

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Nigeria Monthly Briefing August 2021

Nigeria Summary 26 August 2021

President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-present) signs into law the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). Niger Delta region stakeholders criticise presidential approval of the PIB, citing failures that will impact regional development and inflame separatist sentiments. Justice Binta Nyako adjourns until October the trial of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) leader Nnamdi Kanu after he fails to appear in court on 26 July. Unidentified gunmen attack a convoy transporting contractors to a Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) site in Imo state, killing one police officer and six employees. The Abuja Court of Appeal overturns a 2019 ruling confiscating the Oil Mineral Lease 11 (OML11) field licence from SPDC and transferring it to the state-owned Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NPPC). United Kingdom (UK)-national and former London Stock Exchange (LSE)-listed Glencore oil trader Antony Stimler pleads guilty to charges of money laundering and violating the United States (US) Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) by bribing NPPC officials. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (central bank) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintains the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 11.5% citing a fall in headline and food inflation. CBN governor Godwin Emefiele bans the sale of foreign exchange to Bureaux de Change (BDCs) due to fraud concerns. Information and culture minister Lai Mohammed returns from a trip to the US, strongly denying that Nigeria is a failed state.

Buhari signs Petroleum Industry Bill...

President **Muhammadu Buhari** (2015-present) signed into law the long-awaited **Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB)** on 16 August.¹ The bill replaces the former **Petroleum Act (1969)**.² The PIB was passed by the senate and house of representatives on 1 and 16 July respectively (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria July 2021*).³ **Femi Adesina**, special adviser to the president on media and publicity, confirmed that the bill would be ceremonially passed on 18 August following President Buhari's release from mandatory quarantine following a trip to **London (United Kingdom) (UK)**.⁴

The PIB provides a new legal, governance, regulatory and fiscal framework for the petroleum industry, a sector that has witnessed severe turbulence since the bill was first conceived in the early 2000s.⁵ The oil and gas industry contributes only 10% of gross domestic product (GDP) but continues to account for 90% of foreign exchange (FX) earnings and 60% of total income.⁶ The PIB was reviewed by parliamentarians in 2009, 2012 and 2018 and failed to pass.⁷

Key changes to be implemented under the PIB are:

- Dual regulators for the oil and gas industry, a commission and an authority;
- Voluntary conversion of oil and mining prospecting contracts in exchange for relinquishment of up to 60% of licensed areas;
- The ministry of finance and ministry of petroleum will now act as shareholders of the state-owned **Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Ltd (NNPC)**;

¹ [Vanguard](#), 16 Aug 2021

² [Vanguard](#), 2 Jul 2021

³ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

⁴ [Vanguard](#), 16 Aug 2021

⁵ [Vanguard](#), 16 Aug 2021

⁶ [KPMG](#), Jul 2021

⁷ [KPMG](#), Jul 2021

- Permissions required from Nigerian government ministers and the commission must be deliberated within a specified period, or permission shall be deemed as given;
- Acquisition costs of interest in a lease are to be broken down into value of rights and value of assets;
- Former licences are renamed: the Oil Exploration Licence is now a **Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL)**, Oil Prospecting Licence is now a **Petroleum Prospecting Licence (PPL)**, Oil Mining Lease is now a **Petroleum Mining Lease (PML)**;
- Nigeria will develop a model licence and model lease agreement to be incorporated into contracts before ministerial approval;
- Oil producing companies will pay a **Hydrocarbon Tax (HT)** of 15% for companies holding PPL and 30% for those holding a PML. Deep off-shore operations are not subject to HT;
- Producers are required to submit revised HT returns where prices, costs and volumes have changed, with strict penalties for non-compliance;
- Additional chargeable tax may be applied by the commission based on the accounting year;
- Oil and gas operators are permitted to claim production allowances, rather than investment allowances and investment tax credits.⁸

The PIB establishes several new funds:

