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Nigeria Office



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

Federal Government Evacuates Nigerian Citizens from Sudan, Only 4% of All Elected Offices on Federal and State Level Held by Women, New Dashboard on more than 1,000 Election Petition Cases, President Buhari Askes for Forgiveness, Nigerians Spend NGN 2,04 Trillion Yearly on Malaria Epidemic, Federal Government Approves Malaria Vaccine

Nigerian Think Tank Advises New Administration on Quick Revamp of Nigeria's Economy, Diaspora Remitted USD 168 Billion in Eight Years, Beneficial Opportunities Created by Japa Syndrome, Norwegian Firm to Build Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Plant, Nigerian Airline Starts First Ever Direct Flight to Israel

Insecurity: 344 NSCDC Officers Killed on Duty in Past Five Years, 29 Civilians Abducted in Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria Ready to Host Joint Africa Naval Exercise of the Gulf of Guinea on May 15, US-Financed Upgrade of Air Force Base Completed

Federal Government Evacuates Nigerian Citizens from Sudan, Only 4% of All Elected Offices on Federal and State Level Held by Women, New Dashboard for more than 1,000 Election Petition Cases, National Population and Housing Census Likely to be Postponed, President Buhari Askes for Forgiveness, Nigerians Spend NGN 2,04 Trillion Yearly on Malaria Epidemic, Federal Government Approves Malaria Vaccine

The federal government has started the process of evacuating Nigerian citizens from crisis-torn Sudan. This Friday, 1,500 citizens were expected to arrive in the country. According to the Nigerian embassy in Sudan, as of Thursday, April 27, so far 637 Nigerian citizens have been evacuated from war-torn Sudan. The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission stated that busses were leaving Sudan's capital Khartoum to bring the Nigerian citizens to Egypt, from where they would be brought back to Nigeria by plane. Over three million Nigerians are residing in Sudan and efforts were being made to evacuate as many as possible in case the war persisted, with a priority on children, students and women. Evacuees using the bus services to Egypt criticized the insufficient organization, maintaining the hired bus company stopped the evacuation in the middle of the desert to make sure, they receive the full arranged payment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) rejected these claims and promised full payment. [Daily Trust News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

In the 2023 general elections, 1,533 female candidates were running for office on federal and state level, representing 10,1% of all candidates. The official results by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) now show that only 72 of all female candidates gained a victory over their male competitors. In sum, only 4% of all elected offices on federal and state level are now held by women. Even as the female presence increased from 3% after the 2019 elections, the number of female office holders is still critically low. Seven of the 72 female women that won the elections were elected as deputy governors, three made their way to the Senate while another 14 successfully campaigned for a seat in the House of Representatives. On state level, 48 women will soon be representing their constituencies as members of the various State Houses of Assembly. Following the report, the lack of cooperation of women, cultural and religious factors as well as non-sufficient financial support for female competitors were filtered out as main factors for this

uneven distribution of elected female and male representatives. Dana Zagi, [Daily Trust News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

To provide an overview of the ongoing petitions against the outcome of the 2023 general elections, the nongovernmental organization Kimpact Development Initiative has launched an election petition tribunal data dashboard. According to the platform, a total of 1,044 petitions have been filed across Nigeria challenging the outcome of the latest elections. The dashboard reveals that five petitions have been filed against the presidential polls, 180 against the senatorial and 470 petitions against the House Representatives elections. On state level, 327 petitions against the State House of Assembly and 62 petitions against the gubernatorial elections have been filed., and. The platform showed that 883 petitions were filed on the grounds of non-compliance and corrupt practices and 532 were filed against candidates elected without the majority of lawful votes cast. 279 petitions were filed against elected candidates who were not qualified to contest in the elections. Bolanle Olabimtan, [The Cable News \(April 26th\)](#) reports. To access the and for further details, see: [The election petition tribunal data dashboard](#).

Less than a week to the commencement of the national population and housing census, there are rising concerns that the census may be shifted due to funding and other logistic barriers. The National Population Commission (NPC) will meet with the federal government this Friday to validate the date for the census. As the NPC is yet to conclude training of supervisors and other key officers and is yet to receive all technical devices needed to carry out the exercise, the date is likely to be shifted. Regardless of the final date, the commission plans to request the federal government for a restriction of movement during the first 3 days of the census enumeration. Sami Olatunji, John Charles et al., [The Punch News \(April 28th\)](#) report.

