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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 COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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### **Covid-19: Nigeria Receives 100,000 Vaccines from India, President Buhari Changes Mandate of PTF**

The Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 (PTF), Boss Mustapha, has announced the delivery of 100,000 doses of Covidshield Covid-19 vaccines to Nigeria, from the government of India. Mustapha said, the government planned to vaccinate 109 million citizens against the virus in two years and the vaccination would be boosted by 50,000 with the latest delivery of vaccines. Nike Adebowale, [Premium Times News \(April 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In new reports, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the transition of the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 (PTF), to the Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19 (PSC) which would be effective by April 1. The new mandate followed the submission of the report to the president after the PTF completed its 3 months' mandate extension. The PTF Chairman, Mustapha, announced at the PTF, press briefing on April 6, that the new mandate was to reflect the non-emergent status of the Covid-19 as a potentially long-term pandemic. Mustapha added, that the tenure of the PSC scheduled to end on December 31, 2021, would reflect the new focus of the response with a targeted approach on vaccine oversight, risk communication, international travel quarantine processes and sub-national engagement. Olawale Ajimotokan, [This Day News \(April 7<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Resident Doctors, NBA, Begin Nationwide Strike FG, AFDB, Launch \$500m Innovation Programme**

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), commenced a nationwide industrial action on April 1, following an ultimatum issued to the federal government over payments of salaries for all federal and state tertiary health institutions. Reacting to the development, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige and the Minister of Health, Osagie Ehanire, warned that the federal government would implement the "no work, no pay," stating that the demands of the striking doctors have been met. Ignatius Igwe, [Channels News \(April 5<sup>th</sup>\)](#) details.

Similarly, Judiciary workers and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), embarked on a nationwide strike on Tuesday 6, that witnessed all courts across the nation shut down for 3 days. The strike was declared

against the denial of the judiciary to receive financial autonomy by the executive arm of government. The NBA vice president, John Aikpokpo Martins, described the silence of the federal government over the strike as "shocking." Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [Premium Times News \(April 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Buhari's administration alongside the African Development Bank (AfDB), has commenced the process to invest N240bn in the entertainment, creative and technology sectors. Laolu Akande, the Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, confirmed the details of the meeting presided over by Osinbajo, which included cabinet ministers and representatives of the AfDB. Akande, explained, that the funding is an outcome of the technology and creativity working group from the private and public sectors chaired by the vice-president. [Premium Times News \(April 5<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **PDP Allege Poaching by APC Ahead of 2023, Looming Defection Rumors**

A Spokesperson of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Kola Ologbondiyan, has maintained that the PDP will put its house in order to ensure that members do not defect. He spoke to channels Television, saying, that members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), should focus on good governance instead of defecting to the PDP. Ologbondiyan said, "as a result of that, the APC is blackmailing our governors. They are blackmailing Nigerians, irrespective of status, to come and join their party. I can assure you and truly equally assure Nigerians that we will do everything permissible within the electoral process and the law of our nation to keep our house in order, to ensure none of our governors will be taken again." Ayodele Oluwafemi, [The cable News \(April 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Similarly, Six Governors of the PDP visited the Zamfara State Governor, Bello Mattawalle, who alleged abandonment by PDP Governors. He said, "a child abandoned by his mother is likely to take food from a street beggar." The visit is coming after speculations surrounding Matawalle's defection to APC, became imminent, following a closed-door meeting with APC governors. Maiharaji Altine, [Punch News \(April 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

### Former Head of State Decry Proliferation of Illicit Weapons, Chief of Air Staff Restates Commitment to Shutting Down Insurgent Operations, El-Rufai Contends Boko Haram Financing, Buhari Appoints New IGP

Former Head of State and Chairman of the National Peace Committee (NPC), Abdulsalami Abubakar in a meeting with the Nigerian Guild of Editors, gave opinion on the alleged the circulation of illicit weapons across the country. He focused on proffering solutions to insecurity in Nigeria. Abdulsalami said, "It is estimated that over six million of such weapons are in circulation in our country. This certainly aggravated the insecurity and led to over 80,000 deaths and also we have close to three million internally displaced persons." [Channels News \(April 8<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Air Staff, Oladayo Amao, has given assurance, of the commitment of President Buhari and the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), towards putting insurgency and banditry to an end. He revealed, that efforts to recover the crashed NAF Alpha Jet Aircraft declared missing are ongoing. Amao added, that claims of the jet being shot down

by insurgents, is false. [Channels News \(April 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) writes.

On another note, the Governor of Kaduna State, Nasir El-Rufai, has decried that banditry and insurgency have evolved and could be described as a business and a structured industry. He alleged that "It has been established that the kidnapping operations (by bandits) are substantially funding Boko Haram activities in the North East." El-Rufai added that, the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), has assembled in Bimin Gwari Local Government in Kaduna State, stating that the leader of ISWAP and his commanders, has been arrested and killed by military airstrikes. Akinola Ajibola, [Channels News \(April 4<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the minister of police affairs, Maigari Dingyadi, disclosed to State House correspondents on Tuesday 6, the approval of President Buhari to appoint Usman Alkali Baba, as acting Inspector General of Police (IGP). The minister stressed that the appointment was made after President Buhari considered his professionalism, competence and years of service. [Channels News \(April 6<sup>th</sup>\)](#) explains.

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