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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 the overall situation in Nigeria.

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### **Nigeria's Inflation Rate Drops for the First-Time in 19 Months, Nigeria Experiences Crude Oil Production Uptick, 227,494 Persons Affected and 32,837 Houses Damaged by Flooding, Azman Air Grounds Flights, Direct Staff to Take Unpaid Leave, 70% Decline in Nigeria's Elephant Population**

Nigeria's headline inflation rate decreased to 33.40% in July 2024, down from 34.19% in June 2024. This marks the first decline in the headline inflation rate since December 2022, when it last dropped to 21.34%. On a year-on-year basis, the rate was 9.32% higher than in July 2023, when it stood at 24.08%. This indicates an increase in the headline inflation rate on a year-on-year basis for July 2024 compared to the same month in the previous year. Core inflation, which excludes the prices of volatile agricultural products and energy, reached 27.47% in July 2024 on a year-on-year basis, marking an increase of 6.99% compared to the 20.47% recorded in July 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the core inflation rate was 2.16% in July 2024, up from 2.06% in June 2024, reflecting an increase of 0.10%. Aghogho Udi, [Nairametrics \(August 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Nigeria's crude oil production saw a significant increase in July 2024, reaching 1.307 million barrels per day (bpd), according to the latest report from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This marks a 30,000 bpd rise from June's production level of 1.276 million bpd. However, secondary sources report a slightly different figure, with average daily production for June standing at 1.386 million bpd, a 16,000 bpd increase from May's output. Despite the recent uptick, Nigeria still falls short of its OPEC-set production quota of 1.5 million bpd. Nevertheless, the country maintains its position as Africa's largest oil producer, with Libya trailing behind at 1.175 million bpd in July. The Nigerian government, through the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), has set an ambitious target to reach 2 million bpd by the end of December 2024. [Vanguard News \(August 12<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Azman Air, a Nigerian airline, has suspended its flight operations indefinitely and directed its staff to proceed on leave without pay. The airline cited operational reasons for the suspension, without providing further details. This move has left passengers stranded and staff uncertain about their future. The suspension comes at a time when the Nigerian aviation industry is facing challenges, in-

cluding fuel scarcity and economic difficulties. Azman Air has promised to provide updates on when flight operations will resume. Joke Falaju, [The Guardian News \(August 12<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) says a total of 227,494 persons are affected and 32,837 houses damaged by flood in 27 states across the country. NEMA added that 16,488 hectares of farmland with crops have also been destroyed. According to the agency, the country experiences significant flooding during the rainy season, particularly in low-lying areas and regions near rivers and coastal zones, stressing that urbanization and inadequate waste management often lead to blocked drainages, worsening the impact of floods. Climate change had intensified those challenges, increasing the frequency and severity of flooding events, saying that the consequences were far-reaching, affecting millions of people through displacement, damage to homes and infrastructure and disruptions to agriculture and livelihoods. Amos Tauna, [Daily Post News \(August 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Wild Africa has raised concerns about the declining elephant population in Nigeria, calling for better protection. The organization's representative, Festus Iyolah, stated that the population has decreased by 70% over the past 30 years, from 1,200-1,500 to just 300-400 elephants today. Poaching for ivory and habitat destruction are major threats, pushing elephants to the brink of local extinction. Habitat loss also leads to human-elephant conflict. Wild Africa commends Nigeria's National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) for 2024-2034, which aims to stabilize elephant numbers through monitoring, combating illegal ivory trade and maintaining habitats. The National Elephant Action Plan also includes community engagement, tourism benefits and regional cooperation. [Premium Times News \(August 13<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Tinubu Gets Vote of Confidence from Ex-Presidents, Lawmaker Exposes Senators Monthly Earnings, Speaker of the House Withdraws Subversion Bill, 67% of Nigerian Doctors Work in United Kingdom, Tinubu on State Visit in Equatorial Guinea**

In a show of unity and support, former Nigerian leaders, including president Muhammadu Buhari and Goodluck Jonathan, gathered to pass a vote of confidence in president Bola Tinubu. Notable ab-

sences were observed, as former presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Ibrahim Babangida were not present at the meeting. The vote of confidence is seen as a significant endorsement of Tinubu's leadership and a demonstration of unity among Nigeria's past leaders. The meeting was attended by various former heads of state, who came together to express their support for the current administration. The absence of Obasanjo and Babangida, however, has sparked interest and speculation about their stance on Tinubu's leadership. Terhamba Daka and Adamu Abuh, [The Guardian News \(August 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) report.

