

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Nigeria Monthly Briefing September 2021

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#### Nigeria Summary 24 September 2021

*President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-present) reshuffles his cabinet, removing agriculture minister Mohammed Nanono and power minister Saleh Mamman. Buhari appoints new heads of education, as well as board members for the newly created Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPC) and new petroleum regulators, Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission (NURC) and Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA). Buhari delivers a letter to the National Assembly proposing amendments to the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, passed on 16 August. Former United Kingdom (UK)-headquartered oil major BP Plc oil trader Jonathan Zarembok launches a case in the UK against BP, claiming that his employment was wrongfully terminated after he voiced concerns about the payment of bribes to NNPC officials. Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) leader Nnamdi Kanu files a case with the Abia State High Court accusing the Federal Republic of Nigeria and seven other respondents of human rights infringements. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) issues a federal government directive implementing a telecommunications blackout in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto states. Nigeria issues a \$4 billion Eurobond exceeding a target of \$3 billion. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintains the benchmark rate at 11.5%. United States (US)-based investment bank JP Morgan forecasts 1.5% growth in Nigeria's economy in 2021. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) estimates that 20% of workers in Nigeria have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The presidential steering committee on Covid-19 revises the quarantine protocol for travellers arriving in Nigeria from 14 September.*

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#### Cabinet reshuffle and high-level board appointments keep Buhari busy...

President **Muhammadu Buhari** (2015-present) has reshuffled his cabinet and appointed new heads of state-owned entities, in a move that critics claim is an attempt to project strength and efficacy in the final 16 months of his final presidential term. Presidential special adviser on media and publicity **Femi Adesina** announced on 1 September the sacking of agriculture minister **Mohammed Nanono** and power minister **Saleh Mamman**.<sup>1</sup> The cabinet reshuffle is the second since President Buhari appointed his second-term cabinet on 21 August 2019 and the first cabinet dismissals since he secured the presidency in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

President Buhari's cabinet reshuffle moves environment minister **Mohammed Abubakar** and minister of state, works and housing **Abubakar Aliyu** to the newly vacated positions at the agriculture and power ministries.<sup>3</sup> The **State House** press release promised "substantive nominations" to fill the vacancies left by Abubakar and Aliyu at their respective ministries, noting that the cabinet reshuffle followed an "independent and critical self-review" intended to

*"identify and strengthen weak areas, close gaps, build cohesion and synergy in governance manage the economy and improve the delivery of public goods to Nigerians".<sup>4</sup>*

Nigerian press has lauded new power minister Abubakar Aliyu as a proven technocrat, with ten years under his belt as deputy governor of **Yobe state (North East)**.<sup>5</sup> Aliyu is also a fellow of the **Nigerian**

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<sup>1</sup> [Punch](#), 1 Sep 2021

<sup>2</sup> [ProShare Economy](#), 1 Sep 2021

<sup>3</sup> [Punch](#), 1 Sep 2021

<sup>4</sup> [ProShare Economy](#), 1 Sep 2021

**Society of Engineers** and a member of the **Council of Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN)**.<sup>6</sup> However, Aliyu has sought to downplay expectations that he has “*come to make magic*” in the power portfolio, making an overhaul of Nigeria’s power sector unlikely:

*“No, I am not a magician. I am coming to add value to what you have already been doing [...] let us work together in honesty and full commitment.”<sup>7</sup>*

The cabinet reshuffle was swiftly following by the appointment of new heads to state-owned entities on 2 September.<sup>8</sup> The new appointees will serve five-year terms and include:

- **Akpama Ibar**, as executive secretary for the **National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-formal education**;
- **Chinwe Anunobi**, as director and chief executive officer of the **National Library**;
- **Musa Maitafsir**, as director and chief executive officer of the **National Teachers Institute**;
- **Josiah Ajiboye**, as registrar and executive officer of the **Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria**;
- **Bashir Usman**, as executive secretary of the **National Commission for Nomadic Education**.

