

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.

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Forex Inflows in Nigeria Drop by 40%, Nigeria Ratifies Convention on Cluster Munitions, President Buhari Commissions 32MW NNPC Maiduguri Power Plant

Foreign exchange flows into Nigeria's economy fell by 40% to USD 26.32 billion in the first 11 months of 2022 from USD 44.01 billion in the corresponding period of 2021. Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed that aggregate foreign exchange inflow into the economy was USD 63.57 billion, representing a 26% decline compared with USD 86.34 billion in the same period in 2021. The data also showed that foreign exchange outflow fell by 2%. Elizabeth Adegbesan, [The Vanguard News \(March 1st\)](#) reports.

Nigeria ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions on February 23, 2023 as the 111th state worldwide and the 35th country in Africa. The treaty will take effect from August 1, and prohibits all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. The continued use of these weapons globally causes widespread human suffering, mainly due to their indiscriminate area effect. In 2022, civilians accounted for 97% of all recorded cluster munition casualties. In addition, cluster munitions that do not explode on impact can threaten communities for years. Nigeria, with signing the treaty, underscored the shared responsibility to prohibit weapons that have dire and long-standing humanitarian consequences. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called on all states and parties to armed conflict to immediately stop using, producing, transferring and stockpiling cluster munitions. Mohammed Abubakar, [The Independent News \(March 2nd\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari on Thursday commissioned the 32 megawatts (MW) Maiduguri Emergency Power Project (MEPP) in Borno State, completed in 16 months by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited. Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Buhari said the MEPP was part of an incremental 4.000 megawatts of power generating assets that this administration embarked upon to improve power supply and stimulate economic growth. He commended NNPC for following his directive to restore power to Maiduguri within the shortest possible time after insurgents had destroyed some towers on the Maiduguri to Damaturu transmission line in January 2021. The NNPC chief executive officer of, Mele Kyari, said the scaleable MEPP with an initial 32MW power capacity was built in 16 months. It is

the first of its kind in the North East and, by extension, northern Nigeria. Simon Echewofun Sunday, [The Daily Trust News \(March 3rd\)](#) reports.

INEC Declares APC's Presidential Candidate Winner of Presidential Election, Nigeria Experiences Lowest Voter Turnout in Recent Elections, EU Observation Mission Says Elections Were Met with Insufficient Planning and Marred Polls, PDP, Labour Party, Others Walk out of Presidential Collation Centre, Accuse INEC of Fraud, Former President Obasanjo Ask President Buhari to Cancel Just Concluded Presidential Election, Presidency Replies Former President Obasanjo, Labor Party Candidate Vows to Contest Polls, Reports Show Journalist Were Detained, Attacked and Harassed

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared Bola Tinubu, the candidate of Nigeria's ruling party All Progressives Congress (APC), as the winner of Saturday's presidential elections. Tinubu scored 8.794.726 votes, the highest of all the candidates, meeting the first constitutional requirement of gaining the majority of votes to be declared the winner. According to INEC, he further scored over 25% of the votes cast in at least 24 of the 36 states, as constitutionally required. INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu, who announced the final results in the early hours of Wednesday in Abuja, said Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) came second in the election. Atiku polled a total of 6.984.520 votes in the election. Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP) came third in the election with 6.101.533 votes, while Rabiu Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) came fourth with 1.496.687 votes. As a result, only the top four candidates in at least one state won the presidential election. While Kwankwaso won only in Kano, Tinubu, Atiku and Obi won in 12 states. Following the announcement, Tinubu gave his acceptance speech; please find full address details [here](#). [The Premium Times News \(March 1st\)](#) reports.

Less than three in ten Nigerians who had Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) turned up at the poll on February 25, making it the lowest voter turnout since the country started conducting elections in 1999. Of the 87.2 million Nigerians who had collected their PVCs and were eligible to vote, INEC data show that only 24.97 million had voted, equivalent to about 29%. That's less than the 35% and 43% recorded in the 2019 and 2015 presidential elections, respectively. Bola Tinubu, candidate

of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), won the election with 8.79 million votes (35.2%) in a close race that pitted him against Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who had 6.98 million votes and Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP) who won 6.1 million votes. The turnout also contradicts accounts of Nigerians who said people turned up in high numbers at their polling units to vote. Lolade Akinmurele, [Business Day News \(March 1st\)](#) reports.

