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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 situation in Nigeria.

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Health: NCDC Reports Monkeypox Infections at 300

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control's (NCDC) latest monthly situation report on Monkeypox disclosed that Nigeria recorded 41 new confirmed cases of Monkeypox infections from 29 August to 4 September, raising the total number of cases reported in 2022 to 318. In addition, the report shows that the suspected. Monkey pox cases increased to 815, as the country recorded 111 new suspected cases within the same week under review. The disease control center noted that seven deaths had been recorded in seven states in 2022. The states are Delta (1), Lagos (1), Ondo (1), Akwa Ibom (1), Kogi (1), Taraba (1) and Imo (1). The report further noted that since the re-emergence of Monkey pox in September 2017, 1,327 suspected cases have been reported in the country, and 544 of the figure representing 41.0 per cent, were confirmed (358 males, 186 female) were from 32 states. [Mariam Illeyemi, \(October 2nd\)](#) reports.

ECOWAS Charge Member States on Tackling Corruption, Nigeria Records First Pan-African Payment and Settlement Transaction, FG Issues N 720 Billion Loan Plan, Crude Oil Exports Fall Due to Illegal Theft

The speaker of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, Sidie Tunis, has called on the Heads of State and Government to institute measures that would decisively fight corruption in the region. Tunis said the call became necessary because bribery was responsible for the slow pace of economic growth in the region and called on members of the parliament to remain sensitive to the challenges confronting the achievements of regional integration. Speaking at a parliament's high-level seminar in Lomé, Togo, touching on the restructuring of the ECOWAS Commission, the speaker expressed optimism that the seminar would increase the understanding of the Members of Parliament of the extent of their enhanced powers and take full ownership of them as well as institutional reforms in the ECOWAS. Idara Ukpayang, [Radio Nigeria \(October 4th\)](#) reports.

Nigeria has emerged as the first country in Africa to record a successful transaction through the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). PAPSS serves as a cross-border payments and settlement platform for the African

continent and is meant to integrate for Intra-African Trade and other economic activities among African countries. The AfCFTA avails an opportunity for a customer in one African country to pay in their currency. In contrast, the beneficiary in another country receives value in their local currency. It was also designed to reduce transaction time and cost of cross-border financial services by curbing dependency on hard currency and significant unknown transaction delays. Nume Ekeghe, [This Day Live News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) released the Federal Government's Bonds Issuance Calendar for the fourth quarter of 2022, containing an N 720 billion borrowing plan. Amidst growing concerns of the existing N 41.60 trillion debts and as a defence to the borrowing spree from Nigerians, the Director General of DMO, Patience Oniha, attributed the increased debt stock to dwindling revenues and the deficit in the annual budget as approved by the National Assembly. [Daily Post News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

Officials in Nigeria discovered an illegal connection line from one of its major oil export terminals into the sea that had been operating undetected for nine years. Oil theft in the country has been a reality for over 22 years. Still, the dimension and rate it assumed in recent times are unprecedented. The 2.5-mile connection from the Forcados export terminal, which typically exports around 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil, into the sea was found during a strategic tracing on theft in the past six weeks, Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Chief Executive Mele Kyari told a parliamentary committee. As a result, crude oil exports fell below 1 million bpd in August for the first time since at least 1990. Camillus Eboh, [Reuters News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

SERAP Threatens Court Action on FG, Police Over Attacks on Labour Party Supporters, Presidency Denies Claims of Coercion, INEC Says it will Deploy Undercover Security Operatives to Polling Units,

The civil society organization Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has threatened to take the Federal Government led by President Muhammadu Buhari and the Nigeria Police Force to court over alleged attacks on supporters of the Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi. A social media user known as Obi Flag Boy was allegedly attacked in Lagos on Sunday for

supporting the Labour Party candidate. On September 17, some politicians allegedly ordered the Ebonyi State Police Command to stop the converging supporters to enhance support for former Anambra State governor Obi. However, SERAP, in a tweet, vowed to seek redress in court over the alleged attacks, saying everyone has the right to “participation and assembly”. Ochogwu Sunday, [The Daily Post News \(October 1st\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the presidency has confuted claims by the Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi, of the arrest and intimidation of his supporters. In a tweet, Obi said an election could not be adjudged credible if there is intimidation. He condemned what he described as “extremely disturbing” reports of the arrest and arm-twisting of his supporters. However, a presidential source who pleaded for anonymity said: “Accusations made on social media by the presidential aspirant, Peter Obi, that some of his supporters, known as ‘Obidients’, have been ‘silently arrested’ are without foundation or fact.” According to the source, both the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of State Services have officially confirmed that no arrests whatsoever have been made of any of Obi’s supporters. Rapheal, [The Sun News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has rolled out measures to constrain vote buying and increase transparency ahead of the 2023 general elections. INEC’s National Commissioner, Festus Okoye, spoke on the measures during the citizen’s elections dialogue hosted by the Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA) Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Channels TV. Okoye said the commission had made a deliberate effort to include technology in the electoral process to avoid “human interference”. He noted that INEC was collaborating with the different security agencies under the auspices of the Interagency Consultative Committee on Election Security to make sure that plainclothed security personnel are deployed to some polling

units on election day to stem the issue of vote buying and vote selling. Claire Mom, [The Cable News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Remaining Victims of the Kaduna Train Kidnappings Regain Freedom

Terrorists yesterday released the remaining 23 passengers on the Abuja-Kaduna train abducted on March 28, 2022. Aminu Lawal Othman, spokesperson for the train attack victims, confirmed their release and explained the operation was purely a military affair, even as he thanked Nigerians for their prayers and support during their trying times. A statement by the Chief of Defence Staff Action Committee (CDC), signed by its secretary Prof. Usman Yusuf, said the victims were released by their abductors on Wednesday at about 4 pm. The release came after they had spent six months and eight days in the terrorists’ captivity, during which they were tortured and subjected to dehumanizing treatment. Isiah Benjamin et al., [The Leadership News \(October 6th\)](#) reports.

No fewer than 80 motorcycles, known as okadas, were seized by operatives of the Ondo State Security Network Agency, known as Amotekun Corps, for breaking the rules prohibiting the use of okadas throughout the state from 6 pm to 6 am. According to Akogun Adetunji Adeleye, Amotekun State Commander, the directive was a move to purge the state of criminally inclined individuals and organizations. The State Government had mandated last month that the prohibition on motorcycle operations outside the given timeframe and nightclub activities after midnight be enforced. The Amotekun Commander confirmed the arrest and claimed that his men had been put in an excellent position to arrest the violators. According to him, only law enforcement officers or those performing essential services are permitted to move during that period because they must have valid identity cards before riding any motorbike. Abdul Babajide, [The Daily Post News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.



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