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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 the situation in Nigeria.

Content

Canada Unveils Plans to Receive 1.45 Million Nigerian Migrants by 2025, President Buhari Commissions Nigeria-Cameroon Joint Border Post/Bridge, Releases 12.000 Tons of Grains to Affected Flood Victims

INEC Admits to Daunting Task, Promises to Deliver Free and Fair Elections to Nigerians, ICPC Rates Correctional Service Top Agency in Compliance with Ethics and Integrity, PDP Ask Court to Sack All APC Candidates and National Chairman, PDP Give Reasons Why it Wont Sanction Aggrieved Members

Insecurity: FG Reassures Citizens the Country Is Safe and Secure, IGP Cautions Foreign Governments on Informing the General Public of Terror Alerts, Army Launch Operation Golden Dawn in Imo State

Canada Unveils Plans to Receive 1.45 Million Nigerian Migrants by 2025, President Buhari Commissions Nigeria-Cameroon Joint Border Post/Bridge, Releases 12.000 Tons of Grains to Affected Flood Victims

The Canadian government has unveiled plans to welcome 1.450.000 migrants between 2023 and 2025 to tackle their labor shortage problem. Sean Fraser, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, just released the 2023-2025 immigration plan that embraces legal migration to help businesses find workers and attract the skills required in critical sectors. According to the ministry, the Canadian economy faces critical labor market shortages, causing uncertainty both for businesses and workers. The immigration plan is expected to manage the social and economic challenges Canada will face in the decades ahead. Ebunoluwa Olafusi, The Cable News (2nd November) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari on Thursday in Cross River State, bordering Cameroon, called for more neighborliness and mutual understanding between African states to enhance trade, increase security and promote the continent's development. He was represented by the Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Amb. Zubairu Dada, at the commissioning ceremony of the Nigeria/Cameroon Joint Border Post and Bridge that will strengthen the existing cordial relations between Nigeria and Cameroon and enhance cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States (ECO-WAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States. In addition, President Buhari noted that the projects would deepen the inextricably linked cultural and traditional fraternal bonds between Nigerians and Cameroonians living in the border communities. Deborah Tolu Kolawole, The Punch News (4th November) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the release of 12.000 tons of grains as relief materials for victims of flooding across the country. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, announced this at the weekly ministerial briefing. According to the her, the Federal Government has so far provided intervention to 28 states. The minister also announced that the presidential committee on flood relief and rehabilitation, under the leadership of business magnate Aliko Dangote, has provided assorted foodstuffs worth over N 1.5 billion as support to flood victims. Farouq added that temporary shelters have been erected in 22

states and dismissed reports that some state governments have not received any help from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Ebunoluwa Olafusi, <u>The Cable News (3rd November)</u> reports.

INEC Admits to Daunting Task, Promises to Deliver Free and Fair Elections to Nigerians, ICPC Rates Correctional Service Top Agency in Compliance with Ethics and Integrity, PDP Ask Court to Sack All APC Candidates and National Chairman, PDP Give Reasons Why it Won't Sanction Aggrieved Members, House of Representatives Defence Committee Summons Security Agency Over Low Patronage of DICON

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has admitted that though it will face a daunting task conducting next year's general elections, it will not disappoint Nigerians in delivering free, fair and credible elections. The commission equally reassured the Nigerian electorate that only their votes will determine the winners of the elections, reiterating that its loyalty and allegiance will be to Nigeria and Nigerians. INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakub, gave the promises in his remarks at the swearing-in ceremony of 19 new Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs). Ajiri Daniels, The Sun News (3rd November) reports.

