

# NIGERIA THIS WEEK

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Centre for Democracy & Development  
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## ECONOMIC

### NINE NATIONAL POWER PLANTS SHUT DOWN LEAVING 2,079MW CAPACITY STRANDED

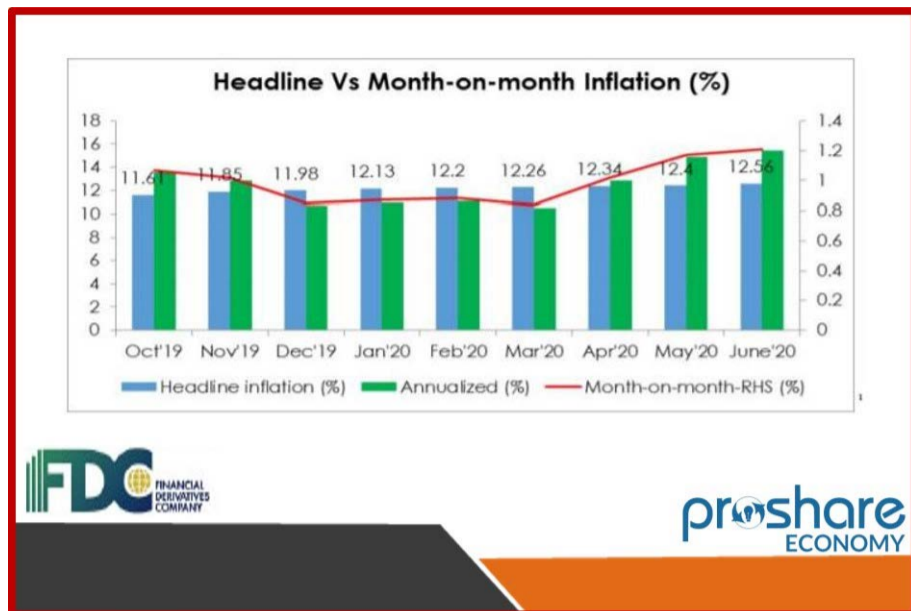


According to the Nigerian Electricity System Operator on July 16, 2020, nine of the country's 27 power plants were idle, leaving a total generation capacity of 2,079.1 megawatts stranded. The system operator put the nation's installed generation capacity at 12,910.40MW; available capacity at 7,652.60MW; transmission wheeling capacity at 8,100MW; and the peak generation ever attained at 5,375MW. Total power generation in the country stood at 3,269.6MW, up from 3,074.6MW on June 15. Only 58% of Nigerians have access to electricity and an estimated 80% of those with access use an alternative source of electricity supply due to reliability concerns.

The power sector lost an estimated N2.01 billion on July 14, 2020, due to constraints from the insufficient gas supply, distribution, and transmission infrastructure. The shutdown of the power plants was due to these factors including low load demand by the distribution companies and rupturing of the gas pipeline, among others. Due to the unstable power supply, companies in Nigeria are struggling to remain in operation. The high cost of production, exacerbated by the high costs incurred from powering generators places a huge strain on production companies. Electricity is a vital component of the industrialisation process and the constant power challenges in Nigeria have to be solved to aid socio-economic development and hence industrialization.

## HEADLINE INFLATION IN NIGERIA CROSSED THE 12.5% THRESHOLD IN JUNE 2020

Inflation in Nigeria increased to 12.56% in June from 12.40% in May, the 10th consecutive monthly increase and the highest level in over two years. On a state-by-state basis, headline inflation was highest in Bauchi, Sokoto and Ebonyi at 15.02%, 14.88% and 14.6% respectively. Cross River (10.95%), Lagos (10.78%) and Kwara State (10.03%) however recorded the slowest rise in the headline inflation. More disturbing is the constant increase in the rate of year-on-year inflation at 0.16%. Headline inflation is expected to continue its upward trajectory as aggregate demand picks up following the gradual reopening of the economy and increase in general economic activities.