Buhari also appointed the board of the newly created **Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Ltd**, which now sits beneath the finance ministry and the petroleum ministry (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria August 2021*). Nigerian broadcasting service **Voice of Nigeria (VON)** director general **Osita Okechukwu** praised Buhari’s choice of board appointees for its ethnic representation, including **Igbo** board members **Ifeanyi Ararume** and **Margery Chuba Okadigbo**, as chairman and **South East** representative respectively. Okadigbo is widow of former senator **Chuba Okadigbo** and President Buhari’s running mate in the 2003 presidential elections.<sup>9</sup> The eight board members are:

- Former senator Ifeanyi Ararume, chairman
- **Mele Kyari**, chief executive officer
- **Umar Ajiya**, chief financial officer
- **Tajudeen Umar** (North East)
- **Lami Ahmed** (North Central)
- **Mohammed Lawal** (North West)
- Margery Chuba Okadigbo (South East)
- **Constance Harry Marshal** (South South)
- **Pius Akinyelure** (South West).

President Buhari has tasked Kyari with the incorporation of NNPC Ltd and ensuring that the company is compliant with the provisions of the **Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021**, passed on 16 August (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria August 2021*).<sup>10</sup>

Buhari submitted a letter to the **National Assembly** on 21 September, nominating the board members for two new regulators, the **Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission (NURC)** and the **Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA)**, created by the PIA 2021.<sup>11</sup> The NPRA nominees are:

- **Idaere Ogan** (chairman)
- **Sarki Auwalu** (CEO)
- **Abiodun Adeniyi** (executive director of finance and accounts)

<sup>5</sup> [BluePrint](#), 23 Sep 2021

<sup>6</sup> [BluePrint](#), 23 Sep 2021

<sup>7</sup> [BluePrint](#), 23 Sep 2021

<sup>8</sup> [Premium Times](#), 8 Sep 2021

<sup>9</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>10</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>11</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

- **Ogbugo Ukoha** (executive director distribution, storage and retail infrastructure).

Nominees for the NURC are:

- **Isa Ibrahim Modibbo** (chairman)
- **Gbenga Komolafe** (CEO)
- **Hassan Gambo** (executive commissioner of finance and accounts)
- **Rose Ndong** (executive commissioner of exploration and acreage management).

President Buhari further suggested an amendment to Section 11(2)(b) and 34(2)(b) of the PIA 2021, suggesting that both authorities should have six non-executive members of the board, to provide representation for each of Nigeria's geopolitical zones.<sup>12</sup> The PIA currently makes allowance for two non-executive appointments only. President Buhari's letter states:

*"I am of the view that this membership limitation does not address the principle of balanced geo-political representation of the country [...] this amendment will provide the sense of participation and inclusion for almost every section of the country in the decision making of strategic institutions such as the oil industry."*<sup>13</sup>

The proposed amendment also seeks to remove the petroleum minister and finance minister from the board of both institutions:

*"The two ministries already have constitutional responsibilities of either supervision or intergovernmental relations that will continue to perform such roles without being on the board."*<sup>14</sup>

Both institutions will have seven departmental heads, or executive directors, who will reportedly be civil service appointments rather than political appointees and remain subject to Senate approval.<sup>15</sup> The national assembly has yet to vote on the proposed PIA amendments.

