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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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Dangote Reduces Prices of Diesel and Aviation Fuel, Restart of Operations on Awoba Oil Field, Operations of Dana Air Suspended, WHO Recommends New Meningitis Vaccine for Nigeria

Dangote petroleum refinery has again announced a further reduction in the prices of both diesel and aviation fuel to NGN 940 and NGN 980 per liter respectively. The price change is applicable to customers buying five million liters and above from the refinery, while the price of NGN 980 is for customers buying one million liters and above. This drop marks the third major reduction in diesel price in less than three weeks. The head of communication explained that the new price aligns with the company's commitment to cushion the effect of economic hardship in Nigeria. Reacting to the latest development, the director general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Ajayi Kadiri, said that this would change the dynamics in the energy cost equation of the country, in the midst of inadequate and rising cost of electricity. Adegbite Taoheed, [Nigerian Tribune News \(April 23rd\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) and its joint venture partner, News-cross Exploration and Production, have restarted operations at the Awoba unit field with a target of 12,000 million barrels per day after two years of shutdown over crude oil theft. It was disclosed that the operation is averaging 8,000 barrels per day since restart and production is expected to increase to 12,000 barrels per day within the next 30 days. Ogaga Ariemu, [Daily Post News \(April 23rd\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has suspend the operations of Dana Air following a runway incident in Lagos on Tuesday. Several incidents involving the airline have raised serious concerns regarding both the safety and financial viability of their operations. A comprehensive audit which should encompass all aspects of safety protocols, maintenance procedures and financial health will now be conducted. Chinedu Eze, [This Day News \(April 24th\)](#) reports.

The World Health Organization (WHO) disclosed that Nigeria has become the first country to roll out a vaccine against meningitis. The vaccine would protect people against five strains of meningococcus bacteria. According to the WHO, Nigeria is one of the 26 meningitis hyper-endemic countries of Africa, situated in the area known as the African Meningitis Belt. In Nigeria, an outbreak

led to 1,742 suspected meningitis cases, including 101 confirmed cases and 153 deaths in seven of 36 Nigerian states, between October 2023 and March 2024. Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general, stated that the new vaccine holds the potential to change the trajectory of the disease, preventing future outbreaks and saving many lives. [Daily Trust News \(April 13th\)](#) reports.

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The Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) has released a final report on Nigeria's 2023 elections, identifying significant problems that undermined the credibility of the electoral process. The report said the failure of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) devices and the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) portal on and after election day are major factors that undermined the overall credibility, transparency and inclusivity of the elections. The report noted that numerous security challenges facing the country and economic hardship further affected the electoral processes. It also lamented the harassment of journalists and the threat to media freedom during the election. The group suggested that further institutional and legal reforms were necessary for Nigeria to make lasting progress. Kabir Yusuf, [Premium Times News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, says Nigeria is not mature to operate state police. He stated this at the dialogue on state police organized by the House of Representatives. The IGP stated that the National Assembly should instead merge the Federal Road Safety Commission and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Commission as departments under the federal police. The IGP urged the federal government to properly fund the existing police structure. This position differs with the publicly expressed stance of president Bola Tinubu. The president met with state governors where they considered "the possibility of setting up state police." Former president Goodluck Jonathan, who was also present at the dialogue aligned with the president on the subject of state police. According to him, there was no way Nigeria could have security if states do not have

their police. The former president noted that while the issue of state police is being discussed, other measures must also be taken into consideration to make the country better. Balarabe Alkassim, [Daily Trust News \(April 22nd\)](#) and Bakare Majeed, [Premium Times News \(April 22nd\)](#) report.

President Bola Tinubu has said “outside money” is behind the fueling of terrorism on the African continent. He stated this at the opening of the high-level African counter-terrorism meeting, organized by Nigeria, with the support of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in Abuja. According to him, “the international community has both the moral and legal obligation to help in this cause because it is outside money not African money that fuels the illegal operations. We shall be knocking on this door of the international community to answer this call for justice, peace and fair play.” President Tinubu, addressing the issue of terrorism, stated that it cannot coexist with democracy and good governance. He called for the strengthening of the existing counter-terrorism structures and called for the creation of a regional standby force with a mandate to tackle terrorism. Juliana Taiwo-Obalonye, [The Sun News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

The government of Cameroon has signed an agreement with Nigeria to implement policies and programmes on forest management and wildlife preservation. During the official signing of the agreement, Jules Ndong, Cameroon’s minister of forestry and wildlife, said the pact became necessary due to the illegal exportation of wildlife across the borders of both nations. He reiterated Cameroon’s commitment to working closely with Nigeria to ensure effective implementation of policy framework for sustainable management of ecosystems. On his part, Balarabe Lawal, Nigeria’s minister of environment, assured Ndong and the Cameroonian delegation of the federal government’s determination to achieve targets through the partnership. Lawal appreciated Germany, US, United Nations, European Union for their support

in preservation of forestry and wildlife resources in Nigeria. Janefrances Chibundu, [The Cable News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) published the final list of candidates for the forthcoming Edo state governorship election. According to INEC 17 political parties are fielding candidates in the election. Sixteen are male while one is female. INEC announced that the political parties are permitted to start campaign in public from Wednesday 24th April 2024 to end at midnight on Thursday 19th September 2024. Francis Ugwu, [Daily Post News \(April 22nd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: 118 Inmates Escape Suleja Prison as Rain Destroys Parts of the Building, Troops Neutralize Bandits in Zamfara State

The Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS) announced that 118 inmates escaped from the medium security custodial center in Suleja, Niger state on Wednesday, during a downpour which ravaged parts of the prison. The command, in collaboration with security agencies, apprehended ten of the fleeing inmates. NCoS is raising concerns over the weak walls of the facility which were built during the colonial era. NCoS called on the public to carry on with their normal activities, adding that the service is working to address the situation. Maryam Abdullahi, [The Cable News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Troops in collaboration with the Zamfara state local security outfit launched an attack on a camp of one of the most dreaded bandits in the state. It was gathered that Shuaibu Danlukutus was neutralized in the operation, as he was said to be the main target. A source noted that the operations by the anti-bandit troops have been eliminating scores of bandits daily as military operatives in collaboration with conventional security forces continue to invade the bandits’ hideouts. Ifeanyi Nwannah, [Daily Post News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.



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