

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 the overall situation in Nigeria.

Content

British Court Rules in Favor of Nigeria in a USD 11 Billion Suit, Nigeria Ranked 120 out of 142 in Global Rule of Law Index, Petrol and Diesel Prices Rise Dramatically, Nigeria Accounts for 7.5% of Persons with Drug Disorders Globally

Supreme Court Affirms the Election of President Bola Tinubu, Tinubu Hails Judgement of Supreme Court, People's Democratic Party (PDP) Expresses Disappointment Over Supreme Court Judgement, Labor Party Rejects Decision Affirming Bola Tinubu as President, Election Commission Expresses Concern Over Delays in Printing Sensitive Materials for Off-Cycle Elections, Lawmakers Reject Motion to Make Examination Free

Insecurity: Troops Kill ISWAP Terrorists and Arrest Suspected Ammunition Supplier, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Records 149 Incidences of Oil Theft in One Week

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Nigeria has won its bid to overturn an USD 11 billion damages bill involving the controversial Process & Industrial Developments (P&ID) deal. Nigeria claims that the collapsed gas processing project was procured by a campaign of bribery and fraud. The West African country on succeeded in halting the enforcement of the USD 11 billion arbitration award in favor of P&ID. The P&ID controversy dates back to January 2010 when the company signed a gas supply and processing agreement with the ministry of petroleum resources. P&ID alleged that after signing the agreement, the Nigerian government reneged on its obligation after negotiations were opened with the Cross River state government for the allocation of land for the project. In a judgment delivered this week in London, it was held that the process through which P&ID secured the contract was fraudulent. Mary Izuaka, [Premium Times News \(October 23rd\)](#) reports.

The World Justice Project (WJP) released its 2023 global Rule of Law Index, in which Nigeria ranked 120 out of 142 countries. It further revealed that out of 34 countries considered in Africa, Nigeria ranked 23. The report showed that while Nigeria's score had increased, it slipped by 2 positions from the ranking in 2022. In terms of constraints on government powers, Nigeria was ranked 85 out of 142 countries globally and ranked 14 out of 34 countries in the region. In order of security, Nigeria ranked 33 out of 34 countries considered in the Sub-Saharan region. Bakare Majeed, [Premium Times News \(October 25th\)](#) reports.

The National Bureau of Statistics in its Premium Motor Spirit Price Watch for September 2023 said the average retail price of petrol for the month of September 2023 was NGN 626.21, indicating a 226.75% increase when compared to the value recorded in September 2022. It was further revealed that the average retail price of diesel paid by consumers increased by 12.77% on a year-on-year basis to NGN 890.80 per liter in September 2023. [The Guardian News \(October 24th\)](#) reports.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has said Nigeria presently accounts for 7.5% of persons with drug disorders globally. Similarly, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), disclosed that 12.9 million Nigerians are addicted to cannabis. On the average, 6,000 tons of cannabis were seized by NDLEA yearly in the country. The country director of UNODC, Oliver Stolpe said statistics had shown that drug induced disorder has increased by 45% in past 10 years. NDLEA disclosed, that the agency has successfully convicted 5,000 persons arrested for trading in cannabis. Onyebuchi Ezigbo, [This Day News \(October 25th\)](#) reports.

Supreme Court Affirms the Election of President Bola Tinubu, Tinubu Hails Judgement of Supreme Court, People's Democratic Party (PDP) Expresses Disappointment Over Supreme Court Judgement, Labor Party Rejects Decision Affirming Bola Tinubu as President, Election Commission Expresses Concern Over Delays in Printing Sensitive Materials for Off-Cycle Elections, Lawmakers Reject Motion to Make Examination Free

The Supreme Court of Nigeria on Thursday affirmed the election of President Bola Tinubu in the February 25 presidential election. The apex court affirmed Tinubu's victory after it dismissed the appeals filed by the presidential candidates of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labor Party, Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi respectively and the parties challenging the declaration of Tinubu as president. The Supreme Court dismissed Atiku and Obi's appeals for lack of merit and therefore upheld the judgment of the Presidential Election Petition Court. [Sahara Reporters \(October 26th\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu has hailed the Supreme Court judgement on the February 25 presidential election, emphasizing its significance in consolidating Nigeria's democracy. Tinubu commended the Supreme Court's unwavering commitment to the rule of law, saying: "The court has done justice to all issues put up for consideration in the petitions on the merits of the law, without fear or favor." He underscored the importance of this verdict in the nation's democratic journey. The presi-

dent went on to reiterate his trust in Nigeria's judiciary, stating that his faith in Nigeria's judiciary has never been shaken. Jonathan Nda-Isaiah, [Leadership News \(October 26th\)](#) reports.

