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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.

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Nigerian Currency Listed as Worst Performing in Africa, Global Vaccine Alliance to Counter Diphtheria Outbreak, Controversy over President Tinubu's Academic Certificate Submitted to INEC

The World Bank has listed the Nigerian Naira (NGN) among the worst performing currencies in Africa. The NGN has weakened by nearly 40% against the US-Dollar (USD) since it was floated and devalued in June. According to the World Bank report, the weakening was triggered by the Central Bank of Nigeria's decision to remove trading restrictions on the official market. The apex bank directed Nigerian banks to allow the free float of the NGN against the USD and other global currencies. Since then, the Naira had fallen from NGN 473.83 to around NGN 800 compared to the USD on the official market. The NGN is sharing its position as the worst-performing currency in Africa with the Angolan Kwanza. James Agberebi, [The Guardian News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

The Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) has commended Nigeria's efforts in combatting the ongoing diphtheria outbreak across the country. GAVI applauded the efforts for establishing an emergency task force as a critical step towards an effective response to the ongoing outbreak. The primary objective of the task force is to operate in an emergency mode to prevent further spread of diphtheria to other states and provide relief to affected communities. The global initiative has since circulated 11.7 million doses of the highly effective pentavalent vaccine which protects children from five life-threatening diseases – diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and Hib. Diphtheria infections in Nigeria have continued to increase to 13,204 suspected cases as of October 3. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that Nigeria is currently facing a second wave of infections. Nike Adebowale-Tambe, [Premium Times News \(October 4th\)](#) reports.

The presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, on Thursday held a press conference to address the issue of president Bola Tinubu's academic records released by the Chicago State University (CSU) in a United States lawsuit. The released records show that Tinubu's 1979 CSU certificate he submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was different from samples of the certificates the university issued to students that same year. Under oath, the CSU-registrar said he could not authenticate the certificate Tinubu presented

to INEC. Atiku Abubakar referred to the pending case at the Supreme Court and expressed his hope that the new developments will influence the Supreme Court's ruling on the outcome of the 2023 presidential elections. But he further promised to accept the upcoming decision of Nigeria's highest court, even if it were not in his favor. Miftaudeen Raji, [The Vanguard News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

President Tinubu Lauds Founding Father's Dedication and Leadership at the 63rd Independence Day, Organized Labor Suspends Nationwide Strike, Senate Confirms Three Minister-Nominees, First-Time Senators Barred from Contesting for Presiding Officer Positions

On Sunday, in an address to Nigerians on the nation's 63rd independence anniversary, president Bola Tinubu lauded the country's founding fathers for their tenacity, patriotism and activism that culminated into Nigeria's freedom from colonialism 63 years ago. He further said that their efforts gave life to the belief in Nigeria as the sovereign and independent nation that it is today. Tinubu said that building a nation of shared vision always comes with various challenges that must be conquered and resolved in the overall interest of the citizens. The president praised the security forces, the legislatures, judiciary as well as civil society organizations as forces that bound the country since independence. He promised that the administration would continue to accord highest priority to the safety of lives and property of Nigerians, adding that already inter-agency collaboration had been enhanced. Nsikak Nseyen, [Daily Post News \(October 1st\)](#) reports. Read the full text of his speech here: [Punch News \(October 1st\)](#).

The organized labor has suspended the planned indefinite strike on Monday night. The industrial action was prompted by mass suffering following the removal of fuel subsidy and crisis in foreign exchange market and its ripple effects on Nigerian workers. The suspension of the planned nationwide strike followed the signing of a 15-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two main labor unions and the federal government (FG). As part of the agreement, the FG announced a NGN 35,000 salary award until a new minimum wage law would be signed. Additionally, the government will cut the value added tax on fuel. The organized labor gained the FG one month to implement the points agreed on and announced to bring an industrial action back on the

table if the FG failed to deliver. [This Day Live News \(October 4th\)](#) reports.

The Senate has confirmed three nominees forwarded to the chamber by president Bola Tinubu. The former secretary to the state government, Abbas Balarabe, replaced the former ministerial nominee and the immediate past governor from Kaduna state, Malam El-Rufai, who was rejected by the Senate in August. The red chamber also confirmed Jamila Ibrahim from Kwara state and Ayodele Olawande from Ondo state as ministers as requested by the president. Tinubu had in September appointed Ibrahim as the minister of youth and Olawande as the minister of state, respectively. While being screened, Balarabe collapsed but was stabilized immediately and finished his screening. Sunday Isuwa, [Leadership News \(October 5th\)](#) reports.

The Senate has amended its rule to bar first-time senators from contesting for the positions of Senate president and deputy Senate president. Prior to the amendment, all 109 senators, irrespective of ranking and amount of legislative circles served, were free to contest the Senate presiding officers positions. The Senate also amended its rules to accommodate the creation of additional nine standing committees, raising them to now 83. Some of the new standing committees are: committee on atomic and nuclear energy, committee on youth and community engagement and committee on culture and creative economy. Adegbite Taoheed,

[Nigerian Tribune News \(October 3rd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Fire at Illegal Oil Refining Site Takes 35 Lives, Gunmen Invade Violent-Torn Area and Kill 9 Residents

A fire at an illegal oil refining site in Rivers state led to the death of 35 people, with even more people affected. According to an eyewitness, the victims had gone to trade on the petroleum product when the fire at the refining site consumed them. The affected people were illegally scooping and bagging crude oil when the place caught fire. The police were not able to confirm the latest development in the area. [The Vanguard News \(October 3rd\)](#) reports.

Yet another attack by unidentified gunmen in Plateau state claimed the lives of nine people. According to residents, their call for security personal were replied too late on the next morning with security personal being deployed to the area. Last year several people were killed in the same local government area (LGA) following different incidents of violent clashes between farmers and pastoralists. The clashes led to the displacement of thousands of people in the LGA. Many residents have just returned to their communities following months of relative peace. Hundreds of people have been killed this year alone in the ongoing conflict between farmers and herders. Usman Audu, [Premium Times News \(October 2nd\)](#) reports.

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