On Monday, the electoral observation mission of the European Union (EU) presented a preliminary report of its observations of Nigeria's 2023 general elections at a press conference held in Abuja. In his address, chief observer of the mission, Barry Andrews, disclosed that the mission had 110 observers, including 11 core team members, 14 long-term observers and 96 short-term observers, including delegates of the European Parliament. He further said the elections were marred by cases of abuse of incumbency, widespread allegations of vote buying, disinformation of voters and a lack of planning in critical stages of the electoral process. In addition, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) lacked efficient planning and transparency during critical stages of the electoral process. On election day, trust in INEC was reduced further due to delayed polling processes and information gaps related to the much-anticipated digital access to results on its Results Viewing Portal iREV, Barry stated. While commending citizens for their turnout at the polls, Andrews noted that the EU would continue to monitor the collation of results as well as the March 11 governorship and state assembly elections and would present its final reports three months after the end of the election processes. Nathaniel Shaibu, [The Punch News \(February 27th\)](#) reports.

Dino Melaye and Emeka Ihedioha of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had accused INEC of violating the Electoral Act 2022 by going ahead with the result collation and announcement despite not uploading the results on the results viewing portal iREV. Agents of other parties, including those of the Labour Party as well as of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Action Democratic Party (ADP) and others, had expressed similar views. The agents later walked out of the national collation center in Abuja in protest at the exercise, accusing INEC of fraud. INEC then continued with the collation process. Ibrahim Adeyemi, [The Premium Times News \(February 27th\)](#) reports.

In a personally signed letter, former President Olusegun Obasanjo has raised the alarm that danger is lurking around the country over the alleged compromise of the ongoing election process. Obasanjo appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to prevail over the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, prof. Mahmood Yakubu, to stop the process and rectify the allegations raised against it from many quarters. In a personally signed letter titled "An appeal for caution and rectification," released on Monday evening, Obasanjo said some politicians had compromised with some electoral officials to make the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines not work. If his hands are clean, Yakubu should save Nigeria from the looming danger and disaster that was waiting to happen. The chairman should rectify the errors made during and after the elections. Daud Olatunji, [The Punch News \(February 27th\)](#) reports.

The federal government has asked former President Olusegun Obasanjo not to truncate the 2023 general elections with his inciting and provocative statement on the ongoing electoral process in a statement issued on Monday in Abuja by the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed. The minister expressed shock and disbelief that a former president would raise such allegations. According to the Mohammed, Obasanjo was the least qualified to advise a president whose determined effort to leave a legacy of free, fair, credible and transparent elections is well acknowledged within and outside Nigeria. The minister said the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was availing itself creditably, going by the preliminary reports of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) electoral observation mission and the Commonwealth observer group, among other groups that observed the elections. [The Premium Times News \(February 28th\)](#) reports.

On Thursday, Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi insisted that he won last Saturday's presidential elections and was ready to prove it. He said the presidential election won by the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate Bola Tinubu, was controversial and programmed to deliver predetermined results. Obi said he believed the process through which people come into any position was necessary and there was a need for Nigeria to sanitize this process. He said he had challenged several election results and come out victorious

and he would approach the court with the firm belief of getting justice. Idowu Abdullahi, [The Punch News \(March 2nd\)](#) reports.

At least 14 journalists and media workers were detained, harassed or attacked while covering Nigeria's presidential and national assembly elections, including private news website WikkiTimes owner Haruna Mohammed Salisu. WikkiTimes editor Yakubu Mohammed, who spoke to the Committee to protect Journalists (CPJ) and a local coalition of press freedom groups, said that Salisu remained in police custody without charge. Police detained Salisu on February 25 in Duguri town, southeastern Bauchi state, shortly after he and other reporters had met with the state governor. According to them, they took Salisu into custody to protect him after supporters of the governor attacked him as he interviewed local women protesting but then refused to release him. The local news site PR Nigeria reported that police had "received a formal complaint that the journalist was inciting the electorate". Days before the polls, journalists faced attack or were denied access to cover election preparations, CPJ has reported. CPJ, [The Premium Times News \(February 27th\)](#) reports. Salisu was released on bail on Thursday, see here [Committee to Protect Journalists \(March 2nd\)](#).

Insecurity: Presidential Elections Marred by Killings and Ballot Box Snatching

The presidential and national assembly elections were held on Saturday were marred by violence in many parts of the country, leading to the loss of lives and disruption of the voting process. In some areas, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) postponed elections over violence. The INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, while briefing journalists on the situation report in Abuja, stated that some BVAS (Bimodal Voter Accreditation System) machines were stolen as well as some polling units in Niger, Delta and Katsina states attacked. In Lagos, a woman was allegedly stabbed at the polling unit by thugs loyal to a political party. She, however, came back to cast her vote after being given first aid treatment and wearing a heavy bandage on her face and dripping with blood. Her picture and video went viral on social media, with some Nigerians commending her resolve and raising money for her. A pregnant woman and a member of a local security outfit were allegedly killed at a polling unit in Rivers State. Yakubu noted that the attacks by these thugs were targeted at the BVAS. Adebayo Folorunsho-Francis et al., [The Punch News \(February 28th\)](#) report.

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