

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: NCDC Confirms Cases of Delta Variant in Five State, Health Minister Says Nigeria Now Experiencing Third Wave, FG Receives 4.8 Million Vaccines from the United States, Reopens Isolation Centers, Records Highest Daily Infections in Six Months

In new reports, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), have reported 32 cases of the Delta variant in five states across the country. At the briefing of Presidential Steering Committee on Monday 2, the Director General of the NCDC, Chiiikwe Ihekweazu, confirmed that Akwa Ibom state, Lagos state, Rivers state, Oyo state and the Federal Capital have at least one case of the Delta variant of Covid-19 with 19 in Akwa Ibom. Ihekweazu further stated that the country has scaled up its sequencing capacity to better understand the burden of the variants in the country. Mandy Oteng, [News2 Online \(August 3rd\)](#) reports.

Similarly, the Minister of Health, Osagie Ehanire, has revealed that available data indicates the country is experiencing the third wave of the pandemic. He however, solicited for state participation in sample collection, reporting and treatment of cases, stating that only 17 states in the country made sample or data submissions. He added that there were available beds and oxygen supply at treatments indicating the readiness to receive cases in the face of the third wave threat. Mandy Oteng, [News2 Online \(August 3rd\)](#) reports.

The Federal Government has received donations through the COVAX facility, 4.8 million doses of Moderna Covid-19 vaccines. The vaccines are being stored at the country's National Strategic Cold Store. Dr. Faissal Shuaaib, the Executive Director, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), said that ahead of the arrival of the vaccines, the federal government bought 60 ultra-cold chain equipment and have since allocated one to each of the 36 states across the federation. Don Silas, [Daily Post News \(August 2nd\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, isolation centers that were closed after the surge of Covid-19 infections in the country are being reopened according to the NCDC. [MSN News \(August 4th\)](#) reports that the resurgence of the corona virus in West Africa is hitting the region hard, where funeral numbers are rising and hospitals beds are becoming scarce.

The NCDC has also confirmed that the country has seen its highest cases since February 19. According to the latest release, Lagos state has the highest case of infections with 488 cases, in all the country 176,0011 confirmed cases of Covid-19 while 2,167 have died. [Channels News \(August 5th\)](#) reports.

INEC Speaks on Technology for Free and Fair Election, EFCC Arrests Former Senate President Over Fraud Allegations, Seven Members of PDP' National Working Committee Resign

In new reports, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, has emphasized on the use of electronic components in elections as a way to deliver free and fair elections. Yakubu said, "the truth is that nations are increasingly moving away from manual processes by deploying more technology to further guarantee electoral credibility." He played host to the Chairperson of Liberia's National Electoral Commission, Mrs Davidetta Browne Lansanah, in Abuja, who commended the INEC for steps taken towards sharing its electoral experience with Liberia. Mandy Oteng, [News Online \(July 31st\)](#) reports.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) held Bukola Saraki, the Former President of the Nigerian 8th Senate, over allegations of theft and money laundering. Saraki was reportedly detained on Sunday 1. He was in 2018 acquitted by the Supreme Court after facing allegations of false declaration of assets and corruption. However, in his new case with EFCC, Saraki is reported to answer questions over using a network of cronies and proxy companies to launder public funds. Taiwo-Hassan Adebayo, [Premium Times News \(July 31st\)](#) writes.

Meanwhile, seven officials of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have resigned. Amongst the officials were the Deputy Financial Secretary, the Deputy National Legal Adviser among others. The officials were seen sending in their resignation letters separately to the National Secretary of the party. The Youth Leader of the PDP, Udo Okoye, confirmed the resignation of the officials on Channels Television stating that the resignees were fed up with the leadership style of the National Chairman of the party, Uche Secondus. [Premium Times \(August 3rd\)](#) reports.

Doctors Strike Over Poor Facilities, Salaries, Nigeria Ranks Poorest in Food Affordability

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) on Monday 2, has commenced an indefinite strike over pay, insurance benefits and poor facilities. Uyilawa Okhuaihesuyi, the president of NARD, revealed that there will be no exemption for doctors handling Covid-19 cases. He said the industrial action was to push government to honor its agreement on pay arrears, hazard allowance and insurance benefits to families of doctors who have died of the virus. [Ahrum Online \(August 2nd\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, a report by the Institute of Development Studies, a UK based think tank, compiled a report through publicly available global cost-of-living database which was used to create the cost of food basics in comparison to the monthly minimum wage recommended spend on food per adult and monthly average wage in countries across the world. Nigeria, however, was placed as the second poorest country in the world in terms of food availability. The cost of food basics found that since the outbreak of Covid-19 there is vast disparity in terms of average wages needed to afford enough food. Stephen Agwaibor, [Punch News \(August 5th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Federal Government Files Fresh Charged Against Leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, Education Minister Says Kidnapped Students Ransom "Re-Channeled" to Arms Purchase, ISWAP Seeks Expansion into Lake Chad Region, IPOB Threatens Police, Army Over Killings in the South-East, Sues US Secretary of State Over Sale of Defense Warplane

Meanwhile, fresh charges bordering on terrorism and treasonable felony have been filed by the federal government against the leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), El-Zakzaky. The charges came barely two days after a High Court discharged and acquitted the IMN leader. The federal governments prosecution's revealed that the

judgement from the High Court was not in consonance with the facts on the ground. [Africa News \(July 31st\)](#) reports.

The Minister of State for Education, Chukwuemeka Nwajuba, has addressed the reaction of the viral footage which showed kidnapped students in kaduna state tortured by kidnappers. He pointed out that "the government would no longer negotiate with bandits, as ransoms were being re-channeled into the procurement of arms." Chukwuemeka also added that the federal government was doing its part to rescue the students as soon as possible. [The Frontier Post \(August 5th\)](#) writes.

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has reported the alleged plans of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), to expand into Lake Chad Basin. The ISWAP has reportedly sought advise from Iran and Syria on the expansion into the Lake Chad region, they were further advised to disregard the Sambisa forest in Maiduguri describing it as a stronghold of the Boko Haram leader Shekau. Malik Samuel, [ISS Africa News \(August 2nd\)](#) reports.

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), has alleged that the Police and Army are silently killing residents in the south-east region. IPOB put a warning to security operatives in the country to desist from killing innocent citizens in the south-east. They also accused the security forces of feeding the public with "lies" that state it invaded their camps, stating that no member of their Eastern Security Network was missing. [Sahara Reporters News \(August 5th\)](#) writes.

On another note, the IPOB has submitted a complaint against United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken and Defense Secretary, Lloyd Austin, over the sale of attack planes to the country. they claimed that the warplanes would be used to attack its supporters and filed that the court direct Blinken and Austin to block the transfer of the six A-29 Super Tucano aircraft to the country's Airforce. [The Guardian News \(August 4th\)](#) reports.



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Dr. Vladimir Kreck, Resident Representative
Adams Adamu, Program Assistant / Editor Press Review

Nigeria Office

www.kas.de/nigeria

www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria

vladimir.kreck@kas.de / vera.ali@kas.de



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