Buhari's proposed reforms and geo-political representation at the NNPC regulators hope to avoid future instances of bribery and corruption, which continue to plague the corporation. Former **United Kingdom (UK)**-based **BP Plc** oil trader **Jonathan Zarembok** has alleged in a **UK -based London Employment Tribunal** that his employment was wrongfully terminated after he voiced concerns about the payment of bribes to secure local contacts, including \$900,000 in fees paid to the NNPC for two crude oil cargoes.<sup>16</sup> BP strongly denies the allegations<sup>17</sup> in Zarembok's witness statement,

*"We were paying agents in Nigeria huge multiples of what we paid in other regions even though those agents did not perform services of any real value to BP."*<sup>18</sup>

In July, UK national and former **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**-listed **Glencore** oil trader **Antony Stimler** pleaded guilty to charges of money laundering and violating the **United States (US) Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)** in a **New York (US)** southern district court (see *ARB Briefing Nigeria July 2021*).<sup>19</sup> Stimler and seven unnamed co-conspirators are accused of paying bribes to Nigerian government officials in return for favourable contracts, delivery terms and grades of crude oil from the NNPC.<sup>20</sup>

## Nnamdi Kanu sues federal government...

<sup>12</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>13</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>14</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>15</sup> [Premium Times](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>16</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 20 Sep 2021

<sup>17</sup> [Energy Voice](#), 20 Sep 2021

<sup>18</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 20 Sep 2021

<sup>19</sup> [Financial Times](#), 27 Jul 2021

<sup>20</sup> [United States District Court – Southern District of New York](#), 26 Jul 2021

**Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** leader **Nnamdi Kanu** has filed a case with the **Abia State High Court**, accusing the Federal Republic of Nigeria and seven other respondents of human rights infringements.<sup>21</sup> Kanu's lawyer, **Aloy Ejimakor**, filed the suit, **HIH/FR14/2021**, on 8 September.<sup>22</sup> Justice **Okereke** at the high court in Abia set a hearing on the \$12.15m (N'5 billion) suit for 21 September but later postponed the case until 7 October, due to several respondents failing to rule response.<sup>23</sup>

The case accuses the federal government of infringing upon Kanu's human rights and asserts that the ongoing trial of Nnamdi Kanu [**FHC/ABJ/CR/383/2015 (Federal Republic of Nigeria v. Nnamdi Kanu)**] (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria August 2021*) is unlawful and unconstitutional.<sup>24</sup> The suit seeks monetary compensation for damages accrued since 2017, a restraining order against the respondents and their agents, an order compelling the release of Nnamdi Kanu from state custody, and a formal letter of apology from government to be published in three national dailies.<sup>25</sup>

It remains to be seen what impact Kanu's countersuit will have on the ongoing trial of the IPOB leader, which is due to resume on 21 October.

### **NCC imposes communications blackout in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto states**

The **Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)** issued a federal government order to the executives of **Zamfara State** on 3 September halting mobile telecommunications network operations for two weeks.<sup>26</sup> The order follows a federal government order issued in March declaring Zamfara state a 'no-fly zone'.<sup>27</sup> The order was justified as part of a 'renewed' effort to tackle banditry and insecurity in the state. NCC executive vice chairman **Umar Danbatta** cautioned that the media blackout might be extended to the states of **Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Kaduna** and **Katsina** due to their proximity to telecommunications towers in Zamfara, which offer cellular coverage of 72 km.<sup>28</sup> On 19 September, Zamfara state governor **Bello Matawalle** announced an indefinite extension to the ban on mobile telecommunications network operations citing the need for "*peace to return and for our people to be safe*".<sup>29</sup>

The blackout was extended to Katsina state on 10 September and to Sokoto state on 20 September. Katsina state shut telecommunications operations in 13 of its 34 districts bordering Zamfara state.<sup>30</sup> **Ibrahim Ahmed**, security aide to Katsina state governor **Aminu Bello Masari**, stated:

*"The shutdown is meant to stop bandits from Zamfara moving into Katsina state to use telecom services for their terrorist activities."*<sup>31</sup>

**Muhammad Bello**, special advisor for media and publicity to Sokoto state governor **Aminu Waziri Tambuwal**, announced a block on communications services in 14 local government areas of Sokoto state on 20 September.<sup>32</sup> Tambuwal and the federal government ministry of communications sanctioned the telecommunications blackout.<sup>33</sup> On 1 September, Tambuwal signed ten executive orders sanctioning road closures, suspending the trade of cattle and prohibiting the transport of more than three persons by motorcycle (okada).<sup>34</sup> The measures reportedly aim to tackle increased