- The **Frontier Exploration Fund** will deploy \$400m annually to fund new exploration of oil and gas in 'frontier basins'.⁹ The funds will be provided by 30% of oil and gas profits of the state-owned NNPC.¹⁰
- The **Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund** will act as an intervention fund to improve gas usage in-country, and will be provided by 0.5% of the wholesale price of petroleum and natural gas products produced and sold in Nigeria.¹¹
- An **Environmental Remediation Fund** for the rehabilitation or management of negative environmental impacts linked to each licence or lease requires each licence or lease-holder to contribute based on the size of their operations.^{12, 13}
- The **Decommissioning/ Abandonment Fund** is established; contributions to the fund are to be determined on a case-by-case basis through field development plans and routinely updated appraisal of any decommissioning costs the project may incur.¹⁴
- The **Host Communities Development Trust Fund** was the source of the final delay of the PIB through the houses of parliament in July (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria July 2021*). The bill passed through the senate on 1 July, divesting the NNPC of its regulatory powers and entitling host communities to a contribution of 3% of annual operating expenditure from oil companies.^{15, 16} The original bill submitted to the presidency for review had cited a 2.5% share,^{17, 18} while host communities had pushed for a 10% share in operating expenditure.¹⁹ The final bill requires an annual contribution from the operator of:

"an amount equal to 3% of its actual annual operating expenditure of the preceding financial year in the upstream petroleum operations affecting the host communities [and] for which the

⁸ [KPMG](#), Jul 2021

⁹ [This Day Live](#), 25 Aug 2021

¹⁰ [Financial Energy Review](#), 21 Aug 2021

¹¹ [Financial Energy Review](#), 6 Oct 2020

¹² [Vanguard](#), 1 Jul 2021

¹³ [KPMG](#), Jul 2021

¹⁴ [KPMG](#), Jul 2021

¹⁵ [CNBC](#), 2 Jul 2021

¹⁶ [Reuters](#), 1 Jul 2021

¹⁷ [Reuters](#), 15 Jul 2021

¹⁸ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁹ [Reuters](#), 1 Jul 2021

*applicable host communities development trust fund was established”.*²⁰

Stakeholders from the **Niger Delta**, the **Pan-Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF)** and the **Ijaw National Council (INC)** expressed frustration at the presidential approval of the PIB, citing setbacks to development potential of the Niger Delta region.²¹ PANDEF, national publicity secretary **Ken Robinson** stated:

*“This assent by president Buhari simply speaks to the repugnant attitude of disrespect [...] particularly by the present administration ... What this act signifies is an unequivocal message to the Niger Delta people that how they feel and what they say do not count, at all, in the schemes of the Nigerian project.”*²²

The **Ikwerre People’s Congress (IPC)** also criticised the enactment of the bill, declaring a historical precedent of neglect:

*“IPC views this enactment as a corrosive attack on the interest of the Niger Delta as it affects the notorious PIB which has been seriously questioned, particularly in the face of our demand for resource ownership rights [...] the new law is a furtherance of asset-stripping by the Nigerian state, which must devastate the Niger Delta, particularly the oil-producing communities, at all cost.”*²³

PANDEF and IPC’s rejection of the bill, intended to be a framework to improve and cultivate further development opportunities for the Niger Delta, referenced a historical divide between the southern region and the central government.²⁴ **United States (US)**-based social media organisation **Twitter** removed a **Tweet** published by President Buhari on 2 June about the **Biafra War** (Nigerian civil war) for violating its “*abusive behaviour policy*” (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria June 2021*). Buhari posted his now infamous Tweet in response to the rising number of attacks on government buildings and police stations in the **South East** region (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria May 2021*).²⁵

Nnamdi Kanu’s trial postponed to October...

Abuja Federal High Court Justice **Binta Nyako** has adjourned the trial of **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** leader **Nnamdi Kanu** until 21 October after his failure to appear in court on 26 July.²⁶ Kanu was presented before court on 29 June following his capture on 27 June through a joint-operation between Nigeria’s **Intelligence Services** and **France**-headquartered **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria July 2021*).²⁷ Kanu faces charges of treason, treasonable felony, terrorism and illegal possession of firearms emanating from his establishment and operation of pro-secessionist radio station **Radio Biafra** in 2014.²⁸ Nigeria’s national broadcasting regulator, the **Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC)**, branded the station “*illegal*”.²⁹

Kanu’s failure to appear in court on 26 July aroused suspicion and anger among his supporters since he was being held in state custody at the time, having been denied bail at his initial court appearance.³⁰ Public response on social media accused the **Department of State Services (DSS)** of obstructing his appearance in court to prolong his detention and disrupt the judicial process.³¹

