

## **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 Recruits Churches, Mosques to Speed Up Mass Vaccinations, Confirms Cases of Omicron in Nigeria**

Fearing a surge in cases over the holiday season and wary of new variants, Nigeria is adopting a new strategy against the spread of Covid-19 by recruiting religious leaders, churches, mosques, and government offices to mobilise its mass vaccination campaign. Nigeria has received around 30 million doses so far, with another 60 million on their way early next year. AFP, [The Guardian News \(December 2<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control has confirmed the first cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus in the country. The Director-General, Ifedayo Adetifa, who disclosed this in a statement in Abuja, said that two cases of the variant were discovered through genomic sequencing and linked the cases to two passengers from South Africa. Both patients were asymptomatic and contact tracing had begun. Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, [The Guardian News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **FG Committed to Climate Change, Explains Refusal to Lift Ban, Law Institute Says 140 Million People Lack Access to Justice, FIRS Explains Nigeria's Refusal to Sign Minimum Corporate Tax Deal**

Similarly, Minister of State for Environment, Sharon Ikeazor, says the country has made a strong statement to the world by the signing of the climate change bill into law by President Muhammadu Buhari. According to the minister, the next step now is for the environment ministry to implement the commitments and strategies as well as the national plans aimed at achieving the desired goal. The law also paves the way for environmental and economic accounting and a push for a net zero emission deadline plan in the country. Babatunde Akintunde, [The Premium Times \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo, says the dialogue to lift the ban on Twitter was in progress with few conditions yet to be met. In his explanation, the minister disclosed that Twitter has agreed to all the Nigerian government's conditions but singled out "timelines" as the only obstacle. He said Twitter had agreed to pay taxes to the Nigerian government as well as setting up a physical office in Nigeria where users can take their complaints to.

Samson Adenekan, [The Premium Times \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

In new reports, the Country Director of the Hague Institute of Innovations of Law, Ijeoma Nwafor has said about 140 million Nigerians are among 5.1 billion people in the world that lack access to justice. She explained the Institute wanted to help these Nigerians solving their most pressing justice problems by 2030, adding that "this is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Amos Tauna, [The Daily Post \(December 2<sup>nd</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Federal Inland Revenue Service on Tuesday explained why Nigeria did not sign the tax treaty worked out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Nigeria in October rejected a tax pact signed by 136 countries, which aimed to enforce a corporate tax rate of at least 15 per cent. However, Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have not yet joined the agreement. Nigeria's representative at the OECD Inclusive Framework, Mathew Gbonjubola, said despite the promise that the new deal will increase global corporate income tax by as much as USD 150 billion yearly, with attendant favourable environment for investment and economic growth, there were serious concerns that the pillars did not address negative revenue outcomes for Nigeria and other developing countries. Mary Izuaka, [The Premium Times News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Governors Insist on Establishment of State Police, President Buhari Seeks INEC Advice on Direct Primaries, Call for Less Competition Between Nigeria and South Africa PDP Seeks Coalition Against Misrule, Enhancing Leadership Skills Ahead of 2023, Reps WANT More Vigilance on Travellers Coming into the Country**

The Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum and Ekiti State Governor, Kayode Fayemi, has insisted that devolving policing to various levels, including the local level, is the only solution to the myriad of security challenges facing the country. He noted that multi-level policing, which would give birth to state police, is an idea that can't be stopped even if it is delayed now. Adesina Wahab, [The Vanguard News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has written a letter to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmoud Yakubu, seeking comments from INEC over the Electoral Act amendment bill which was

passed by the National Assembly on November 9, 2021. However, INEC National Commissioner, Festus Okoye, had stated earlier this month that the direct primary method would be far more expensive because of the huge personnel that would be needed to undertake the primaries. [The Punch News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

President Muhammadu Buhari has urged for a stronger emphasis on people-to-people relations between South Africa and Nigeria to eradicate unhealthy competition. He reiterated Nigeria's commitment to improving a "special relationship" with South Africa, which will translate into gains for the whole continent, particularly in education, science, trade and investment, tourism, and security. Stephen Angbulu, [The Punch News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has charged other political parties to forge stronger coalition against what it describes as misrule of the All Progressives Congress (APC). The party's Chairman-Elect, Iyorchia Ayu, underlined this when he received the leadership of the Conference of United Political Parties at his Abuja residence on Tuesday. He noted that the role of political parties should not be restricted to campaigning and winning elections alone; they should also be concerned about the welfare of the people they seek to govern. Azimazi Momoh Jimoh and Ann Godwin, [The Guardian News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The newly elected members of the National Working Committee of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have gone through a crash course in political leadership recently. Led by former Senate president and Party Chairman-Elect, Iyorchia Ayu, the party hierarchy reasoned that it was imperative to take them through the rudiments given the task ahead of them in the run up to the 2023 general elections. Leon Usigbe, [The Tribune News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The House of Representatives has urged the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control to ensure intensive observation of passengers arriving in Nigeria. The lawmakers also directed the Ministry of Health to put in place strategies to check the spread of the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron. These resolutions were the outcome of a motion moved by Dachung Bagos (PDP, Plateau) on Tuesday during the plenary. Bakare Majeed, [The Premium Times News \(November 30<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: Lagos State Explains Intervention of Army in EndSARS Protest, Blames EndSARS Panel for Duplication in Report, 116 Citizens Seek Arrest of Police and Armed Forces Officers**

In its White Paper on the report of the Lagos State judicial panel of inquiry led by Justice Doris Okuwobi, the Lagos State Government has said soldiers "intervened" during the EndSARS protests in the state in October 2020 to assist civil authorities restore law and order in the state. The government also rejected the findings by the panel that nine persons were killed by gunshots at the Lekki toll gate on October 20, 2020. Altogether, the state government accepted 11 out of the 32 recommendations made by the judicial panel of inquiry, rejected one, and accepted six with modifications while 14 recommendations fall outside the powers of the state government and will be forwarded to the federal government for consideration. Kayode Oyero, [The Punch News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Lagos State judicial panel of inquiry into police brutality and the Lekki tollgate shooting of October 20, 2020 is discontent with the Lagos state government for faulting its report in its White Paper. However, the state government disagrees, saying the submission of the panel that nine persons died is "irreconcilable" with the testimony of John Obafunwa, a pathologist who appeared before the judicial panel. The panel says the errors the state government is imputing to discredit parts of the report were in fact computer glitches. [The Pulse News \(December 3<sup>rd</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project and 116 citizens have filed a lawsuit at the Federal High Court in Abuja to direct and compel President Muhammadu Buhari to take immediate steps to ensure the arrest of soldiers and police officers indicted by the Lagos State #EndSARS panel report for police brutality cases and the shooting of peaceful protesters at the Lekki tollgate. The suit followed the submission of the #EndSARS panel report to the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and read in part: "The failure to promptly arrest, and bring to justice those suspected to be responsible for the shooting of peaceful protesters, and to ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims and their families amounts to a travesty of justice, as justice delayed is justice denied". Udora Orizu, [This Day Live \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Deputy Resident Representative  
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

[www.kas.de/nigeria](http://www.kas.de/nigeria)

[www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria](https://www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria)

[vladimir.kreck@kas.de](mailto:vladimir.kreck@kas.de) / [adamu.adams@kas.de](mailto:adamu.adams@kas.de)



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