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Nigeria Office



## 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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Insecurity: Army Chief Orders Strike on Boko Haram, ISWAP Territories, Boko Haram and ISWAP Terrorists Reach Accord, Initiate Mass Recruitment of Bandits, President Buhari Reacts to Niger Delta Militants, Leader of IPOB Arrested, IPOB Demands Fair Hearing

### **President Buhari Express Readiness to Assent Restructuring Bill, NASS Pass Petroleum Industry Bill, House Speaker Takes Stand on Social Media Regulation,**

President Muhammadu Buhari, has responded to calls for restructuring, he noted that, the National Assembly had concluded regional consultations and as soon as the required process for the 1999 constitutional amendment is complete, he would not delay on his role. He added that, insecurity is no longer a tenable excuse, because nowhere in the country is safer than the other. [The Nation News \(June 25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Senate and House of Representatives, passed the Petroleum Industry Bill, which was first submitted to the National Assembly in 2008. The bill aims to provide legal and fiscal framework to the country's oil and gas industry, although, the chambers still disagree on the sharing formula to communities living in areas of crude extraction. The petroleum bill passed will focus on controlled taxation, better redistribution of wealth and transformation of Nigeria National Petroleum Commission, NNPC, into a commercial company. Kizzi Asala, [Africa News \(July 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, on Sunday 27, revealed that, the National Assembly had considered social media regulation long before now, but was reluctant due to response from citizens. He said, that social media must be regulated, to prevent its "evil" from taking root in the country. Gbajabiamila, spoke to young citizens on Channels TV, noting that, social media is "the most potent weapon for good and evil." Bakare Mojeed, [Premium Times \(June 28<sup>th</sup>\) reports.](#)

### **Osinbajo Objects Agitations to De-Fund Gas Project, Reveals Plan to Tax Tech Giants, Northern Forum Says Igbo Agitation Not Worth Civil War, Police Sanction Rally Request by Yoruba Nation**

Meanwhile, Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, at the Forum of Gas Exporting Countries, GEC, has expressed the governments readiness to advocate continued funding for gas and fossil fuel projects in the country. He noted that, the country would play a critical role with other gas exporting nations to stop defunding of gas and fuel projects in developing projects. Terhemba Dako, [The Guardian News \(June 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, has disclosed the government's plan, to collect taxes on profits made, by global technology and digital firms not based in the country but with significant local economic presence. Osinbajo said, 'while the Federal Government will not be raising tax rates at this time, based on the Finance Act 2019, it is already empowered to widen the tax net. He added that, Section 4 of the Finance Act 2019, provides that the Finance Minister, may by order of the President, determine what constitutes the significant economic presence of a company, other than a Nigerian company. William Ukpo, [Naira metrics News \(June 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Northern Elders Forum, NEF, issued a public statement, disclosing that, the request by the south-east to break away, is not worth the agitations of a civil war. The spokesman, Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, said, that the continued secession of the Igbo's, were in the best interest of the country, also, suggesting that northerners have been harassed by southeast, asking them to vacate the south-eastern region. John Campbell, in the [Council of Foreign Relations \(July 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#), reports that the current disgruntlement by the igbo's has its roots to the civil war, were they were defeated and the belief, that they are marginalized economically/

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police (CP) in Lagos State, Hakeem Odumosu, issued a statement, disclosing that, the Lagos Command would not be deceived by organizers, who claim their rallies would be peaceful, thereby prohibiting rallies in the state. The CP warned that, citizens found participating in rallies would dealt with, within the domains of the law. Hakeem, added that, Lagos state cannot afford to experience any security lapses or breakdown of order after the massive destruction of public facilities and death of some police personnel as a result of the violent #ENDSARS crisis. Sonia Whyte, [News Online \(July 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) report.

### **Insecurity: Army Chief Orders Strike on Boko Haram, ISWAP Territories, Boko Haram and ISWAP Terrorists Reach Accord, Initiate Mass Recruitment of Bandits, President Buhari Reacts to Niger Delta Militants, Leader of IPOB Arrested, IPOB Demands Fair Hearing**

Meanwhile, the Chief of Army Staff, COAS, Faruk Yahaya, on Saturday 26, ordered the destruction

of all Boko Haram and ISWAP territories in the North-Eastern part of the country. He ordered the troops of sector 2 Joint Task Force, Operation Hadin Kai, to use their wealth of experience and lesson learnt from the series of operations conducted to “destroy the remnants of marauding terrorist within their various locations”. Yahaya also added, that traditional institutions were critical to bringing the insurgency to an end. Kingsley Nwezeh, [This Day News \(June 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In new reports, PR Nigeria news has obtained a 13-minutes long video of an army of terrorists, after they individually placed their hands atop one another, chanting words of solidarity. Four insurgents, seen pledging their loyalty to their new Commander while speaking in Arabic, Hausa, English and Fulfulde. The Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists, unanimously ordained as ‘Khalifan Muslimai’, translated as “The Leader of all Muslims”, they pledged their allegiance to one Aba Ibrahim Al-Hashimiyil AlKhuraishi. Ibrahim Ramadan, [Daily Nigerian News \(June 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

On the same note, security experts and sources, alongside locals, have revealed to journalist, the outcome of the of declared allegiance by bandits to the Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists. Investigations by journalist revealed that the insurgent groups are seeking deeper roots in operations across the north-east region. The International Crisis Group, ICG, has reported developing radical groups in the north-western part of the country, the book haram and ISWAP terrorists offer logistics, monthly stipend and intelligence support, as well as Islamic messaging. Abdulaziz Abdulaziz, [Daily Trust News \(June 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, on Sunday 27, released a statement by President Buhari, describing the calls for restructuring of the federation and the inauguration of a Board for the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, has already been addressed. The group said it had launched ‘Operation Humble’ aiming at crippling the economy as it did in the past and promised to clamp down on politicians working with the Federal Government “to undermine the Niger Delta region.” Nsikak Nseyen, [Daily Post News \(June 27<sup>th</sup>\)](#). Reports.

The Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, at a press briefing on Tuesday 29, announced the arrest of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB. Malami said, the Federal High Court in Abuja, granted the application to detain the IPOB leader in a DSS facility, and commence an accelerated hearing of his trial on July 26 and 27. Mr. Kanu, is expected to face charges of treason in court, for repeatedly calling for the breakaway of a significant chunk of southern Nigeria to form the Republic of Biafra. [Channels News \(June 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, members of IPOB, have confirmed the arrest of their leader Nnamdi Kanu. IPOB’s lead counsel, Ifeanyi Ejiofor, however, has demanded that, Kamu’s fundamental right be respected while in custody, adding that it is expected the courts grant Nnamdi Kanu, he constitutionally protected right to fair hearing. Emmanuel Uzodinma, [Daily Post News \(June 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.



**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.**

Dr. Vladimir Kreck, Resident Representative  
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

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

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

[vladimir.kreck@kas.de](mailto:vladimir.kreck@kas.de) / [vera.ali@kas.de](mailto:vera.ali@kas.de)



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