The continuous rise in the general price level is largely due to supply disruptions caused by the partial lockdown of the economy and higher logistics costs. However, it is believed that the waning purchasing power of consumers due to a decrease in income would reduce inflationary pressures subsequently. It means that the rate of increase in the headline inflation rate will slow down from July through to October 2020 before seasonal factors take effect in November and December 2020. Inflation hurts the growth and development of the Nigerian economy, it often nullifies the gains of the wage rises but the projected decrease would partially stabilize the economy.

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED N75 BILLION FUND FOR YOUTH-DRIVEN ENTERPRISE

Since the emergence of COVID-19 and pronouncement of a nationwide lockdown, the Federal Government has introduced several schemes aimed to ease the effects of the lockdown and stimulate the economy. Contributing to these schemes, the Federal Executive Council on July 22, approved the establishment of a N75 billion Nigerian Youth Investment Fund (NYIF) to support 68 million Nigerian youth between ages 18 and 35.

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, announced the scheme while briefing State House correspondents at a Council meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Dare said the funds will be used to assist the most qualified youth with genuine business ideas. It is also aimed to create a special window for accessing credit facilities and financing that will help to fund their ideas and innovations. The fund is the first-ever money approved specifically for youth in Nigeria as it would stimulate enterprise and business among the youth population in the nation.



## CBN RETAINS ITS MONETARY POLICY RATES DESPITE COVID-19

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced that it has retained all monetary policy parameters unchanged. The CBN governor, Godwin Emefiele, mentioned this on July 20, at an online briefing.

The monetary policy rate (MPR), was unchanged at 12.5 per cent. Following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the CBN unveiled various stimulus packages, such as concessionary rates, loan restructuring, and targeted loans to agriculture, manufacturing and health sectors to spur economic recovery in the country.



The MPC retained all monetary policy rates to allow the intervention programmes time to take effect.

Reviewing the performance of the economy based on the impact of the CBN intervention programmes, the Governor mentioned that the country's banking system remains very strong. Between June 2019 and June 2020, gross loans and advances by banks to various sectors of the economy as a result of CBN's loan-to-deposit rate (LDR) policy increased by N3.33 trillion, from N15.6 trillion to N18.9 trillion. The sums granted indicates that Nigeria's economy is still very resilient, and able to support the country's economic development.

## POLITICS

### ELECTION: ONDO STATE PRIMARIES

The All Progressive Congress (APC) held its governorship Primaries in Ondo State on July 20, 2020, where the incumbent Governor Rotimi Akeredolu was declared the winner of the primaries. Over 3,000 delegates voted in the election which lasted for over six hours between 2 PM and 8:30 PM.



Akeredolu won in all the local government areas of the state, with 2,458 votes, defeating seven other aspirants. His closest rival, Olusola Oke, came second with 262 votes while Isaac Kekemeke came a

distant third with 19 votes. Other aspirants who contested got less than ten votes each.

Furthermore, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ondo State also conducted its state's primaries election in Akure on July 22, 2020, where Eyitayo Jegede emerged winner of the governorship primaries.

A total of 2,111 delegates voted during the primaries which lasted about eight hours, Jegede polled 888 votes to emerge the winner while his closest rival, the embattled Deputy Governor of the state, Agboola Ajayi scored 667. Jegede, a former Attorney General in the state was announced the winner of the primaries by Chairman of the Governorship Primary Election Committee Governor Ifeanyi Ugwanyi.

## **OBIANO RISKS BEING SUED OVER LG POLL**

Governor Willie Obiano is in danger of being sued by Billionaire Arthur Eze, for various alleged constitutional breaches and mismanaging the monthly allocations from the federation account meant for development projects. He said the Governor failed to conduct election into the councils while not being straightforward with the local government allocations of the state. He also stressed that Obiano also denied the traditional rulers their legal five per cent from the revenue allocation due to them from the council funds.