In a position statement by its national publicity secretary the People's Democratic Party (PDP) says it is disappointed with the judgement of the Supreme Court affirming President Bola Tinubu as winner of the presidential election, as declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The statement further stated that the PDP and indeed majority of Nigerians were alarmed, disappointed and gravely concerned with the reasoning of the Supreme Court. He said the PDP believed the judgement was against the express provisions of the Constitution, the Electoral Act and the guideline and regulation issued by INEC under which the election was conducted. He said Nigerians were still at a loss as to how the Supreme Court condoned the "serious issues of forgery, falsehood and perjury on the altar of technicalities,". The PDP charged Nigerians not to be discouraged or allow the judgement to detract from their collective quest for the entrenchment of a credible electoral system that could guarantee a government that derives legitimacy from the people. [Premium Times News \(October 26th\)](#) reports.

Reacting to the decision of the Supreme Court affirming the election of president Bola Tinubu, Julius Abure, Labor Party national chairman called on the international community to rise and defend democracy in Nigeria. He also described the judgement as shocking and surprising. Having exercised their fundamental human rights, they have decided to move on. According to Abure, what transpired in Nigeria since the election is a clear testament that institutions are not working and that Nigeria may be sliding towards a dictatorship. He further urged Nigerians not to lose hope, adding that a new Nigeria is still possible. Ahmad Sahabi, [The Cable News \(October 26th\)](#) reports.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman, Mahmood Yakubu expressed concern over the delay in printing sensitive materials for the upcoming off-cycle governorship elections in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa states. This delay has been attributed to the pre-election legal cases and court orders affecting the nomination processes by political parties. Yakubu pointed out the challenges of reprinting materials to comply with court orders in a short timeframe, adding that it is costly and complex. Despite INEC's prior publication of the final list of candidates for the states, he

said, recent court rulings have necessitated revisions of the candidates' list. He said with just a little over two weeks to the election, INEC is at the concluding stages of its preparations. Tarkaa David, [Leadership News \(October 25th\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has rejected a motion that sought to compel the federal government (FG) to make the 2023/2024 secondary school examination free for all Nigerians. The motion said that the FG already saved money through the removal of petroleum subsidy and should help families that are struggling. Following the opposition of the motion by the lawmakers, the majority leader moved an amendment that lawmakers should instead fund the free examination. But the amendment was also countered. The motion was eventually stepped down. This motion is coming at a time when Nigerians are still condemning the action of lawmakers to spend billions on their official vehicles. Abdul Seye, [Daily Post News \(October 25th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Troops Kill ISWAP Terrorists and Arrest Suspected Ammunition Supplier, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Records 149 Incidences of Oil Theft in One Week

Troops have neutralized 9 Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists. The troops, who were on patrol, ambushed the terrorists and killed them after a fierce gun battle, while others escaped with gunshot wounds. Also, Troops of the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have arrested a suspected terrorists' logistic supplier in the Lake Chad region. The suspect has been taken into military custody for profiling and investigation. Saxone Akhaine and Njadvara Musa, [The Guardian News \(October 25th\)](#) report.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited disclosed that it recorded 149 incidences of crude oil theft across the Niger-Delta region in one week. It stated that far from the regular, these criminals have taken their activities a notch higher. In this camp, CCTV cameras have been installed on trees by the thieves to look out for security operatives. Mortar launchers and defense systems were also mounted by the oil thieves in various locations to eliminate any perceived enemy. In one of the sites discovered in Rivers state, oil thieves drilled a tunnel underneath the tarred road to insert their illegal connection. The aim is to operate undetected. Opeoluwani Akintayo, [The Punch News \(October 25th\)](#) reports.

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