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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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The AfDB Imbrolio: Between Transparency and Policy

The second tenure of the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Nigerian Akinwunmi Adesina, appears to be hanging in the balance following ongoing controversy linked to allegations of impropriety leveled against him by non-African shareholders of the AfDB, led by the United States of America. The allegations which were spearheaded by whistleblowers bothered on disregard for corporate governance and listed sixteen items that Adesina had breached while calling for his removal. Reacting to the allegations, Adesina, in a detailed response to all the items, denied the allegations and stressed that the appointments for which he is accused of nepotism were in compliance with laid down guidelines of the Bank. [Vanguard News \(29th May\)](#).

Adesina also cited investigations by the internal ethics committee of the bank which cleared him of all the charges. However, the US has called for an independent probe comprised by the government of the US and other shareholders to be conducted. The petition against Adesina, which was signed by the US Treasury Secretary, Steve Mnuchin, rejected the internal investigation that cleared Adesina. The issue has generated mixed reactions from stakeholders and media. While some support of the actions of the US in asking for an independent investigation, others have urged the AfDB not to expose itself to ridicule by allowing external influence to distract it from its governance principles. Gabriel Ewepu in [Vanguard News \(1st June\)](#) reports. Pledging their support for Adesina's bid for a second term in office, the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, and over 15 African heads of states have reaffirmed their support for Adesina. [The Nation \(30th May\)](#) and [New York Times \(2nd June\)](#) detail. Eventually, the Bureau of Board Governors of the AfDB, has approved an independent review of the internal ethics committee report, Sanya Adejokun, [Tribune News \(5th June\)](#) reports.

Covid-19: Nigeria's Rising Debt Profile – Implication for Economy and Human Development as Recession Looms

The minister of Finance, Budget and Planning, Zainab Ahmed, has said that in the 2020 budget of N10.509 trillion, the initial deficit financing of N1.847 trillion has risen to N4.563trillion, and

said that another round of recession looms in the country. Henry Umoru, [Vanguard News \(1st June\)](#).

Less than one week after receiving a letter from President Muhammadu Buhari, the Senate on Tuesday 2nd June approved the \$5.5billion loan request of the President to enable the administration fund the revised 2020 budget and execute critical projects. The federal government said that the loan would help stimulate the economy which has been badly hit by COVID-19 pandemic which altered the revenue projections for the budget. The Senate has earlier approved an N850 billion loan to be sourced from the domestic market to fund critical capital projects in the 2020 budget. Yusuf Akinpelu in [Premium Times \(2nd June\)](#) writes.

Nigerians have urged the federal government to halt the quest for loans. Timi Frank, a political activist and former deputy national publicity secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) decried the huge debt burden the present administration has foisted on the nation, stating that the last five years of president Muhammadu Buhari's government has become the worst in the history of the country. Tony Ezimako, Joy Anigbogu of [Independent News \(30th May\)](#) write. Chief Adesunbo Onitiri, a political commentator, has asked the federal government not to take further foreign loans to finance the current budget as the loans are posing serious danger to future generations. [The Nation \(30th May\)](#) details. Reacting to the concerns, the federal government however, said the increase in borrowing this year was due to the effects of COVID-19 which depleted the nation's revenue profile. Sunday Abor-Isade, [Punch News \(2nd June\)](#).

Crisis Looms in Nigeria Health Sector as Federal Government Cuts Health Budget Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

The rampaging effect of COVID-19 has thrown up new challenges as the federal government has put its plans forward to cut the budget for the health sector due to dwindling revenues, Eniola Akinkuotu reports in [Punch News \(3rd June\)](#). This has put the government and the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) at loggerheads with the unions threatening to embark on strike. According to Chioma Obinna, of [Vanguard News \(31st May\)](#), NARD has given a 14 day notice to commence strike if the Federal Government does not provide Personal Protective Equipment

(PPEs), pay COVID-19 inducement allowances, and recall sacked resident doctors at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

The decision by the federal government has been also faulted by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP). Gbade Ogunwale, [The Nation \(3rd June\)](#), reports that the PDP charged President Muhammadu Buhari to reverse the slash in the budget to reflect a 100 percent increase considering the health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. SERAP has dragged the federal government before the United Nations over plans to cut the budgetary allocation to education and health care. The group, in its petition, urged the UN to prevail upon the Federal Government to drop the plan to spend N27bn on the renovation of the National Assembly complex. Oladimeji Ramon, [Punch News \(4th June\)](#) details.

