



May 2021
Nigeria Office



Nigeria Press Review

07.05. – 14.05.2021

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: FG Announce Lockdown Restrictions Across the Country, Procure 29.5 million Doses of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Presidential Steering Committee, Mukhtar Mohammed, announced the reintroduction of covid-19 restrictions across the country. The new directive took effect from Tuesday 11. The restrictions, imposed mass gatherings in public spaces, access to government institutions, bars and nightclubs, across the country. [Channels News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

In developing news, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, disclosed at the 18th Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative webinar, the commitment of the federal government to procure 19.588 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Ahmed said that, the supplementary budget was being prepared by the ministry of finance to cover the cost of procuring and delivering the J & J covid-19 vaccine. Amarachi Okeh, [Punch News \(May 7th\)](#) reports.

PDP Upholds INEC on Electronic Voting for 2023 Elections, FG Meet Stakeholders over Impending Strike-Action,

The National Publicity Secretary, of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Kola Ologbondiyan, revealed the party's position on electronic transmission of results. He said that, the PDP, has demanded a transparent online voters' registration and insists that Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), use the electronic platform in the 2021 general elections. Ologbondiyan, also added that, "our party however urges INEC to ensure that the online registration of voters is credible, transparent, and not open to the manipulations of desperate politicians, particularly in the All-Progressives Congress." Victoria Edeme, [Punch News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

On the another, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, spoke with journalists at the conciliatory meeting between the government negotiating team and the representatives of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSN), and the Parliamentary Staff of Nigeria (PASAN). He said that,

the government had made offers to two unions and that a lot of work went into the government's proposal to substantially address the demands for judicial and legislative autonomy. [Premium Times News \(May 7th\)](#) reports.

Senate to Hold Zonal Hearings on Constitution Review, Reps Move to Summon President Buhari, Set to Begin Security Summit, Probe Former President Jonathan's Safe School Initiative

The Senate has said, public hearings on the review of the 199 Constitution, would hold from May 16 to 27. The Chairman of the Committee and Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, disclosed in a statement that the public hearings would be held simultaneously across 12 state capitals in the country, making it two public hearings per geo-political zone. Sunday Aborisade, [Punch News \(May 12th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum (Upstream), investigating the revocation and reversal of the operating license of OML 123, 124, 126 and 137, has given President Muhammadu Buhari, who doubles as the Minister of Petroleum, a 14-days ultimatum to appear before the House, to resolve the dispute between Chinese-owned oil companies and the federal government. Myrki Adar (APC, Sokoto), the Chairman of the committee, expressed readiness to summon the President, if the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, NNPC, Mele Kyari, failed to appear before the House. Bakare Mojeed, [Premium Times News \(May 7th\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the House of Representatives ad-hoc committee on National security, called for the submissions of memoranda, for the four-day security summit scheduled for May 24 to 28. The Clerk of the House, Chinedu Akubueze, has said, that the deadline for submission of memoranda would be May 20. Also, that the memoranda should be solution focused with emphasis on: local and community level security options, strategic kinetic national security and non-military and non-kinetic security." Bakare Majeed, [Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

On another note, the House of Representatives has resolved to investigate former President Goodluck Jonathan's, Safe School Initiative, launched after insurgents attacked the Government Girls College in Chibok and the alleged abandonment of the Initiative of Safe School Initiative in 2014. The House at plenary on Thursday, mandated the committee on Basic Education and Services to 'carry out an investigation of the use of over N2bn released for the Safe School Initiative alongside other donations.' Leke Baiyewu, [Punch News \(May 7th\)](#) writes.

Information Minister Rejects Claims of Escalating Insecurity Across the Country, Attorney General Reveal Claims of Terrorism Financing by Nigerian Elites, Southern Governors Hold Security Meeting

The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, on Tuesday 11, has said the government and its security agencies have the manpower to crush bandits and insurgents across the country. Mohammed, disputed the belief, that insecurity is escalating in the country. He said, "it is no longer news that our dear nation is facing security challenges, Well, I am here today to assure all Nigerians that while the government acknowledges the security challenges we face at this time, , it is definitely not overwhelmed and indeed it has the wherewithal, as you will see in the days ahead." Kayode Oyero, [Punch News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Attorney-General of the Federation, AGF, and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, on Friday 7, disclosed that ongoing investigations have revealed highly placed Nigerians and businessmen involved in terrorism financing. Malami, spoke to State House Journalist, revealing that, "strongly" suspected financiers were being profiled for prosecution. Also, the recent convictions of some citizens in the United Arab Emirates, UAE, for funding the Boko Haram, triggered" a wider and far-reaching investigation" into terrorism financing. [Premium Times News \(May 7th\)](#) reports.

On another note, governors from the 17 southern states in the country, have demanded that President Muhammadu Buhari, address the country on

the challenges of insecurity. The Southern Governors Forum, led by its Chairman, Oluwarotimi Akredoulu, in a communique, said, "we observed that the incursion of armed herders, criminals, and bandits into the Southern part of the country has presented a severe security challenge such that citizens are not able to live their normal lives including pursuing various productive activities leading to a threat to food supply and general security." He added, that the structure the country, leading to "evolution" of state police was of great concern. Matthew Ochei, [Punch News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: President Buhari Approves Security Framework for South East, South-South Zones, Military Prevent Boko Haram Invasion in Borno State, Army Eliminates Bandits Commanders in Zamfara

The Acting Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba, on Tuesday 11, disclosed to State House Journalists, the approval of the new security measures, tailored to address the security challenges in the South East and South -South geo-political zones. by President Muhammadu Buhari. The announcement, followed a joint National Security Council Meeting, Baba said, "we solicit the support of all law-abiding citizens to work with us to identify and deal with the situation." Stephen Angbulu, [Punch News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the military has repelled attacks to infiltrate Maiduguri, Borno State, by the Boko Haram terrorists. Civilians told journalist, that the insurgents arrived Jiddari-Polo, a populated area in the state, in four-gun trucks and motor-bikes and were met with resistance by the military, who prevented them from gaining access to the town. A civilian Joint Task Force said, "I can confirm that I saw three bodies being executed." Blessing Tunoh, [Channels News \(May 11th\)](#) reports.

The spokesperson of the army, Mohammed Yerima, has revealed in a statement, that the Nigeria Army troops of 8 Division operating in Zamfara and adjoining states have eliminated "many commanders" and 48 members of bandit's groups in the North-west. He said the troops successfully neutralized 48 bandits and

the bandit leader in the area known as Jummo.
[Premium Times News \(May 10th\)](#) reports.

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