

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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As of March 2024, Nigeria's public debt has soared to NGN 121.67 trillion, marking a sharp increase of NGN 24.33 trillion (24.99%) in just three months. The Debt Management Office (DMO) attributes this surge to the devaluation of the Naira. The country's domestic debt is NGN 65.65 trillion, while external debt stands at NGN 56.02 trillion. This rise is mainly due to new borrowing to cover the 2024 budget deficit and the securitization of advances from the Central Bank of Nigeria. To ensure debt sustainability, improved government revenue is essential, as highlighted in the 2024 budget. Joseph Chibueze, [Guardian News \(21st June\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NURPC) announced the inclusion of 17 additional deep offshore oil blocks in the 2024 licensing round. NURPC emphasized the dedication to maximizing the value of Nigeria's oil and gas reserves and boosting production. The commission highlighted ongoing collaborations with multi-client companies to enhance exploratory activities and attract further investment in the upstream sector. The public is encouraged to participate in this auction. Okechukwu Nnodim, [Punch News \(19th June\)](#) reports.

The World Food Programme (WFP) plans to expand its food and nutrition assistance in West and Central Africa starting in June. With 55 million people expected to face acute hunger during the lean season, WFP aims to support 7.3 million people when hunger levels peak and food resources dwindle from June to August. The program will aid the response plans of national governments in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The agency warns that the 2024 seasonal forecast predicts weather conditions that could disrupt farming and extend the lean season, underscoring the need for sustainable solutions to enhance food security and increased investment. [Premium Times News \(19th June\)](#) reports.

A cholera outbreak in Lagos has claimed 21 lives and infected 401 people, according to the Lagos state ministry of health. The increase in cases was expected following large gatherings during the

Eid-el Kabir celebration. Health officials are actively testing water sources, food and beverages in collaboration with the ministry of environment to pinpoint the source of contamination. Residents are urged to seek medical attention immediately if they notice symptoms. [Daily Trust News \(20th June\)](#) reports.

Nigeria faces a significant deficit in blood donations, with only 27% of the needed blood supply coming from voluntary donors. This means the country falls short by 73.3% each year, causing serious delays in medical treatments and sometimes resulting in loss of lives. According to the National Blood Service Commission, Nigeria needs 500,000 pints of blood annually from voluntary donors to meet its requirements. Ojoma Akor, [Daily Trust News \(18th June\)](#) reports.

President Tinubu Meet with Re-Elected President of South Africa, Rivers Governor Fubara Orders Remote Operations for Caretaker Chairmen, Kano State Government Upholds Sanusi as Emir Despite Court Ruling

President Bola Tinubu returned to Abuja on Thursday evening after attending the inauguration of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa for his second term. During his visit, Tinubu held a private meeting with Ramaphosa to discuss challenges facing African nations and the importance of collaboration. Tinubu praised Ramaphosa's inaugural speech, highlighting the shared issues and the need for closer cooperation. The meeting reinforced the strong bond between Nigeria and South Africa, with both leaders committing to ongoing dialogue and partnership. [Vanguard News \(20th June\)](#) reports.

Governor Siminalayi Fubara has directed newly appointed caretaker committee (CTC) chairmen in Rivers state to work remotely if accessing council secretariats threatens public peace. Emphasizing a non-violent approach, he instructed the chairmen to avoid confrontations with security forces currently occupying the secretariats. Fubara urged the chairmen to perform their duties diligently from home and maintain law and order, ensuring the state's reputation remains untarnished amid ongoing crises. The state police command had on Tuesday announced, that it had taken over all the council headquarters. The three-year tenure of the former chairmen expired on Monday, but they had vowed to remain in office. Lawmakers loyal to Wike empowers them to remain in office for six

months due to the failure of Fubara to conduct local government elections. Femi Akinyemi, [Tribune News \(20th June\)](#) reports.

The Kano state government has upheld Lamido Sanusi's position as Emir, despite a Federal High Court ruling that nullified the law used to remove him and criticized the governor's actions. The court described the governor's actions as "a road to anarchy." In response, the government has ordered the removal of Emir Aminu Ado Bayero from the Nasarawa mini palace and instructed the police to enforce this decision. Plans are also underway to demolish and rebuild the palace. Abubakar Ahmadu Maishanu, [Premium Times News \(21st June\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Gunmen Attack Anambra Communities, Community Leader Kidnapped in Nasarawa State, Bandits Neutralized by Air Strikes in Kaduna State

Gunmen attacked a local government in Anambra state on Monday, killing several residents, including a vigilante commander. The attack began with the assailants opening fire on residents. The exact number of casualties remains unknown, but many

are currently hurt and hospitalized. The Nigerian government has blamed the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) for some of the violent incidents in the conflict torn south-east region of Nigeria. Chigorom Ugwu, [Premium Times News \(18th June\)](#) reports.

The Nasarawa state police command has confirmed the kidnapping of Alhaji Musa Shuaibu, the Madaki of Shabu, by five armed men on Wednesday evening. The kidnappers intercepted him near his home after evening prayers, firing shots into the air before taking him away. The police have initiated a thorough search and rescue operation, assuring the public of their commitment to safety and security. The community is in shock, expressing concern and solidarity with Shuaibu's family. Abel Leonard, [Sun News \(21st June\)](#) reports.

A yet unknown number of bandits have been eliminated in another coordinated attack by the military in Kaduna state. Air strikes by the troops successfully neutralized several bandits, including some of their leaders, near Yadi forest. An intelligence report had earlier revealed that bandits were to converge at the forest area for a meeting on a criminal mission within the Yadi forest area. [Premium Times News \(21st June\)](#) reports.

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