²⁰ [Petroleum Industry Act 2021](#), 16 Jul 2021

²¹ [Vanguard](#), 17 Aug 2021

²² [Vanguard](#), 17 Aug 2021

²³ [Vanguard](#), 17 Aug 2021

²⁴ [Reuters](#), 5 Jun 2021

²⁵ [Vanguard](#), 2 Jun 2021

²⁶ [Punch](#), 26 Jul 2021

²⁷ [Vanguard](#), 30 Jun 2021

²⁸ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

²⁹ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

³⁰ [Punch](#), 26 Jul 2021

³¹ [Punch](#), 26 Jul 2021

Hundreds of IPOB supporters allegedly bombarded the court prior to the scheduled hearing, before performing a sit-in protest in solidarity with Kanu.³² Nigerian newspaper **Punch** reported the arrest of several reporters, including **Sahara Reporters** publisher **Omoyele Sowore**, at the court premises.³³

Shell suffers security and licensing setbacks ...

August has not been a good month for **Netherlands**-based multinational oil company **Shell**. Unidentified gunmen attacked a transport bus bound for Shell's project site in **Imo state (South East region)** on 16 August, killing a police officer and six employees of Nigeria-based oil and gas services contractor **Lee Engineering**.³⁴ Shell's Nigeria-based subsidiary, **Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC)**, confirmed that the convoy was en route to the **Assa North Gas** development site in the **Ohaji** area of Imo state:

*"We have since shut down the project site while the incident has been reported to the police for investigation. SPDC is working with the contractor and supporting the police through a thorough investigation of the incident and to prevent a recurrence."*³⁵

The attack is part of a broader trend of increasing violence across Nigeria, which has seen rising numbers of armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom.³⁶ The Indigenous People of Biafra denied involvement in the attack, which remains unclaimed by political groups in the region.³⁷

In a further setback for Shell, the Nigerian **Court of Appeals** on 20 August overturned a 2019 ruling granting SPDC the right to renew an operating licence for the **Oil Mineral Lease 11 (OML11)** field.³⁸ The rights for OML11 are to be transferred to the NNPC. NNPC managing director **Mele Kyari** described the latest ruling as "*a huge victory*" for the government and people of Nigeria:

"... we now have the impetus to responsibly unlock the oil and gas reserves the block offers for the benefit of all Nigerians".³⁹

Shell's spokesperson said the company hoped to find "*an amicable resolution of issues around the lease*" through engaging the Nigerian authorities on available options:

*"We believe the SPDC JV has fulfilled its obligations under the Petroleum Act for the renewal of OML11."*⁴⁰

Shell agreed on 11 August to pay \$111m to a local community, the **Ejama-Ebubu**, to resolve a dispute over an oil spill from the OML11 field in 1991.⁴¹ The payment and confiscation of the lease continue a rocky transition for Shell out of on-shore production sites in Nigeria. At the annual investor meeting in May, Shell CEO **Ben van Beurden** signalled incompatibility between Shell's onshore Nigerian portfolio and its "*strategic ambitions*" (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria May 2021*).⁴²

...as NNPC dragged into FCPA case...

UK national and former **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**-listed **Glencore** oil trader **Antony Stimler** pleaded guilty to charges of money laundering and violating the US **Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)** in a **New York (US)** southern district court on 26 July.⁴³ Stimler and seven unnamed co-

³² [Sahara Reporters](#), 26 Jul 2021

³³ [Punch](#), 26 Jul 2021

³⁴ [Reuters](#), 17 Aug 2021

³⁵ [Reuters](#), 17 Aug 2021

³⁶ [Premium Times](#), 6 Aug 2021

³⁷ [Premium Times](#), 19 Aug 2021

³⁸ [Bloomberg](#), 20 Aug 2021

³⁹ [Bloomberg](#), 20 Aug 2021

⁴⁰ [Bloomberg](#), 20 Aug 2021

⁴¹ [Bloomberg](#), 11 Aug 2021

⁴² [Bloomberg](#), 18 May 2021

⁴³ [Financial Times](#), 27 Jul 2021

conspirators are accused of paying bribes to Nigerian government officials in return for favourable contracts, delivery terms and grades of crude oil from Nigeria's state-owned oil company, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).⁴⁴