With his second and final term coming to an end on May 29, president Muhammadu Buhari has asked for forgiveness for his mistakes in the last eight years. Speaking on Eid al-Fitr, he said: "All those that I have hurt, I ask that they pardon me. We are all humans, if I have hurt some people along the line of my service to the country, I ask that they pardon me". According to the Sun News, Buhari's apology will not rectify the eight years of insecurity and sporadic killings by terrorists, bandits and kidnappers who took the lives of so many Nigerian citizens. The president had not been able

to deliver the ground-breaking and radical changes he promised during the presidential election campaigns. Furthermore, there have been no achievements in terms of agriculture, infrastructure, health and anti-corruption. [The Sun News \(April 27th\)](#) reports.

On occasion of this year's World Malaria Day, it is estimated that the federal government spends about 55% of its recurrent health budget yearly on malaria prevention and control – that is NGN 319,451 billion of the NGN 580,82 billion health budget for 2023. While Africa is the most malaria-affected continent on earth, Nigeria, on country-comparison, suffers the world's greatest malaria burden, with more than 51 million cases and 207,000 deaths reported yearly. 97 % of the total population (approximately 173 million) is at risk of infection. The malaria epidemic affects the Nigerian economy tremendously. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the economic burden is estimated to be USD 1,1 billion per year. Chukwuma Muanya, [The Guardian News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

During a press conference, held to commit World Malaria Day, the Nigeria National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) announced that Nigeria has approved the use of the R21 malaria vaccine. Thus, Nigeria is becoming the second African country after Ghana to approve the use of the vaccine that was developed by the University of Oxford and is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. The first set of the vaccine is expected to arrive in the country by April 2024 and is indicated for the prevention of clinical malaria in children from 5 months to 36 months of age. The Minister of Health, Osagie Ehanire, confirmed that the country had successfully submitted an application to the vaccine alliance Gavi for the vaccine allocation. [Sahara Reporters News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Nigerian Think Tank Advises New Administration on Quick Revamp of Nigeria's Economy, Diaspora Remitted USD 168 Billion in Eight Years, Beneficial Opportunities Created by Japa Syndrome, Norwegian Firm to Build Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Plant, Nigerian Airline Starts First Ever Direct Flight to Israel

According to a new report by the Nigerian policy think tank Agora Policy, the new incoming administration needs to undertake fast and coordinated

macroeconomic policy reforms on fiscal, monetary and trade fronts to revamp the Nigerian economy. Actions need to be pushed quickly and must be predicated on inclusion, transparency and accountability. Focusing on the Nigerian oil sector, Nigeria's most important sector, the paper concluded that oil revenues can be boosted by ending oil theft and removal of the petrol subsidy. In addition, the report advised, that the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited should be given clear oil production and exporting targets, and be held accountable when these are not met. As the removal of subsidies will gain hardship for Nigerians, strategic communications need to be implemented. Additionally, the report noted that it would require two critical actions on boosting non-oil revenue, namely tax reforms and domestic revenue mobilization. The report said there is an urgent need to broaden the tax net to capture the formal and informal sectors. Furthermore, according to the report, one of the major issues that have impeded trade performance and thus diversification in Nigeria is the weak trade-related infrastructure. Agora Policy urged the new government to reopen all closed borders and remove all food trade restrictions and provide incentives for export-oriented firms, especially in the non-oil sectors. Mary Izuaka, [Premium Times News \(April 26th\)](#) reports. For the whole report, see: [Agora Policy - Urgent Policy Reforms on Fiscal, Monetary and Trade Fronts](#).

According to data from the World Bank and the Budget Office of the Federation, the foreign exchange scarcity and the afloat forex reserve in Nigeria were alleviated by Nigeria's diaspora remittances. Data from the World Bank showed that the Nigerian diaspora has remitted USD 168.33 billion to the country in the past eight years. By 2022, the inflows into the country had reached USD 20.9 billion, making them one of the top sources of non-oil foreign exchange for the country last year. The sustained increase in diaspora inflows since 2021 has been because of several new policies from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the report further noted. Deborah Dan-Awoh, [The Punch News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

The World Bank has called on Nigeria to adopt measures that will enhance the economic benefits of the increasing wave of people migrating out of the country, popularly referred to as "Japa" syndrome. Making this recommendation in a report,

the World Bank said that Nigeria and other origin countries should make labor migration an explicit part of their development strategy. To manage migration better and to benefit from outgoing migrations, Nigeria should lower remittance costs, facilitate knowledge transfers from their diaspora, build skills in high demand globally, mitigate the adverse effects of “brain drain”, protect their nationals while abroad and support them upon return. On the other hand, destination countries need to encourage migration where the skills migrants bring are in high demand, facilitate their inclusion and address social impacts that raise concerns among their citizens. Therefore, bilateral cooperation can strengthen the match of migrants’ skills with the needs of destination societies and provide benefits for all people. Babajide Komolafe, [The Vanguard News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

