

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: FG Pledges to End Pandemic by 2022

The federal government through the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on Covid-19 has disclosed plans to hold a national Covid-19 summit as part of efforts to end the pandemic by 2022. The National Incident Manager of PSC, Mukhtar Muhammad, said the summit will focus on strategic ways to end the pandemic and prepare for future biological threats in the country. Muhammad explained that the event will provide a forum for presentations and brainstorming on the review of the country's Covid-19 response to identify successes, gaps, and lessons learnt and to identify resources and develop strategies that will actualize the country's expressed international commitments towards ending Covid-19 by the end of 2022. Nike Adebawale, [All Africa News \(November 23rd\)](#) reports.

National Air Carrier to Commence in 2022, EU Pledges Support to Establish Sexual and Gender Based Violence Courts, Help Nigeria Tackle Poverty, Implementation of Petroleum Industry Act Set to Revolutionize Oil and Gas Industry, FG Commits to Net Zero Carbon Goal

The National Carrier, Nigeria Air, is set to begin flight operations by April 2022. The new official airline would leave the federal government five per cent equity shares, Nigerian entrepreneurs 46 per cent equity shares, while the expected international strategic partners would have 49 equity shares. The Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, at the end of the weekly virtual Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting said "this airline, if started, and within the first few years will generate about 70,000 jobs. These 70,000 jobs are higher than the total number of civil servants that we have in the country". Deji Elumoye, [This Day Live News \(November 25th\)](#) reports.

The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Nigeria, Samuela Isopi, on Wednesday 24, disclosed that the EU had declared its intention to support Nigeria in establishing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) courts. The EU says offering this support is top on its priority list, adding that since 2016 it has spent over one billion Naira on Sexual Assault Referral Centres. Ms. Isopi stated that the EU and its partners are stepping up efforts to mobilize action towards fast-tracking prosecution of

offenders and guaranteeing access to justice and remedies for victims of sexual assault. Chiamaka Okafor, [Premium Times News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the EU has revealed its readiness to deepen its partnership with Nigeria towards addressing the challenges confronting the country and continue to support Nigerian civil society organizations, and democratic institutions. "We will continue to support Nigeria to fight the challenges of insecurity, poverty, and other regional issues", stated Ms. Isopi who made this disclosure while highlighting some of the activities and interventions of the EU to Nigeria. Adepapo Adesanya, [Business Post News \(November 25th\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has stated that the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) will revolutionize the nation's oil and gas industry. The PIA which was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on August 16, 2021 after it was passed by the National Assembly is targeted at reforming the oil and gas industry in Nigeria. The Act is also aimed at promoting transparency and attracting capital flows into the oil and gas industry. The Group General Manager, National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), an arm of the NNPC, Mr. Bala Wunti, stated that the energy transition, energy investment, and energy crisis, were key game changers in revolutionizing the oil and gas industry, while critical thinking, collaboration, and compliance were key to maximizing the benefits of the PIA for all stakeholders. Peter Uzoho, [This Day Live News \(November 24th\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law a climate bill committing his government to produce a substantial plan to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and set annual and five-year carbon budgets, becoming the first major developing country to commit to set annual carbon budgets to ultimately cut emissions to net zero. Nigerian environmental activist Olumide Idowu told Climate Home the new law was "a good start" but questioned whether a plan had been put in place to implement it. The government has pledged to stop oil companies burning gas as a byproduct and instead make them capture it and sell it as an energy source. Joe Lo, [Climate Change News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

Civil Society Council Applauds NSCDC on Safe School Initiatives and Reforms, PDP Chairman Says Party Must Move Past Issuing Condemning Statements to Opposition APC, APC Governors Hold Closed Door Meeting in Abuja

The Executive Director of the National Council for Civil Society Organizations, Emmanuel Johnny, has commended the ongoing reforms in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps as part of efforts to respond effectively to the current security challenges in the country. Johnny described the reforms, also addressing the Safe School Initiative "which includes the establishment, training and commissioning of a formidable, well-kitted female squad to checkmate the menace of kidnapping of school children in the country and stop any kind of threat or breach of security in our educational institutions". Clement Idoko, [Tribune News \(November 25th\)](#) reports.

The National Chairman-Elect of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Iyorchia Ayu, has said the PDP must move beyond issuing "occasional press statements" but rather thoughtfully articulate and design a clear programme of what it intends to achieve for the country to demonstrate to Nigerians that it is ready to rebuild the country. He added that no other party was better equipped to rescue and transform Nigeria than the PDP, saying "we have to rebuild Nigeria to become a fertile ground for our young people and other entrepreneurs to unleash their creativity and innovativeness consumer spending". Samuel Akpan, [The Cable News \(November 23rd\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, governors elected on the platform of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) held a closed-door meeting on Sunday night in Abuja. The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the meeting was expected to, among other things, discuss the party's forthcoming National Convention, its zoning arrangement, direct primary, and others issues. [Premium Times \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: FG Dismisses #EndSARS Panel Report, Senate Air Force Committee Advocates Empowering the Police for Effective Delivery, US Secretary Advises FG on Police Brutality, Buhari Orders Service Chief Tackle Banditry, Insecurity, Assistant Inspector General of Police Elected INTERPOL Vice President for Africa

The Nigerian government on Tuesday 23, dismissed a leaked judicial investigation that said 15 people were killed or missing after a crackdown on mass protests that held in Lagos State on October 20, 2020. The leaked report, which was submitted to the Lagos State authorities on November 15, contradicts the army's version of what happened at the city's Lekki tollgate. The Information Minister, Lai Mohammed, told reporters on Tuesday 23, that "there is absolutely nothing in the report that is circulating to make us change our stand that there was no massacre at Lekki". He described the report as "riddled with errors, inconsistencies, discrepancies, innuendos and conclusions that are not supported by evidence". Sophie Bouillon, [ENCA News \(November 23rd\)](#) reports.

The Senate Committee on Air Force has called on the federal government to empower the Nigerian Police to tackle insecurity in the country. The Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Bala Ibn Na'Allah, made the call on Tuesday 23, while presenting the budget report of his committee to the appropriation committee. He revealed that nothing prevented the police from getting the sophisticated equipment the air force, navy, and army are getting, as that would make the police more effective, stressing that it was an operational issue. News Agency of Nigeria, [The Guardian News \(November 23rd\)](#) reports.

The United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, reminded officials during his visit to Nigeria on the need for security and human rights. Blinken signed a five-year development assistance agreement and, regarding the #EndSARS protests, suggested two follow-up actions: the enactment of reforms to avoid a repeat of the violence, and work by Nigeria's leader to increase trust between citizens and security forces, and the state by extension. Accountability and justice would be key. Alexander Onukwue, [Quartz News \(November 22nd\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari gave marching orders to the security chiefs to go after insurgents, bandits, and terrorists at the meeting of the National Security Council. He reiterated that they must not rest until all Nigerians can sleep again in peace. The president also ordered security agencies to intensify surveillance and patrol activities along the Abuja-Kaduna Road. Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, disclosed this to State House correspondents after the meeting. Terhemba Daka and Msugh Ityokura, [The Guardian News \(November 26th\)](#) reports.

The Head of INTERPOL National Central Bureau, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Garba Umar, has been elected Vice President for Africa and Executive Committee Member of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL). Police Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen. Oditia Sunday, [The Guardian News \(November 26th\)](#) reports,

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