The Cable News \(February 3rd\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday pledged his commitment to hand over a strong repositioned country in 2023, emphasizing that democracy has come to stay in Nigeria. He responded to concerns raised by the Governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, on the resurgence of military takeovers in Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso in August 2020, September 2021, and January 2022, respectively. Buhari said he strongly believes that "Nigeria has passed through that stage for good" and assured Nigerians that his administration will finish strong in the last stage of his presidency. Anthony Ailemen, [The Business Day News \(February 1st\)](#) reports.



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