Stimler worked on the Glencore **West Africa** desk from 2002 to 2009 and again from 2011 to 2019 and was responsible for crude oil purchase from Nigeria.⁴⁵ Court documentation describes the "manner and means of the conspiracy" used by Stimler as:

"... paying inflated and fraudulent invoices submitted to [...] disguise the nature and purpose of bribe payments made to government officials, which payments were made in order to obtain and retain business and to obtain business advantages".⁴⁶

An overview of the case summarised in court documentation described the offences perpetrated between 2007 and 2018. Court papers note in 2013 a tripling of fees paid to an "intermediary company" for the purpose of bribing officials at the NNPC "to obtain favourable dates and grades of oil".⁴⁷ Stimler is scheduled to be sentenced in January 2022.⁴⁸

The longevity of the "conspiracy" highlights the ineffective nature of President Buhari's anti-corruption election promise and the risk of continued sub-standard governance at the NNPC, as licences to operate Nigeria's oil and gas reserves are once again granted to the state-owned entity (see above). Whether the PIB will effectively prevent the use of bribery to obtain preferential treatment by the NNPC remains to be seen.

CBN maintains benchmark interest rate, bans issuance of FX to BDC operators...

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (central bank) governor **Godwin Emefiele** confirmed on 27 July the results of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting held on 26-27 July in CBN communiqué no. 137.⁴⁹ The benchmark **Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)** remains at 11.5%, last changed when the MPC reduced the interest rate from 12.5% in September 2020.^{50,51}

The MPC reported moderated headline inflation (year-on-year), which dropped from 17.93% in May to 17.75% in June, the third consecutive month of decline.⁵² Food inflation also declined marginally, from 22.28% in May to 21.73% in June.⁵³ Despite the marginal decline in year-on-year inflation, headline inflation remains above the 6-9% corridor established by the CBN.⁵⁴ The MPC communiqué expressed confidence that interventions planned by the CBN will reduce inflationary pressures and improve growth output. MPC members highlighted the role of poor infrastructure in rising domestic prices and re-iterated a call on federal government to prioritise investment in public infrastructure including:

*"... transportation networks, power supply and telecommunications facilities [...] sources through **Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs)** as well as the issuance of diaspora bonds [...] to boost foreign exchange supply".⁵⁵*

Under the **Nigerian Electricity Market Stabilization Facility-2 (NEMSF-2)** the CBN released \$292.1m (N120.2 billion) to 11 distribution companies (DisCos) to provide liquidity support and stimulate critical infrastructure investment to improve service and collection efficiency.⁵⁶

⁴⁴ [United States District Court – Southern District of New York](#), 26 Jul 2021

⁴⁵ [Financial Times](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁴⁶ [United States District Court – Southern District of New York](#), 26 Jul 2021

⁴⁷ [United States District Court – Southern District of New York](#), 26 Jul 2021

⁴⁸ [Morrison & Foerster LLP](#), 19 Aug 2021

⁴⁹ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁰ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵¹ [The Africa Report](#), 28 Sep 2020

⁵² [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵³ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁴ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁵ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

The CBN also announced a ban on issuance, allocation and sale of foreign exchange (FX) to **Bureau de Change (BDC)** operators.⁵⁷ Emefiele reportedly implemented the ban in response to concern that BDC operators have abandoned the original objective of their establishment, “to serve retail end users who need \$5,000 or less”.⁵⁸ Emefiele accused international organisations, development finance institutions and embassies of using BDCs to circumvent the foreign exchange regulations:

*“Despite the fact that Nigeria is the only country in the world today where a central bank sells dollars directly to Bureau de Change operators, operators [...] have not reciprocated the bank’s gesture to help maintain price stability in the market.”*⁵⁹

The CBN now permits banks to sell foreign exchange to every customer.⁶⁰ However, the CBN cautioned that it will deal “ruthlessly” with banks dealing with illegal FX dealers and “we will report them to international bodies”.⁶¹

Although the new policy may help banks reduce fraudulent activities, analysts caution that it may negatively impact the availability of US dollars, as procurement of dollars is easier from BDCs than banks.⁶²

Divisions deepen as minister rejects accusations of state failure...

