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Nigeria Office

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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 the overall situation in Nigeria.

Content

President Tinubu Suspends Key Tax Measures, Value Added Tax Initiative for the Informal Sector Announced, President Tinubu Pledges Support for USD 5 Billion Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Project, Drugs and Health Care Costs Spike by 150%, Resident Doctors Extend Strike Ultimatum by 14 Days, States Order Evacuation Following Flooding Warning

Tinubu and APC Close Defense in Presidential Election Petition Suit, Principal Officers of National Assembly Selected, Reactions to European Union Election Report

Insecurity: Three Chinese Warships Arrive Nigeria, Over 400 Prison Escapees Yet to be Captured, Gunmen Attack Residents in Ebonyi State, Gunmen Invade Enugu State to Enforce One Week Sit-At-Home Order, Military Eliminates 35 Terrorists, Inadequate Funding Prevents MNJTF from Degrading ISWAP Terrorists

President Tinubu Suspends Key Tax Measures, FG Announces Value Added Tax Initiative for the Informal Sector, President Tinubu Pledges Support for USD 5 Billion Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Project, Drugs and Health Care Costs Spike by 150%, Resident Doctors Extend Strike Ultimatum by 14 Days, States Order Evacuation Following Flooding Warning

To boost manufacturing and ease economic hardships on Nigerians, president Bola Tinubu last week signed four executive orders (EO) suspending key tax measures. According to presidential advisers, the need to respect the international best practice of giving a 90-day window to investors before new taxes are introduced also brought about the EOs. Officials explained that the federal government would only raise taxes after full consultation with stakeholders. According to Dele Alake, special adviser on communication, the first executive order is the Finance Act (Effective Date Variation) Order, which has now deferred the commencement date of the changes to September 1, 2023, to ensure adherence to the 90 days' minimum advance notice for tax changes as contained in the 2017 National Tax Policy. Bolaji Ogundele, [The Nation News \(7th July\)](#) reports.

Through the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the federal government (FG) has announced a value added tax (VAT) direct initiative, a scheme enabling the FG to collect VAT from the informal sector and reduce multiple taxations in the informal economy. FIRS stated that it was partnering with the Market Traders Association of Nigeria to collect and remit VAT from their members, especially those in the informal sector, using a unified systems technology. The service further said that this would help tackle multiple taxations in the marketplace through partnerships with security agencies to curb the activities of touts and self-imposed tax collectors. William Ukpe, [Nairametrics \(4th July\)](#) reports.

While receiving a group of joint venture partners, president Bola Tinubu has expressed his support for developing a USD 5 billion floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, the first of its kind in Nigeria. Tinubu promised his support when he received a group of joint venture partners. After the meeting, the head of the delegation revealed that the multiple FLNG is being implemented with a USD 5 billion loan from Afriexim Bank. The project is expected to become operational in the first quarter of 2026 and shall produce 300,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas per year and provide

7,000 direct jobs for Nigerians with the FLNG facility anchored offshore in Akwa Ibom state. When completed, the facility would produce 1.5 million tons of LNG for export on an annual basis, 300,000 tons for the domestic market and some quantities of condensate. Eliminating the flaring of associated gas aims at supporting Nigeria meet its climate change goals. Jonathan Nda-Isiah, [The Leadership News \(5th July\)](#) reports.

The inflationary impact of floating of the Naira as well as the fuel subsidy removal is now also showing in a price hike of essential drugs and cost of care in the health sector. Findings show that some drugs are fast getting out of stock or are unaffordable. Although the federal government plans to reduce the importation of drugs from 60% to 40% to promote the local manufacturing of drugs, currently 70% of medicines consumed in the country are imported. Consultant pharmacist Aadaeze Omaliko estimated the current price increase ranging between 100% and 200%. Following him, the price hike in the health sector caused many deaths as many Nigerians are no longer able to go to hospitals. In Nigeria, 70% of the cost of care is paid by the patients themselves. Chukwuma Muanya, [The Guardian News \(6th July\)](#) reports.