Furthermore, Eze was displeased with the situation where the Governor had shunned reasonable infrastructure developments and embarked on misplaced priority projects like the Umueri Airport construction while the state was in ruins due to bad roads and unfavourable business climate. Eze said Governor Obiano had the gut to write a petition against him for facilitating Zone 13 Police Command to Ukpo, instead of Aguleri, the governor's home town. Eze disclosed Obiano has apologised for the lighthearted petition after the police authorities had investigated and found out that the choice of Ukpo as the location of Zone 13 was reasonable. He commended President Muhammadu Buhari and the Inspector General of Police, Muhammadu Adamu, for approving the zone and pledged his continuous loyalty to the constituted authorities.

## **HOUSE OF REPS MEMBERS THREATEN TO IMPEACH BUHARI**



Since President Muhammadu Buhari came into power in May 2015, there have been several impeachment threats by the National Assembly particularly with the then speaker Senator Bukola Saraki. The first snap occurred in April 2018 with the payment of \$496 million to the United States by the President for the purchase of Tucano aircraft. This action was taken without the approval of the National Assembly.

On this, the opposition threatened the President with impeachment with the presidency retaliated by using the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to go after NASS members with the arrest of Senator Dino Melaye (APC, Kogi) and Senator Peter Nwaoboshi (PDP, Delta) among others.

Furthermore, lawmakers on June 6, 2018, again threatened impeachment and made a list of demands to the President, largely related to security months before the 2019 elections. Fast-forward to the 21st of July 2020, Members of the House of Representatives on the platform of the People Democratic Party (PDP) announced that they may soon commence impeachment proceedings against President Buhari. If the insecurity challenges in Nigeria do not improve and if what they termed as the calculated blackmail against the National Assembly is not checked with recent claims by several Ministers under Buhari`s government accusing National assembly members of being contracts beneficiaries.

## **PDP COLLAPSE IN CROSS RIVER AHEAD OF 2023**

The current dilemma within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Cross River State revolves around two factions in the party. The Abuja group led by the National Assembly lawmakers and some founding members of the party in the state are in locker heads against those at the home front, led by Governor Ben Ayade and Ntufam Edim Inok led State Executive Committee of the party. The two clusters have been hostile over who controls the party's structures at the state level as it provides a stronghold in decision makings of the party ahead of 2023 governorship election.



Moreover, the battle is based on control of the ward, chapter and state executive, the outcome of the just concluded local government polls, the by-election in Cross River North Senatorial and a few other issues. The Abuja group won the ward and chapter primaries, with the outcome of the congresses duly endorsed by the National Working Committee (NWC) of the party.

## **CORRUPTION**

### **PETITIONS AGAINST DIVERSION OF N300M KWARA LG FUNDS**

The Kwara Advancement Initiative (KAI), a non-governmental organization has appealed to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to look for the perpetrators of the alleged unlawful deduction of N300m from the monthly allocations of local governments in Kwara State. KAI in its petition to the EFCC alleged that a cabinet member was deducting from the Local Governments funds monthly without the knowledge of the commissioner in charge of the concerned ministry.

The State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq in the wake of this allegation has invited the EFCC to look



into this case being brought forward. Furthermore, the State House of Assembly has also set up a panel to investigate this allegation of illegal deduction from the LGs monthly allocation.

A detailed and in-depth investigation needs to be carried out by the EFCC as well as the legislative to unveil those behind this graft. Local Government funding is very essential to its development, and once that is cut short, this cripples its development. To prevent this event from happening, there have to be more preventive measures put in place to ensure that the people's interest are always put first and those thinking of stealing allocated funds cannot.



## **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVISED TO ADOPT TECHNOLOGY IN THE ANTI-GRAFT WAR**

The Managing Director of SystemSpecs, Mr John Obaro, urged the Federal government to make more use of technology in tackling corruption in Nigeria. This call for the use of technology in tackling corruption was done at the Africa Regional Webinar on Combating Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC).