Information and culture minister **Lai Mohammed** has rejected claims that Nigeria is a “failed state”. Mohammed reportedly travelled to the US to meet with international media organisations and think tanks on the achievements of the Buhari administration in tackling insurgency, banditry and other criminal activities.⁶³ The **International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR)** reported on 19 August that Mohammed met with the UK-based **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**, US-based **Bloomberg** and **Politico** while in **Washington DC (US)**.⁶⁴ Mohammed reportedly also sought to meet with Twitter executives, however, Sahara Reporters stated on 23 August that:

*“Twitter excos and also the American media he claimed wanted to meet in Washington DC shunned him.”*⁶⁵

Speaking to the Nigerian federal government news agency **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, Mohammed denounced insinuations that the declining security situation in Nigeria could match that of **Afghanistan**, where the US-designated terror group, the **Taliban**, has seized power. Mohammed stressed that Nigeria was “winning the war on terror”:

*“Yes, we have challenges in some corners of the country, but that has not made Nigeria a failed state [...] a failed state is one where basic facilities are not available and everything has broken down, Nigeria is not at that stage.”*⁶⁶

Mohammed reiterated the government’s assertion in July that local and international media were spreading fake news and misinformation to falsely portray Nigeria as volatile and precarious (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria July 2021*). The Nigerian Broadcasting Commission released a letter on 19 July requesting that TV stations not release details of security issues or victims of these security challenges or programmes to “polarise the citizenry with divisive rhetoric”.⁶⁷

⁵⁶ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁷ [Continental Economy Magazine](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁸ [Continental Economy Magazine](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁵⁹ [Continental Economy Magazine](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁶⁰ [Voice of Nigeria](#), 28 Jul 2021

⁶¹ [International Centre for Investigative Reporting](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁶² [International Centre for Investigative Reporting](#), 27 Jul 2021

⁶³ [Premium Times](#), 19 Aug 2021

⁶⁴ [International Centre for Investigative Reporting](#), 19 Aug 2021

⁶⁵ [Sahara Reporters](#), 23 Aug 2021

⁶⁶ [International Centre for Investigative Reporting](#), 19 Aug 2021

⁶⁷ [Reuters](#), 19 Jul 2021

Despite ministerial claims that fake news is driving division within a stable country, Nigerian police reported on 14 August an attack on a 90-person convoy travelling in **Plateau State** (central region), which killed 22 people and injured 14.⁶⁸ The Muslim convoy was returning from **Bauchi state** (northeast region) following Islamic New Year celebrations. A Christian militia and **Irigwe** youths are suspected to be responsible for the attack, which President Buhari condemned in a statement released on 15 August:

“It is clear this was a well-conceived and prearranged assault on a known target, location and religious persuasion of the travellers, not an opportunist ambush.”⁶⁹

The presidential statement acknowledged the religious divide between Muslims and Christians in the central region, most notably between farmers and **Fulani** herders. However, Plateau state governor **Simon Lalong** described the attack as “*purely criminal conduct*” that “*should not be given any ethnic or religious colouration*”.⁷⁰

It remains to be seen whether religious, cultural and socio-economic divides within Nigeria can be tempered with media control, or whether division is likely to heighten as the political class turns toward the 2023 elections.

Covid-19 update...

Active cases of Covid-19 continue to rise in Nigeria.⁷¹ Despite restrictions implemented in **Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Lagos, Oyo, Rivers, Kaduna, Kano** and Plateau states in July, **Presidential Steering Committee (PSC)** on Covid-19 head **Boss Mustapha** announced on 2 August a rise in test positivity to 6%:

“The PSC is particularly concerned about the situation in Lagos, Akwa Ibom, Oyo, Rivers, FCT and Plateau states, as this variant has made way into these states and accounts for the rising cases in these states and across the nation. Lagos alone accounts for over 50 percent of the number of cases.”⁷²

Lagos state governor **Babajide Sanwo-Olu** issued a statement on 2 August reporting an 8.9% rise in the positivity rate of Covid-19 tests in the city of Lagos.⁷³ The governor also called for harsher restrictions to curb Covid-19 transmission. The **National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD)** simultaneously began a strike on 2 August to protest heavy workload and failure of federal government to implement an agreement on salaries and allowances.^{74, 75}

The Abuja **Industrial Court** on 23 August ruled on the legality of the strike. Justice **John Targema** issued orders to both the government and striking doctors to