<sup>21</sup> [Sahara Reporters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>22</sup> [Nigerian Eye](#), 8 Sep 2021

<sup>23</sup> [Sahara Reporters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>24</sup> [Nigerian Eye](#), 8 Sep 2021

<sup>25</sup> [Nigerian Eye](#), 8 Sep 2021

<sup>26</sup> [Vanguard](#), 5 Sep 2021

<sup>27</sup> [BBC](#), 2 Mar 2021

<sup>28</sup> [Vanguard](#), 5 Sep 2021

<sup>29</sup> [Premium Times](#), 19 Sep 2021

<sup>30</sup> [Punch](#), 10 Sep 2021

<sup>31</sup> [Punch](#), 10 Sep 2021

<sup>32</sup> [Reuters](#), 20 Sep 2021

<sup>33</sup> [Reuters](#), 20 Sep 2021

<sup>34</sup> [Vanguard](#), 3 Sep 2021

banditry and insecurity in the state, and “mitigate the damages [they are] causing to social and economic activities and preserve peace”.<sup>35</sup>

Nigeria-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) **Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)** has criticised the telecommunications bans in Zamfara and Katsina, urging President Buhari in an open letter dated 11 September to direct the NCC to end them:<sup>36</sup>

*“The suspension of internet and telecommunication networks in Zamfara and Katsina states is particularly egregious, and suggests a disturbing trend, especially given the growing restriction of civic space in Nigeria. Shutdowns should never become an entrenched practice in the country.”<sup>37</sup>*

The telecommunications shutdown falls into a trend of media suppression encouraged by the federal government. In July, the **National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)** issued a directive requesting a curb on reporting of violence and insecurity (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria July 2021*). Beyond implications for civil liberties, just two weeks of the communications ban has reportedly cost four telecommunications operators in Zamfara state, **MTN, Glo, Airtel** and **9Mobile**, \$15.27m (N’6.3 billion) in lost airtime and data services purchases.<sup>38</sup>

### **Nigeria issue \$4 billion Eurobond amid FX shortage...**

A successful \$4-billion **Eurobond** issue on 21 September may help to alleviate Nigeria’s current foreign exchange (FX) shortage. The Eurobond issue was Nigeria’s first debt sale since 2018 and boosted the number of US dollars available to the **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)**.<sup>39</sup> **Debt Management Office (DMO)** director general **Patience Oniha** said Nigeria may seek to issue another sale of Eurobonds depending on tenors and pricing.<sup>40</sup> Nigeria’s target of \$3 billion was exceeded four times, with offers amounting to \$12.2 billion, enabling it to increase its initial offering by \$1 billion and raise \$4 billion from international investors.<sup>41</sup>

The bond issue goes some way toward achieving the fundraising target of \$6.1 billion announced by finance minister **Zainab Ahmed** in August.<sup>42</sup> The loans are multi-tranche, raising \$1.25 billion in a seven-year yield of 6.125%, \$1.5 billion in a 12-year bond of 7.375% and \$1.25 billion in a 30-year bond at 8.25%.<sup>43</sup> The notice issued on 17 September stated that bond settlement will be listed at the **London Stock Exchange (LSE)** and **Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)** on 28 September.<sup>44</sup>

The improved availability of foreign exchange may ease concerns of analysts at Nigeria-based **Guaranty Trust Bank Plc** who noted on 14 September that local lenders are unlikely to be able to facilitate the purchase of oil assets put up for sale by **Netherlands-based oil major Royal Dutch Shell Plc**.<sup>45</sup> Shell’s assets are estimated to be worth \$2.3 billion, listed for sale after Shell indicated its exit from onshore positions in Nigeria in May (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria May 2021*). Guaranty Trust Bank CEO **Segun Agbaje** said the FX shortage has reduced the capacity of local Nigerian banks to facilitate large-scale deals:

*“When I look at the books of Nigerian banks today, I don’t see a lot of dollar liquidity.”<sup>46</sup>*

<sup>35</sup> [Vanguard](#), 3 Sep 2021

<sup>36</sup> [Vanguard](#), 12 Sep 2021

<sup>37</sup> [Vanguard](#), 12 Sep 2021

<sup>38</sup> [Daily Trust](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>39</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 22 Sep 2021

<sup>40</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 22 Sep 2021

<sup>41</sup> [Reuters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>42</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 22 Sep 2021

<sup>43</sup> [Reuters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>44</sup> [Reuters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>45</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 14 Sep 2021

<sup>46</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 14 Sep 2021

In late July, the CBN ceased the issue of FX to **Bureau de Change (BdC)** operators in Nigeria, citing illegal practices and a parallel market that served as a conduit for illegal forex flows and facilitation of corrupt payments (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria August 2021*).<sup>47</sup> In the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** press release on 17 September (see below), central bank governor **Godwin Emefiele** confirmed an active investigation into **Oniwinde Adedotun**, founder of **AbokiFX**, a website providing currency exchange information, and reported to be living in the UK:<sup>48</sup>

*“I have given instructions to our experts to go after his website and let it be clear that we will go after him.”<sup>49</sup>*

At the time of Emefiele’s statement, AbokiFX recommended that BdC operators buy US dollars at N’560 and sell at N’570.<sup>50</sup>

### Central Bank holds benchmark rate at 11.5%...

The CBN Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided at its 16 September meeting to hold the benchmark rate at 11.5%.<sup>51</sup> CBN governor Godwin Emefiele announced that the MPC had voted to maintain the policy rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks and to retain the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 27.5% and the liquidity ratio at 30%.<sup>52</sup>

The MPC noted economic growth of 5.01% in Q2 of 2021 and a deceleration in inflation in August, a fifth consecutive month of decline, although headline inflation remains within the CBN target range of 6-9%.<sup>53</sup> On 14 September, Emefiele announced anticipated economic growth of 2.5-3% in 2021, driven by easing of **Covid-19** lockdown restrictions, a higher rate Covid-19 vaccination, and a return to international travel (see below).<sup>54</sup> However, US-based investment bank **JP Morgan** is less optimistic and anticipates growth of 1.5% in 2021, describing barriers to economic recovery including

*“continued lack of foreign-exchange liquidity underlying economic weakness, an emerging third wave of Covid-19 infections and slow rollout of vaccines”.*<sup>55</sup>

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be felt in Nigeria’s economy. The **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** published findings on 21 September of a survey of 3,000 businesses in the formal and informal sectors of Nigeria.<sup>56</sup> The NBS estimates that 20% of workers in Nigeria lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and the resulting economic fallout.

*“While there have been promising signs of recovery this year, Covid-19 has had an outsized socio-economic impact on Nigeria.”<sup>57</sup>*

In June, the **World Bank** estimated that half of Nigeria’s population of 200 million people could be classified as “poor”, with an additional 11 million Nigerians pushed into poverty by 2022 due to the economic impact of the pandemic.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>47</sup> [The Guardian](#), 27 Jul 2021

<sup>48</sup> [TV360](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>49</sup> [TV360](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>50</sup> [TV360](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>51</sup> [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>52</sup> [Premium Times](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>53</sup> [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>54</sup> [Reuters](#), 14 Sep 2021

<sup>55</sup> [Bloomberg](#), 22 Sep 2021

<sup>56</sup> [Reuters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>57</sup> [Reuters](#), 21 Sep 2021