Nigeria is a country that is much backwards in the technological age and this is one of the factors causing corruption to breed further in the country. From not having a proper database to not having a proper filing system in the country, corruption has been allowed to move without proper prevention systems put in play. Technology can be useful in fighting corruption by improving transparency, detection in operations to identify anomalies, preventive detection through monitoring of networks and individuals, reporting by creating complaint channels that can lead to concrete action and punish violations and close loopholes, it also serves as a deterrence.



## **TWO PENSION OFFICIALS ARRAIGNED OVER N19M FRAUD**

Former officials of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) in Benue State have been arraigned before a Benue State High Court Judge by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The duo, Victor Gabriel Charles and John Aboyi Omaku were arraigned before the court over alleged conspiracy and misappropriation of pension funds of about N19 million.

Victor Charles is a former vice-chairman of the NUP and John Omaku is a former Branch Chairman of the Union, Benue State Chapter.

Fraud, dishonestly misappropriation of civil servants that have worked several years committed by



these two officials is an offence contrary to section 96 of the penal code (CAP) 124 Laws of Benue State, and punishable under Sector 97 of the same law. The law should take its full course if they are found guilty.

This would serve as a deterrent to those who are thinking of committing a crime that the law always catches up with perpetrators of corruption.



## FARMERS SEEK PROBE OF AGRIC LOAN

The Edo State Concerned Farmers Association (ESCF) has called on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and anti-graft agencies to probe the Edo State Governor over alleged fraud, embezzlement and misappropriation of N144 billion loan from the bank meant for an agric-preneur project.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Communication Strategy, Mr Crusoe Osagie, in a statement said the protest was initiated by politicians.

He said the politicians are trying to paint the Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki in a bad light insisting that the Agripreneur Programme of the government is on course and is serving the interest of genuine farmers with whom it was designed for.

Before these allegations, the Centre for Democracy and Development released a special report in 2018 on the rice revolution which detailed fraud allegations, unremitted loans, crop failure and other anomalies that eat into the Nigerian Government. With series of corruption allegations and doggedness by the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP), a provisioning mechanism of farm inputs in kind and cash has been plagued by a myriad of problems and with the allegations of corruption within the agric-preneur programme, it is clear that the agriculture sector needs proper supervision and structuring.

## CONFLICT

### ARMY, ISWAP GIVE CONFLICTING FIGURES OF MILITARY CASUALTIES IN RECENT ATTACK

The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), a breakaway terrorist group from the Boko Haram, claimed it killed 40 personnel of the Nigerian Army in an ambush attack on Tuesday, July 7.

The group shared the information in a weekly newspaper published by the Islamic States media office, An-Naba. However, the military said only two soldiers lost their lives in that incident.

The publication titled 'Harvest of a Month in West Africa', contains details of Boko Haram's operations from the Islamic months of Shawwal to Dhul-Qa'dah. The dates fall between the second week of June and the first week of July.

Contained in the publication, are graphic details and pictures from various ambush attacks carried out by the groups.

During the July 7, attack on the Maiduguri-Damboha highway, the newsletter details the use of diverse weaponry, the burning of an armoured vehicle and the bounty they stole which consists a troop carrier and six 4-wheel drive vehicles.

The pictures shown corroborate the narrative of at least 40 fallen soldiers.



The Nigerian Army, however, on July 8, gave a different account of the ambush. In the statement shared, 17 members of the group were killed with others narrowly escaping, with only two soldiers killed.

This information comes amid accusations made by Nigerian soldiers of the military authority being economical with facts about the attack and hiding information.

## **BANDITS AMBUSH NIGERIAN SOLDIERS IN KATSINA, KILL 16**



On July 18, suspected bandits killed at least 16 soldiers and officers in an ambush in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State. Although the army spokesperson did not confirm or comment on the incident, officials briefed on the matter disclosed that the clash left 28 soldiers and two bandits injured. The officials said the troops were advancing on foot at about 6.13 PM when the armed militants opened fire on them from a hilltop.