Nigerian senator Kawu Sumaila has revealed that each senator earns at least NGN 21 million monthly, comprising salaries, allowances and running costs. This contrasts with the country's minimum wage of NGN 70,000. Sumaila, a member of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), disclosed that his monthly salary is less than NGN 1 million, but with running costs, his total earnings exceed NGN 21 million. This revelation has sparked controversy, with former president Olusegun Obasanjo accusing senators of fixing their own salaries and allowances. The Senate spokesperson has denied the allegations, but the chairman of the Revenue Mobilization Fiscal Allocation Commission confirmed that each senator earns NGN 1,063,860 monthly in salary and allowances. However, the running cost remains undisclosed and only the National Assembly Commission can determine the total amount. This lack of transparency has led to concerns about the legitimacy of the senators' earnings. Abdulqudus Ogundapo, [Premium Times News \(August 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, has withdrawn the controversial Counter Subversion Bill after widespread public outcry. The bill, which proposed a 10-year jail term and NGN 5 million fine for those who refuse to recite the national anthem and pledge, sparked intense criticism. Following "careful consideration" and consultations with stakeholders, Abbas decided to shelve the bill. His spokesperson stated that the speaker values listening to citizens and fostering unity and will not support any action that might disrupt the country's harmony. The withdrawal of the bill, introduced on July 23, 2024, has been officially announced. Dyepkazah Shibayan, [The Cable News \(August 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Nigeria's coordinating minister of health and social welfare, Muhammad Pate, has revealed that 67% of Nigerian doctors practice in the United

Kingdom (UK), with 25% of the UK's National Health Service (NHS) workforce comprising Nigerian-trained professionals. Pate emphasized that these health workers are in high demand globally and their departure would significantly impact the NHS. To address this brain drain, Pate proposed that countries hiring Nigerian health workers, like the UK, should support Nigeria's pre-service education programs to balance migration with local training efforts. He suggested a compact where recruiting countries would help train more health workers in Nigeria to replace those who leave. Pate acknowledged that over 75% of health workers trained in Nigeria in the past year have left for opportunities abroad. [Vanguard News \(August 14<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu and the president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Mbasogo, in Malabo signed an agreement on the Gulf of Guinea pipeline project, further affirming the partnership for mutual development. The agreement covers legislative and regulatory measures for the gas pipeline, establishment and operation, transit of natural gas, ownership of the gas pipeline and general principles, a statement announced. The two leaders further discussed issues on the creation of employment, food security, multilateral relations and conflict resolution mechanisms on the continent during a private meeting. Tinubu also revealed that the discussion with president Mbasogo covered challenges of security and the African Continental Free Trade Area. In his remarks, the president of Equatorial Guinea said bilateral relations with Nigeria over many years have been rewarding and emphasized the need to deepen cooperation across salient areas. Stephen Angbulu, [Punch News \(August 16<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Troops Killed 147 Terrorists, Rescued 113 Abducted Persons in One Week**

The national defence headquarters announced that troops killed 147 terrorists during operations in various parts of the country in one week. According to the national defence headquarters, 381 suspects have been arrested and 113 kidnapped victims rescued. 41 Boko Haram terrorists and members of the Islamic States of West African Province (ISWAP), including 28 children, surrendered to troops in Borno, while 11 terrorists were killed. In Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Taraba, Katsina, Kano and Zamfara state the troops also killed terrorists. Maryam Abdullahi, [The Cable News \(August 15<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.



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