

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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FG to Consider Another Lockdown as Covid-19 Cases Rise, NDDC Admits Spending N1.5bn on Staff as Covid-19 Palliative

As the daily confirmed Covid-19 cases continue to rise, the federal government may propose another lockdown in the country after 2 weeks. Ebinoluwa Olafusi, [The Cable News \(6th July\)](#) details. The Presidential Task Force (PTF) said that it will not hesitate to advise President Buhari to enforce another lockdown as the increasing number of infected public officials may threaten the governance and security of the country. Leon Osigbe reports in [Nigerian Tribune \(6th July\)](#). The PTF has warned top government officials to avoid going to the airport with personal aides as part of the Covid-19 measures regarding travel. Chioma Obinna et al [Vanguard News \(7th July\)](#) explain. Meanwhile, the Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike has cautioned residents of the state to be on alert for travelers from Covid-19 endemic states. He advised that people coming into the state especially from Lagos State and Abuja be placed on 14 days isolation. Kayode Oyero [Punch News \(9th July\)](#) writes.

Meanwhile, the acting Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Kemebradikumo Pondei, has disclosed that the commission spent N1.5 billion for staff as 'COVID-19 relief funds'. He made this statement at the Senate investigative hearing on the N40 billion corruption allegation against the commission. Queen Esther Iroanusi writes in [Premium Times \(9th July\)](#)

Covid-19: CBN Devalues the Naira

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to take its toll on the economy, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has devalued the naira again by 5.5%. Unifying the exchange rates in the official market and the Investors and Exporters Window. Oladeinde Olawoyins [Premium Times \(8th July\)](#) details. Prior to this, the CBN had debited a total of N122bn from banks' excess cash with the apex bank in its move to devalue the Naira. Nike Popoola reports in [Punch News \(7th July\)](#). Meanwhile, foreign exchange traders are reluctant to put a fixed exchange rate following the Naira devaluation. Collins Nweze, [The Nation News \(7th July\)](#) details. Following this, traders made higher bids for Naira rates which crashed to N463 per \$1 in the black market. Omodele Adigun of [Daily Sun \(10th June\)](#) details.

Presidential Panel Grills Magu over Corruption Allegations, DSS Debunks Rumored Arrest of Magu

Following the petition filed 2 weeks ago by the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) Abubakar Malami, to President Muhammadu Buhari on corruption allegations against the acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ibrahim Magu, the presidential panel set up by President Buhari has interrogated Magu over the 24 corruption allegations. Eniola Akinkoutu and Adelani Adepegba [Punch News \(7th July\)](#) detail. Hinting on Malami's involvement, the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC), said that Malami belongs to a power-bloc "that is not really interested in, or in support of Buhari's anti-corruption fight". Joseph Jibueze, [The Nation \(7th July\)](#) reports. On the same note, Femi Odekunle, member of PACAC said that Magu's arrest is a result of a power play between Magu and Malami. Kunle Sanni, [Premium Times \(6th July\)](#) details.

Prior to this, it was reported that Magu was arrested by the Department for State Services (DSS). Debunking the rumor, the DSS said it did not arrest Magu. [Daily Sun \(6th July\)](#) details. Confirming this, the EFCC stated that Magu was not arrested but honored an invitation by the presidential panel. Kingsley Nweze writes in [This Day \(6th July\)](#). Following the outcome of the interrogation, Magu was eventually detained. [The Eagle Online \(7th July\)](#) explains.

On new developments, Magu has been suspended as the acting chairman of the EFCC following his interrogation by the presidential panel and Mohammed Umar has been appointed to run the affairs of the commission. [Cable News \(7th July\)](#) and Terhamba Daka et al, [Guardian News \(9th July\)](#) detail. As the probe on Magu by the presidential panel continues, Magu has been given 2 days to prepare his legal defence. Adetutu Folasade et al write in [Daily Sun \(9th July\)](#). Also, the Police Force has kicked against the probe of Magu as a Commissioner of Police insisting that "it is against its service rule for him to be under investigation and still function in office". Meanwhile, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has debunked allegations made against him via a tweet of collecting N4bn from Magu. Omololu Ogunmade et al detail in [This Day \(9th July\)](#).

Labour Minister and NSITF Bicker over Suspension of Top Officials and N3.4bn Fraud Allegations

The controversy over the suspension of top officials of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) by the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, due to the N3.4bn fraud allegation continues to generate mixed reactions in the media. The NSITF said the action of the minister contravenes the directives of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mutstapha on the limitations of ministers in their areas of supervision. Azeezat Adedigba writes in [Premium Times \(3rd July\)](#).

Following this, the management of the NSITF rejected the suspension by Ngige on the grounds that it did not follow due process and directives from President Muhammadu Buhari. Countering this, Ngige said that President Buhari authorized the suspension. Onyebuchi Ezigbo, [This Day \(5th July\)](#) explains. However, the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) opposed the suspension because it was not aware of the allegations as a board member of the NSTIF, and affirmed that the board will be conducting its investigation. Ife Ogunfuwa, [Punch News \(4th July\)](#) and Chike Olisah, [Nairametrics News \(6th July\)](#) report. Responding to this, Ngige said that the suspension was in line with the constitution, public service rules and the NSITF Act. Adelani Adepegba, [Punch News \(5th News\)](#) reports.