<sup>58</sup> [Reuters](#), 15 Jun 2021

## Covid-19 update

Active cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria are reported to be in decline.<sup>59</sup> On 22 September, the **Nigeria Centres for Disease Control (NCDC)** recorded 377 new cases of Covid-19 and two deaths attributed to the virus.<sup>60</sup> Lagos State recorded the highest number of new cases (70), followed by the **Federal Capital Territory** (67), Kaduna (38) and **Edo State** (36). As of 23 September, Nigeria had recorded a total of 202,191 cases in its population of 211.4 million, with 2,661 Covid-19-related deaths.<sup>61</sup> The NCDC reports 191,609 discharged (recovered) cases of Covid-19 and 8,806 active cases of the virus.<sup>62</sup> US-based **Johns Hopkins University** reports that 6.18 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered in Nigeria, with 1.77 million individuals fully vaccinated, 0.86% of the population.<sup>63</sup>

At the height of the third wave of Covid-19 infections, the **National Industrial Court (NIC)** on 17 September ordered the **National Association of Residential Doctors (NARD)** to suspend its strike, launched on 2 August, with immediate effect.<sup>64</sup> The NIC ruled on 23 August that NARD and the federal government should “*suspend all hostilities*”. The federal government interpreted the ruling to mean an order to cease strike action, while the NARD assumed the ruling meant the government should halt its threat of “no-work, no-pay” measures. As a result, the NARD continued its strike.<sup>65</sup> The NIC ruled on 15 September that both parties should pursue an “out-of-court” settlement:<sup>66</sup>

*“So many Nigerians will lose their lives, most especially as the country is experiencing a third wave of Covid-19, with increasing fatality arising from the absence of the defendants [NARD] from hospitals.”<sup>67</sup>*

The NARD launched the healthcare worker strike on 2 August to protest heavy workload and failure of federal government to implement an agreement on salaries and allowances (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria August 2021*).<sup>68</sup> NARD president **Uyilawa Okhuaihesuyi** issued a press release on 17 September following the court ruling, stating NARD’s intention to appeal:

*“We have instructed our lawyers to appeal the ruling and file an application for stay of execution [...] the court ordered all parties to resume negotiations. The government refused to resume negotiations in line with the order of 23/8/21. Our lawyers reported this development to the court. We have demonstrated good faith and would continue to do so.”<sup>69</sup>*

The **Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19** issued a press release on 13 September revising the quarantine protocol for travellers arriving in Nigeria from 14 September.<sup>70</sup> Passengers travelling to Nigeria must provide proof of a negative **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** test taken no more than 72 hours prior to departure.<sup>71</sup> All passengers bound for Nigeria, including diplomats and children, must register with the state-run digital platform, **Nigeria International Travel Portal (NITP)**, and complete an online health declaration providing contact details, including phone number, e-mail address and residential address.<sup>72</sup>

Passengers are required to declare results of their pre-departure PCR tests on the NITP portal and purchase a post-arrival PCR test from a government-approved vendor to be conducted on the final

<sup>59</sup> [World Health Organisation](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

<sup>60</sup> [NCDC](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

<sup>61</sup> [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

<sup>62</sup> [NCDC](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

<sup>63</sup> [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

<sup>64</sup> [Sahara Reporters](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>65</sup> [Vanguard](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>66</sup> [Sahara Reporters](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>67</sup> [Vanguard](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>68</sup> [Within Nigeria](#), 22 Aug 2021

<sup>69</sup> [Sahara Reporters](#), 17 Sep 2021

<sup>70</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021

<sup>71</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021

<sup>72</sup> [Nigeria International Travel Platform](#), accessed 23 Sep 2021

day of a mandatory seven-day quarantine. Once a seven-day PCR test is successfully booked, passengers are issued with a 'Permit to Travel Certificate'. Travellers who fail to attend their seven-day PCR test may face travel restriction on their passports for at least six months and will not be able to travel abroad for this period, while non-Nigerian passport holders will have their visas revoked.<sup>73</sup>

Airlines flying to Nigeria are required to demand the following documentation from passengers prior to boarding:<sup>74</sup>

- Proof of a negative PCR test conducted no more than 72 hours prior to departure
- Proof of 'Permit to Travel' issued by the NITP.