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has extended an already expired ultimatum issued to the federal government by two weeks with effect from July 5. The doctors, in a communique issued emphasized that at the expiration of the further extended ultimatum by July 19, 2023, could, if all its demands are not met, result in further protests in the health sector nationwide. The NARD executive council stated disappointment that seven weeks since the end of the five-day warning strike action embarked upon by the association to press their demands the resolutions of the conciliatory meeting were yet to be implemented. Kazeem Biriowo, [Tribune Online News \(6th July\)](#) reports.

State governments have directed residents living around flood plains and erosion spots to vacate these danger zones in a timely manner. The advisory is coming against the backdrop of the heavy rainfall predicted for July in some states, even as the federal government also sounded a warning to the citizens living near natural waterways, flood plains and erosion spots. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in a statement warned that 14 states and 31 communities might witness heavy rainfall that could lead to flooding. The NEMA Lagos territorial office urged relevant

stakeholders within the states concerned to take precautionary measures to forestall the loss of lives and property and thanked the flood early warning system central hub of the for sharing the information. Meanwhile, the Senate has urged the federal ministry of water resources to revisit the proposed construction of the Dasin Hausa dam to take in flood waters coming from Cameroon. Tope Omogbolagun et al., [The Punch News \(6th July\)](#) report.

Principal Officers of National Assembly Selected, Tinubu and APC Close Defense in Presidential Election Petition Suit, Reactions to European Union Election Report

President Bola Tinubu and his party, the All Progressive Congress (APC), have closed their defense in the suit of the Labour Party (LP) and its presidential candidate Peter Obi challenging the outcome of the presidential elections. Obi came third in the presidential election and is urging the court to overturn the election results on account of electoral fraud and non-compliance with statutory provisions in the conduct of the poll. President Tinubu's lead lawyer, Wole Olanipekun, tendered volumes of documents to defend the president's mandate. Key among them were academic records of Tinubu from the Chicago State University in the United States (US), details of the president's Nigerian passport and a clearance letter from the US Embassy in Nigeria to the Nigeria police. The five-member panel of the court admitted the documents in evidence despite opposition from Obi's lawyer. Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [The Premium Times News \(5th July\)](#) reports.

The selection of principal officers of the National Assembly brewed disagreement between president Bola Tinubu and the national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Abdullahi Adamu, as he was blanked out in the decision on how the lawmakers zoned offices. Adamu distanced the ruling party from selecting principal officers of the National Assembly. On the other hand, APC governors endorsed the appointments and described the new officers as prominent members of the party. Sources close to the presidency told The Guardian that Tinubu was privy to the zoning and appointments of the principal officers. Still, they expressed concerns that the party needed to be made aware of how the decisions were made. At the resumption of the National Assembly, president of the Senate Godswill Akpabio announced Ekiti lawmaker Opeyemi Bamidele as the Senate

majority leader, Ebonyi lawmaker Dave Umahi as deputy majority leader, Borno lawmaker Ali Ndume as chief whip and Kwara lawmaker Lola Ashiru as deputy whip. Similarly, Speaker of the House of Representatives Tajudeen Abbas announced Edo lawmaker Julius Ihonvbere as the House majority leader. Other principal officers are Kogi lawmaker Halims Abdullahi as deputy majority leader, Gombe lawmaker Usman Kumo as chief whip and Ogun lawmaker Adewumi Onanuga as House deputy chief whip. On the minority side, Kano lawmaker Ali Madaki emerged as the deputy minority leader and Ogun lawmaker Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga as the deputy chief whip of the House. Rivers lawmaker Kingsley Chinda had earlier been named the minority leader of the House of the Representatives. Muyiwa Adeyemi, et al., [The Guardian News \(5th July\)](#) report.

The presidency has described the European Union (EU) Election Observation Mission (EOM) report on the 2023 general elections as an attempt to ridicule the Nigerian electoral system and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), arguing that the report was predetermined. The presidency claims that the EU had manifested signs of bias earlier in the run-up to the elections and that the report was only collated to justify the already manifested bias against the system. Atiku Abubakar, the People's Democratic Party presidential candidate, through his communication assistant, hailed the monitoring group for stating that the last election was fraught with electoral irregularities and failed to meet the minimum standard of credibility. Similarly, the Labour Party disclosed that the federal government's effort to discredit the report was a failed attempt at face-saving and that the EU's report was impeccable and reflected the proper position of the majority of the electorate. Deji Elumoye and Enameh Gabriel, [This Day Live News \(4th July\)](#) report.