The attack is part of the ongoing insurgency affecting the lives of people living in the northeast and northcentral. A 2020 report by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding states that In Katsina alone, over 2,000 people have been killed, 500 communities destroyed and over 33,000 people displaced as a result.

In May 2020, following a highway protest by the residents of Katsina, President Buhari, issued a statement where he promised a major military onslaught to rid the state of bandits and kidnappers. Despite the President's statement, attacks on military camps and civilians have continued in the state since then.



## **NIGERIAN STATE OFFERS COWS FOR GUNS TO HALT ATTACKS**

The insurgency in northwest Nigeria has seen an estimated 8,000 people killed and 200,000 flee their homes since 2011. Remote communities across the region have had to deal with deadly raids from armed groups of motorcycle-riding cattle rustlers and kidnapers. Military operations have failed to end the killings, and local officials have repeatedly tried negotiations to broker peace to no avail. Vigilante groups set up by local communities to defend themselves carry out extrajudicial killings.

However, in a new effort to bring peace to the region, authorities in Nigeria's northwest state, Zamfara, have offered two cows for each gun surrendered to halt bloody attacks by criminal gangs, including cattle rustlers. The Zamfara State Governor Bello Matawalle on July 23, said livestock offers should convince the bandits to drop their arms. There is no indication as of yet if this initiative will be enough to convince them to forsake their lucrative cattle rustling and kidnapping rackets.



## **BOKO HARAM TERRORISTS ATTACK MAIDUGURI, KILL SEVERAL RESIDENTS**



Boko Haram terrorists on the night of July 20, attacked Gomari area of Maiduguri in Borno State. Security sources disclosed that the insurgents entered the village around 11.05 PM, shooting sporadically and killing several persons.

Increased attacks by insurgents have occurred in the area in recent times. This attack is suspected to be another attempt by the terrorists to overrun a military base located within the area. Since 2019, Borno state has had about 182 Boko Haram attacks leaving over 3000 residents dead.

# CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

## COMMUNITIES THREATEN TO SUE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES OVER EXCLUSION OF WOMEN AND EXPLOITATION.

Communities in Cross River State spoke against the exclusion of women in community land rights and continuous marginalization by multinationals.

They mentioned that they would take the case to court if the issues are not addressed. They also noted that the activities of these companies have adversely affected the livelihood of rural dwellers, women and youth.

## NIGERIAN BEATEN UP BY GUARDS OF INDIAN COLLEGE



Nigerian students at the Roorkee Institute of Technology India, Ibrahim and Benjamin (Ghanaian) were beaten up at the college premises leaving them seriously injured after the two went out for dinner without a pass.

The video which has gone viral shows men numbering about 20 beatings up the two students with Bamboo sticks. It was gathered that the school administration had not granted passes due to the coronavirus.

## PROTESTERS MARCH ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF SOCIAL MEDIA, HATE SPEECH BILL

Hundreds of protesters marched on the National Assembly on July 22, taking over the main entrance to demand the withdrawal of the social media and hate speech bills. The group coordinator, Adebayo Raphael, at the rally expressed the request as a result of the overwhelming rejection of the bill by Nigerians.

In his statement, Adebayo said that the death sentence for defaulters is an infringement on human rights. He said the bills do not in any way provide solutions to the problems they address, and instead will throw the country into chaos and confusion in ways that are dangerous to democracy, free speech

and digital freedom in a democratic society.

## POLICEMAN ARRESTED FOR HARASSMENT



A policeman, Inspector Yemi Ojumoola has been arrested on allegations of harassing the public with his service pistol. The state commander of police, Hakeem Odumosun, confirmed this and ordered that the inspector should face trial. Inspector Ojumoola was caught on video engaging a motorist in an argument over traffic issues when he brought out his service weapon to harass the motorist and a heated argument ensued.



**Centre for Democracy & Development**  
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The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) was established in the United Kingdom in 1997 as an independent, not-for-profit, research training, advocacy and capacity building organisation

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