*“... suspend all forms of hostilities and maintain status quo”.*⁷⁶

The government has interpreted the ruling to mean suspension of the strike, however, NARD has assumed the order to mean continuation of strike action pending final resolution of the matter.⁷⁷ The strike has left national hospitals drastically understaffed during a period of rising transmission of the Covid-19 virus and its highly transmissible delta variant. Higher circulation of the Covid-19 virus is likely to overwhelm Nigeria’s fragile healthcare system. Human rights lawyer **Femi Falana** appealed to the federal government on 25 August to concede to NARD’s demands, arguing that despite the high

⁶⁸ [al Arabiya](#), 14 Aug 2021

⁶⁹ [Reuters](#), 15 Aug 2021

⁷⁰ [Reuters](#), 15 Aug 2021

⁷¹ [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 26 Aug 2021

⁷² [Vanguard](#), 3 Aug 2021

⁷³ [Bloomberg](#), 2 Aug 2021

⁷⁴ [Within Nigeria](#), 22 Aug 2021

⁷⁵ [Premium Times](#), 19 Aug 2021

⁷⁶ [Premium Times](#), 24 Aug 2021

⁷⁷ [Premium Times](#), 24 Aug 2021

cost of training healthcare personnel in Nigeria, the “*brain-drain*” will continue as long as healthcare salaries remain low.⁷⁸

Mustapha announced a crackdown on travellers violating travel restrictions and protocols, and the federal government has threatened to publish the details of 500 travellers who violated the Covid-19 mitigation measures.⁷⁹ Mustapha also announced that the **Akanu Ibiam International Airport in Enugu (Enugu state)** would re-open soon but did not confirm the date.⁸⁰

Mitigating measures remain in place including a ban on gatherings exceeding 50 people. Bars and restaurants, unless operating as hotels, are also closed.⁸¹ Current restrictions include mandatory mask wearing in all public spaces and access to government buildings remains limited.

As of 26 August, Nigeria had recorded a total of 188,880 cases in its population of 211.4 million, with 2,288 Covid-19-related deaths.⁸² US-based **Johns Hopkins University** reports that 3.96 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered in Nigeria, with 1.41 million individuals fully vaccinated or 0.7% of the population.⁸³ The **Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** reports 169,382 discharged (recovered) cases of Covid-19 and 17,210 active cases of the virus.⁸⁴

Planner

20-21 Sep 2021 **(Nigeria) Central Bank of Nigeria** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting;
 21 Oct 2021 **(Nigeria) Federal Court** trial of successionist leader of **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Nnamdi Kanu** resumes
 22-23 Nov 2021 **(Nigeria) Central Bank of Nigeria** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting;
 2023 **(Nigeria)** Presidential elections;

Chronology

25 Aug 2021 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Fin24*. **South Africa**-based entertainment company **MultiChoice** disputes reports that a **Nigerian** appeal tribunal ordered it to pay 50% of a 1.8 trillion naira (\$4.38 billion) disputed tax backlog imposed on it by Nigerian authorities;

25 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. **Nigerian** embassy in **Moscow** says Nigeria and **Russia** have signed a military cooperation deal providing a legal framework for the supply of equipment and the training of troops;

23 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *The Guardian Nigeria*. Source at **Nigerian** embassy in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** says DRC authorities rebuffed attempts by Nigerian embassy to investigate the alleged harassment of Nigerian diplomats;

20 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. Nigerian court of appeals overturns a 2019 ruling stripping **Netherlands**-based oil giant **Royal Dutch Shell Plc** of the right to operate the **Oil Mineral Lease 11 field** through subsidiary **Shell Petroleum Development Co.**, granting the licence to Nigeria state-owned **Nigerian National Petroleum Corp (NNPC)**;

19 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. Information minister **Lai Mohammed** says government expects to lift its ban on **Twitter** before the end of the year;

⁷⁸ [Premium Times](#), 25 Aug 2021

⁷⁹ [Vanguard](#), 3 Aug 2021

⁸⁰ [Vanguard](#), 3 Aug 2021

⁸¹ [UK Gov](#), accessed: 21 Jun 2021

⁸² [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 26 Aug 2021

⁸³ [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 26 Aug 2021

⁸⁴ [NCDC](#), accessed 26 Aug 2021

19 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *MoneyWeb*. Government is in talks with the **World Bank's** private lending arm and other lenders to raise about \$30m to help finance a vaccine plant, three decades after the nation's only production facility was shut;