APC and PDP Differ on Relationship with Fraudsters, APC Members Defy Buhari's Orders on Court Cases

The All Progressives Party (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have accused each other as being accomplices to Raymond Igbalode aka, Hushpuppi who was arrested 2 weeks ago in Dubai, United Arab Emirate for several cases bothering on wire fraud. The APC had accused the PDP of having close relationship with Hushpuppi, Samson Adenekan writes in [Premium Times \(4th July\)](#). Responding to the allegation by the APC, the PDP said that the APC is "as reckless and irresponsible, and this further exposes a victimization agenda of the ruling party". Nasir Aytogo, [Premium Times \(5th July\)](#) details. In a similar vein, a civil society organization, Anti-Corruption Network has condemned the attack on the PDP by the APC. It implored President Buhari and the APC to desist from attacking the PDP. Olawale

Ajimotoke, [This Day \(8th July\)](#) explains. An article by Jimoh Oloredo, [Vanguard News \(9th July\)](#) further examines the issue.

Meanwhile. The setting up of the APC caretaker committee by President Buhari to resolve all internal issues may have yielded little or no result. Romanus Ugwu and Bamigbola, [Daily Sun \(10th July\)](#) and Seyi Olumide [Guardian News \(10th July\)](#) detail. The caretaker committee had enjoined members to resolve all issues out of court. Kelvin Ebiri [Guardian News \(7th July\)](#) explains. However, members have continued to defy the decision of the committee by filing fresh cases in court. John Chuks Azu [Daily Trust \(9th July\)](#) and [Daily Sun \(8th July\)](#) write. Also, an APC chieftain has filed a suit before a Federal High Court in Lagos seeking to dissolve the caretaker committee of the party. Bola Olabimtan, [The Cable News \(9th July\)](#) details.

In furtherance of the various crises rocking both parties, the APC and the PDP have witnessed cross defections of members between both parties, Egbejule and Azimazi Momoh Jimoh [Guardian News \(8th July\)](#) report.

Senate Amends Police Act, IGP Begins Restructuring

The Senate has amended the Police Act 2004 to provide a single term of four years for future Inspectors General of Police (IGP) following the report of the Senate committee on Police Affairs on, Henry Umoru [Vanguard News \(7th July\)](#) details. Meanwhile, the IGP has ordered the redeployment and posting of some officers following the creation of additional departments and zones. Chizoba Ogbeche of [Blueprint News \(4th July\)](#) details. On the same note, the IGP has inaugurated its Zone 13 Command Headquarters for Enugu, Ebonyi and Anambra states. This development stems from the recent approval for the reorganization of the Police Force by President Buhari. Osiberoha Osibe, [Guardian News \(8th July\)](#) details.

Insecurity: Boko-Haram Attacks UN Helicopter as Military and MNJTF Intensify Attacks

The Boko Haram sect has continued to terrorize the country with various attacks especially in the North-East. The United Nations (UN) has condemned the recent attack on its humanitarian helicopter that killed about 2 persons and injured

others in Borno state. Timothy Olanrewaju reports in [Daily Sun \(5th July\)](#). Following the attack, the UN has suspended the operations of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in the North-East, Njadvara Musa and Cornelius Essen write in [Guardian News \(6th July\)](#). Condemning the attack, President Buhari vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. Jonathan Nda-Isaiah, [Leadership News \(6th July\)](#) details.

In another attack, 37 soldiers were killed in an ambush by the Boko Haram sect, Abdulkareem Haruna of [Premium Times \(9th July\)](#) explains. Meanwhile, the Nigerian Military claims to have continued to intensify its counter insurgency efforts in the North-East with aerial operations even as the Nigerian Air Force has continued its attack on bandits in Sokoto State, Jacob Segun Olatunji in [Nigerian Tribune \(6th July\)](#) and the [Global Sentinelng \(7th July\)](#) explain. The Nigerian Military claims further to have neutralized 92 terrorists and 104 bandits in one week in its fight against insurgency, [Daily Times \(10th July\)](#) details.

John Campbell and Jack McCaslin of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), however, say such announcements lack credibility. They claim that military officials “often undercount casualties and inflate the number of terrorists killed”. More details in [CFR Newsletter Africa in Transition \(9th July\)](#).

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has continued to carry out coordinated attacks in repelling terrorist activities despite the many logistics challenges the MNJTF is facing. In this regard, the Force Commander MNJTF, Major General Ibrahim Yusuf, has commended the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) for its support to the operations of the MNJTF. Timothy Antigha details further in [PR News \(4th July\)](#). However, a report by the [International Crisis Group \(7th July\)](#) examines the role of the MNJTF in the fight against Boko Haram and concludes that “inconsistent commitment to the force, funding problems and disjointed planning have hindered its effectiveness”.

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