Insecurity: Three Chinese Warships Arrive Nigeria, Over 400 Prison Escapees Yet to be Captured, Gunmen Attack Residents in Ebonyi State to Enforce One Week Sit-At-Home Order, Gunmen Invade Enugu State, Military Eliminates 35 Terrorists, Inadequate Funding Prevents MNJTF from Degrading ISWAP Terrorists

Three Chinese warships are visiting Nigeria as part of growing naval cooperation between the two countries. According to the Nigerian navy, the Chinese Escort Task Group 162, comprising three ships, arrived in Nigeria after escorting a Chinese

merchant vessel from the Gulf of Aden. They are on call on completion of tasks before heading home. The visit is to improve diplomacy, Nigeria's navy spokesman said. The visit comes after US defense officials expressed concern over Chinese plans for a military base on West Africa's Atlantic coast last year. [Punch News \(3rd July\)](#) reports.

Exactly one year after the attack on the Kuje medium security custodial center in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) by the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP), authorities at the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCOS) have said that out of the over 800 inmates that escaped during the attack, only 415 have been rearrested and are back in custody. The search is still ongoing to apprehend all those who escaped. In collaboration with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) their pictures and details have been sent to all borders checkpoints. The attack on the Kuje facility was considered a national assault and a clear threat to the security of Nigeria's capital. Tina Abeku, [The Guardian News \(5th July\)](#) reports.

Masked gunmen attacked residents and traders in Ebonyi state, shooting and chasing traders at a market in the state capital Abakaliki. The gunmen were said to be enforcing the controversial one-week sit at home order declared by a faction of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). Members of the group were also seen setting some tricycles ablaze and destroying goods in the market as well as hitting a tricyclist with a plastic chair and their rifles. The police spokesperson in the state confirmed the incident, stating that no one was lethally wounded during the attack. Chinagorom Ugwu, [Premium Times News \(5th July\)](#) reports.

Unrest furthermore occurred in Enugu state following reports of shooting by unknown gunmen, who allegedly invaded the town to enforce a one-week sit at home order by the Simeon Ekpa-led Biafra independence agitators. The group had said the order was part of efforts to secure the release of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) leader

Nnamdi Kanu from detention. Enugu residents had defied the order after the state government threatened to close down markets, schools and other institutions that comply with the restriction. Joint teams of police and soldiers patrolled and police armored tanks and military helicopters were rolled out to check uprisings. When normalcy was restored, most people did not return to their businesses. Banks had closed but did not reopen, as roads remained deserted with few commercial and private cars operating. The state government assured residents of their safety, stressing that the ban on sit at home in the state exists. Lawrence Njoku, [The Guardian News \(6th July\)](#) reports.

The Defense Headquarters (DHQ) says troops of the armed forces have in the last three weeks eliminated 35 terrorists and apprehended others in various operations in the north-west. The troops, in conjunction with Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), conducted an ambush operation in Borno state and neutralized a notorious terrorist commander. Further, the offensive operations against the terrorists also led to the surrender of 967 people. Arms and ammunition were recovered during the various operations in the zone. [Premium Times News \(6th July\)](#) reports.

The executive secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and head of mission of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) during Lake Chad Governor's Forum meeting in N'Djamena, Chad, has revealed that the MNJTF cannot sustain large-scale operations against the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) due to inadequate, inconsistent and insufficient funding. Funding for the force is not readily available from contributing countries and partners due to the economic downturn across the world after Covid-19 and Russia's invasion into Ukraine which altogether is significantly hindering the force's effectiveness. Despite the challenges, the MNJTF had recorded tremendous successes in restoring sanity and security in the Lake Chad region. [Sahara Reporters \(6th July\)](#) reports.



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