17 Aug 2021 **Yenagoa (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. Gunmen kill a police officer and six oil and gas contractors from **Nigeria-based Lee Engineering** in an attack on a bus transporting workers to **Shell Petroleum Development Company** project site **Assa North Gas development project** in **Imo state**;

16 Aug 2021 **(Africa)** *TechCrunch*. Tech giant **Facebook** announces plan to extend to four more branches, in **Seychelles**, the **Comoros Islands**, **Angola** and south-eastern **Nigeria**, the "most comprehensive" subsea cable to serve the **African** continent and **Middle East** region;

16 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Vanguard*. President **Muhammadu Buhari** signs the **Petroleum Industry Bill 2021** into law;

15 Aug 2021 **Yaounde (Cameroon)** *Ecomatin*. **United Kingdom**-based oil company **Tower Resources** announces it has signed a partnership agreement with **Nigeria-based Beluga Energy Limited** for the exploitation of the **Thali** block, following approval of the transaction by Cameroon's mines and industry minister, **Gabriel Dodo Ndoke**;

15 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *AFP*. Authorities impose curfew in parts of central **Plateau** state, a day after a suspected **Christian** militia attacked a convoy of 90 Muslims, killing at least 23;

11 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. **Anglo-Dutch** energy giant **Royal Dutch Shell's Nigerian** unit agrees to pay the **Ejama-Ebubu** people more than \$110m in compensation to end a legal case that began in 1991 over an oil spill that occurred more than 50 years ago;

11 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. Information minister **Lai Mohammed** says government will soon lift its ban on **Twitter** after resolving some of its differences with the social media platform;

8 Aug 2021 **Port Harcourt (Nigeria)** *Vanguard*. Separatist group **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** suspends a planned 'sit-in-at-home' strike to protest the detention of IPOB leader **Nnamdi Kanu** in order to allow students to participate in junior secondary school exams;

5 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Sahara Reporters*. **Germany**-based sportswear giant **PUMA** says it plans to sue the **Athletics Federation of Nigeria** and the youth and sports ministry, after PUMA terminated a four-year contract it had with Nigeria;

3 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. Communications commission says **MTN Nigeria's** application to renew its operating licence for another ten years is still undergoing regulatory processing;

2 Aug 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinée*. **Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire (ANSS)** (national health security agency) director general **Dr. Sakoba Keita** publishes a list of 49 countries including all **European Union (EU)** members, the **Russian Federation**, **India**, **Brazil**, **South Africa**, **Nigeria** and **Senegal**, whose travellers to Guinea will be subjected to stricter **Covid-19** protocols upon arrival in the country;

2 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. The **Police Service Commission** suspends deputy commissioner **Abba Kyari** after the **United States (US) Federal Bureau of Investigation** indicted him over allegedly taking bribes from Nigerian **Instagram** celebrity **Ray Hushpuppi**, who has pleaded guilty to money laundering in the US;

29 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. Three undisclosed sources say **United States** lawmakers have put on hold a proposal to sell almost \$1 billion of weapons to **Nigeria** over concerns about possible human rights abuses by the government;

29 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Business Day*. The family lawyers of secessionist leader and **British** citizen **Nnamdi Kanu** accuse Britain of failing to provide him with consular assistance after he was detained in **Nigeria**;

28 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. **United States** court documents show former **Switzerland**-based **Glencore** trader **Anthony Stimler**, who said he was part of a bribery scheme to win oil contracts from **Nigeria**, transferred \$300,000 of company funds in 2014 to an intermediary who had requested the cash to benefit a senior government official in Nigeria's elections;

28 Jul 2021 **Imo State (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. Police says a local police chief and six bandits were shot dead during a clash in south-eastern **Imo State**;

27 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Central Bank of Nigeria*. **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)** governor **Godwin Emefiele** delivers the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** communiqué confirming that the monetary policy rate (MPR) will remain at 11.5%;

26 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. Justice **Binta Nyako** postpones until 21 October the trial of **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** leader **Nnamdi Kanu** after he fails to appear before court for a scheduled hearing, despite being held in state custody and denied bail;

26 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Sahara Reporters*. **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** supporters stage a sit-in protest at the **Abuja Federal High Court** where IPOB leader **Nnamdi Kanu's** case is scheduled to be heard;

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