Tension over Upcoming Governorship Elections

Friday Olorok of [Punch News \(4th June\)](#), reports that apart from the Edo and Ondo states governorship elections scheduled for 19th September and 10th October 2020, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would be conducting 10 bye-elections, including the five senatorial and four state assembly bye-elections spread across nine States of the federation. INEC said that despite the COVID-19-pandemic, postponing the 2020 elections would throw Nigeria into a constitutional crisis.

However, there is an internal crisis within the ruling party, the All Progressive Congress (APC), that may affect the success of the party in the upcoming elections, Samson Adenekan analyses in [All Africa \(2nd June\)](#). The crisis revolves around the rivalry between the Executive Governor of Edo State Goodwin Obaseki and his predecessor, the national party chairman, Adams Oshiomhole. Obaseki warns the chairman to keep out of the party primaries in the state, James Kwen in [Business Day \(3rd June\)](#) reports. Meanwhile another crisis on state level rocks the APC. The Kwara state branch of the APC following the decamp of about 10,000 members to the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The members left the APC because of unfulfilled campaign promises, Layi Olanrewaju of [Daily Sun \(4th June\)](#) details.

Nigerian Security Short of Manpower as Army Chief Gives Insights on Current Security Threats

Nigeria's Minister of Defence, Maj. Gen Bashir Magashi has disclosed that manpower shortage, inadequate funding of the ministry among others are the key challenges that hamper the effectiveness of security agencies. He made this disclosure during a presentation at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari. Maj. Gen. Magashi further outlined the successes and failures of some of ongoing operations, and the contributions being made by the FEC to enhance the effectiveness of the Ministry of Defence. Juliana Taiwo-Obalonye of [Daily Sun \(4th June\)](#) details. On a similar note, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusuf Buratai, has bemoaned the nature of the terrorist threats which is moving from the North-East zone to the North-Central zone. Buratai stated this through the Chief of Planning and Policy, Lt-Gen. Lamidi Adeosun, at the groundbreaking ceremony of the 4 Special Forces Command of the Nigerian Army barracks at Doma in Nasarawa State. Jude Johnson of [Global Sentinel \(2nd June\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has called on Nigeria's military authorities to intensify their efforts and increase their personnel by recruiting more and recalling retired officers to form corps of reserves to tackle the insurgency and myriad of security challenges across the country. The call was contained in a report by the Chairman, House Committee on Army, Abdulrazak Namdaz. Jude Johnson, [Global Sentinel \(4th June\)](#) writes. In a bid to resolve rising killings and insecurity in the country, the House has invited the National Security Adviser, all the security chiefs, Director, Department of State Security and Inspector General of Police to brief the House on the state of insecurity in the country. [Daily Times \(5th June\)](#) explains further.

Amidst COVID-19, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Rises

The rising cases of rape and other forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, have elicited uproar in the media as more women, activists and many concerned Nigerians are calling for strict measures to address the malaise. Nduka Orjinmo, [BBC News \(5th June\)](#) details. The Senate has condemned the rape and

murder of Vera Uwa Omozuwa in a church in Benin City, Edo State, and called on all relevant authorities in the country to ensure stiffer punishments for rapists in the country. Deji Elumoye in [This Day \(3rd June\)](#). In the similar vein, the House of Representatives, urged the 36 state governments and the Federal Capital Territory Administration to domesticate the Child's Rights Act to checkmate child abuses such as rape. It also di-

rected the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, to set up Investigations Units across the country to tackle the rising rate of rape against women. The House further asked the IGP to immediately carry out investigations into the case of Uwa Omozuwa and all other reported cases of violence against women in order to bring the criminals to justice. James Kwen of [Business Day \(4th June\)](#) writes.

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