To build a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Nigeria, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Norwegian company Golar LNG (GLNG). GLNG is one of the world’s largest independent owners and operators of marine-based LNG midstream infrastructure, capable of liquefaction, transportation and regasification of natural gas. According to NNPC officials, the signing marks Nigeria’s efforts to deepen domestic gas utilization and enhance gas export. NNPC also claimed, that the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) gas pipeline project will become functional in the third quarter of 2023. Bunmi Aduloju, [The Cable News \(April 27th\)](#) reports.

For the first time, a Nigerian airline is connecting Nigeria and Israel directly through scheduled commercial flights. The commencement of direct, non-stop flights from Lagos and Abuja to the city of Tel Aviv has historically dimensions on the bilateral relations between both countries. Through the new connection offered by Air Peace, more social and economic opportunities arise. The main focus is on religious tourism, especially factoring the numerous Nigerians who embark on pilgrimage trips to Israel. The Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Michael Freeman, stressed that it further helps deepen bilateral ties between both countries and promote mutually beneficial economic engagements. Yusuf Babalola, [The Leadership News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: 344 NSCDC Officers Killed on Duty in Past Five Years, 29 Civilians Abducted in Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria Ready to Host Joint Africa Naval Exercise of the Gulf of Guinea on May 15, US-Financed Upgrade of Air Force Base Completed

According to the Council on Foreign Relations’ Nigeria Security Tracker, 138 security personnel on duty have been killed in 2022 by non-state actors. To date, there is hardly any formal investigation to identify what caused the deaths of the security personnel. Eleven of the 138 killed security officers were members of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDCS), according to their spokesperson. In sum, 344 officers of the NSCDCS had been killed on duty in the last five years. According to the report, the danger and exposure of the personnel are mainly caused by insufficient funds for training and retraining of security personnel across the country and non-properly equipped security agencies. To reduce the killing of officers they must be protected. NSCDC Commandant-General Ahmed Audi advised personnel to observe absolute vigilance while carrying out their official duties and further to collaborate with other security agencies, especially in information sharing, to protect the lives of personnel on duty. Gift Habib, [The Punch News \(April 27th\)](#) reports.

29 civilians have been kidnapped by gunmen near the capital Abuja on Tuesday. The kidnappers invaded a village in the Federal Capital Territory, in large numbers. According to the report, the gunmen divided themselves into groups, went to eight houses amid sporadic shooting and dragged residents, including children, into the bush. [Sahara Reporters News \(April 26th\)](#) reports.

This week, president Muhammadu Buhari attended the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), held in the Ghanaian capital Accra, for the last time in office. In his remarks, Buhari emphasized the critical role of the commission for peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea region and reaffirmed Nigeria’s commitment to play a leading role towards repositioning the GGC into a more vibrant organization. In this regard, the president maintained that Nigeria “very much looks forward” to host GGC’s Joint Afri-

ca Naval Exercise scheduled to hold in Lagos on May 15. Buhari furthermore urged all member states to fulfill their financial obligations to ensure the effective and optimal function of the GGC, considering it of strategic relevance to the global security interests in the region. The president also encouraged member countries to enact laws against piracy and other criminal acts as Nigeria has done. Stephen Angbulu, [The Punch News \(April 25th\)](#) reports.

This week, the completed improvements on Kainji Air Force Base, that were delivered as part of a larger USD 500 million United States (US) foreign military sale to Nigeria, were celebrated by both parties. The sale also included the delivery of 12 A-29 Super Tucano aircrafts, precision munitions and trainings. Nigeria's A-29 program is the largest US foreign military sales case to date to a country

in Sub-Saharan Africa. The US Chargé d'Affaires, David Greene, highlighted the program as an example of Nigeria's leadership in being "willing, able and ready to contribute to security and stability at home and around the region". The air base improvements were delivered in two main phases, with the first phase completed in summer 2021 to allow for the safe delivery of the first A-29 aircraft, which play a key role in Nigerian Air Force operations to combat violent extremist organizations, such as Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram. The second and final phase of air base improvement projects, which include improved base security, munitions storage and maintenance, aircraft hangars and aprons as well as training facilities to ensure the continued successful operations of the new fighter wing, were finished just now. Temitayo Jaiyeola, [The Punch News \(April 28th\)](#) reports.

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