Foreign (non-Nigerian) citizens arriving at the Nigerian border without required documentation will be refused entry and returned to their point of departure at cost to the airline. Nigerian citizens presenting fraudulent documentation will be referred for prosecution.

The new guidelines levy a \$3,500 fine per non-compliant passenger, payable by the airline, and;

*"Airlines that consistently fail to comply with the above requirements may be banned from coming to Nigeria."*<sup>75</sup>

Additional restrictions apply to travellers who have visited **Brazil, Turkey or South Africa** within 14 days of arrival in Nigeria. Non-Nigerian citizens travelling from these countries will be denied entry. Nigerian citizens who have visited Brazil, Turkey or South Africa within the past 14 days are required to isolate at a government-approved facility for seven days.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021

<sup>74</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021

<sup>75</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021

<sup>76</sup> [Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria](#), 13 Sep 2021



## Planner

7 Oct 2021 **Abia (Nigeria) Abia state High Court** to hear a human rights infringement case brought against the Nigerian government by leader of **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Nnamdi Kanu**;

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

21 Sep 2021 **Abia (Nigeria) Sahara Reporters**. Justice **K. C. J. Okereke** of the **Abia State High Court** adjourns a human rights infringement case brought against the Nigerian government by leader of **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB)** movement **Nnamdi Kanu** until 7 October;

21 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Premium Times**. President **Muhammadu Buhari** delivers a letter to the **National Assembly** appointing board members for new petroleum industry regulators, the **Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission (NURC)** and the **Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA)**, and seeking amendments to the newly signed **Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021**;

15 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Bloomberg**. **United States (US)** court dismisses appeal by a former unit of US-based energy company **Enron** that tried to stake a claim to the proceeds from the sale of a luxury yacht to settle a debt owed to it by **Nigeria's** government;

14 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Vanguard**. Senator **Tanko Al- Makura** tells **Senate** that owners of private jets are responsible for the high cases of illegal smuggling of gold outside of **Nigeria**, which he says accounts for \$9 billion in annual revenue losses;

11 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Premium Times**. **Central Bank of Nigeria** says it is investigating the foreign exchange transactions of lenders operating in the country and that banks involved in any form of foreign exchange malpractice risk suspension of their forex operational licence for at least one year;

9 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Punch**. The **Nigerian Army** says its soldiers seized 14 tons of fertiliser that insurgent Islamist group **Boko Haram** planned to turn into roadside bombs;

8 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Business Day**. Authorities renew mobile telecommunications company **MTN Nigeria's** operating and spectrum licences for 10 years;

8 Sep 2021 **Abia (Nigeria) Nigerian Eye**. **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB)** movement leader **Nnamdi Kanu** files a case at the **Abia State High Court** accusing the federal government and seven other respondents of human rights infringements and seeking \$12.15m in damages;

6 Sep 2021 **Zamfara (Nigeria) Reuters**. Mobile telephone networks are shut down in the north-western **Zamfara State** amid news reports that authorities ordered a blackout while they tackled armed gangs of kidnappers terrorising the area;

2 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Daily Maverick**. Government says new forensic audit shows billions of dollars in funding aimed at developing the **Niger Delta** have been lost over the past two decades;

1 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Premium Times**. President **Muhammadu Buhari** sacks power minister **Saleh Mamman** and agriculture minister **Sabo Nanono**, the first set of ministers he has dismissed since assuming office in 2015;

29 Aug 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. **South Africa**-based company **Tiger Brands**, owner of brands including **All Gold**, **Black Cat** and **Koo**, agrees to sell its 49% minority shareholding in Nigeria-based **UAC Foods** to parent **UAC**, becoming the latest South African company to exit Nigeria;

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;

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Please contact us by email [info@africariskconsulting.com](mailto:info@africariskconsulting.com) or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

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