The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) emerged as the best ethics and integrity compliance agency in the law and justice sector in 2022 out of 47 ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) assessed. The evaluation was carried out by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to ascertain the level of MDAs' compliance with the Federal Government's ethics and compliance scorecard. Welcoming the development, Controller General of Service Haliru Nababa said the agency would continue to "promote best custodial practices within the ambit of the law". Tina Abeku, The Guardian News (1st November) reports.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has filed a suit before the Federal High Court in Abuja seeking the removal of all National Working Committee (NWC) members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). The PDP is contesting the legality of the process that produced the party's national officers. As a result, the Federal High Court of Nigeria has constituted a special task force of judges to hear and determine all pre-election cases before it swiftly. Chief Judge of the Federal Court, Justice

John Terhemba Tsoho, who constituted the task force, said it became necessary to designate a team of judges following the large volume of preelection suits that have flooded the court. The PDP is hoping for the court to repeal the APC NWC and all candidates produced by the party for the 2023 general elections on the claim that they were made in breach of the 1999 Constitution, the party's Constitution as well as the Electoral Act, 2022. Ameh Ochojila, The Guardian News (5th November) reports.

There are indications that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will not take punitive measures against five of its governors for their recent utterances against the party's leadership. In their determination to press home their demand, five governors resigned their membership of the PDP Presidential Campaign Council in September. They have since openly championed positions considered damaging to the party's winning chances in the elections 2023. Meanwhile, these recent events, among others, have led to calls for the governors to be sanctioned to instill some elements of discipline among party members. However, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the party, Chief Bode George, stated that caution must remain the watchword as the party intensifies moves to appease the aggrieved governors and their allies ahead of the 2023 polls. Dirisu Yakubu et al., The Punch News (2nd November) reports.

The House of Representatives Committee on Defence has resolved to summon all security agencies except the Nigerian Army for allegedly failing to patronize the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). The committee adopted the resolution on Thursday when the management of DICON appeared before it to defend its 2023 budget proposals. While responding to lawmakers, DICON Director General, Major General Hassan Tafida, noted that only the Nigerian Army currently patronizes the corporation because of the erroneous impression that the corporation is set to serve only the Army. DICON was trying to engage other security agencies to correct the notion. While appealing to the parliament to boost the agency's budgetary allocation, the DG said it has yet to be able to upgrade its machines since its establishment in 1964, making it impossible for the company to operate optimally. Ndubusi Orji, The Sun News n (3rd November) reports.

Insecurity: FG Reassures Citizens the Country Is Safe and Secure, IGP Cautions Foreign Governments on Informing the General Public of Terror Alerts, Army Launch Operation Golden Dawn in Imo State

National Security Adviser Babagana Monguno, following an emergency meeting of the National Security Council summoned by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, has dismissed the terror alerts issued by both the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) last week. The US, UK and later Canada, Germany and Bulgaria had warned their nationals in Nigeria of an impending terrorist attack and asked them to avoid travels to Abuja. However, the Federal Government on Monday assured Nigerians to go about their lawful businesses as the country is safe and secure. Monguno dismissed the security advisories, describing them as false, insisting that it was irresponsible to give signals of heightened insecurity in the country when there was no basis for it. Gift Habib, The Punch News (1st November) reports.

The Inspector General of Police, Alkali Usman, has faulted the United States and the United Kingdom for disseminating information to the general public on possible terror attacks in Nigeria; instead, they should inform the police directly. The United States had issued two advisories to citizens and embassy staff in Abuja, urging them to evacuate the capital over possible terror attacks. Several other countries followed. Reassuring Nigerians of their safety, the IGP said: "We are working in synergy with other security agencies to ensure the safety of residents." Sharon Osaji, The Punch News (30th October) reports.

The Nigerian Army on Thursday launched Operation Golden Dawn II in Imo State to better tackle security threats during the yuletide season. The Commander in charge said the exercise would last till January 4, 2023, in line with the directive of the army headquarters, which also mandated that super camps are established in various sectors. Imo state governor Hope Uzodimma, who flagged off the exercise, urged Imo indigenes and residents alike to cooperate with the security agencies deployed to the state to keep the peace and maintain law and order. The Vanguard News (3rd November) reports.

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