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The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) announces former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor Charles Soludo as governor of Anambra State following gubernatorial elections. The CBN Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) holds the benchmark rate at 11.5% citing concerns over insecurity. Nigeria launches the eNaira central bank digital currency. Finance minister Zainab Ahmed confirms that the federal government is seeking to settle a VAT challenge by Rivers, Lagos and Oyo States out of court. An oil well owned by state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Nigeria-based Aiteo Eastern E&P continues to spill oil in a leak that began on 5 November. President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-present) attends the United Nations (UN) Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow (United Kingdom), promising to restore agricultural land. Nigeria-based Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc announces plans to acquire a 71.69% stake in rival milling company Honeywell Flour Mills Plc. Presidential steering committee on Covid-19 head Boss Mustapha announces a mass vaccination campaign to vaccinate 50% of Nigerians by the end of January 2022.

New governor for Anambra State

The **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** announced on 10 November former **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)** governor and representative of the **All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)** **Charles Soludo** winner of the **Anambra State** gubernatorial elections.¹ President **Muhammadu Buhari's** (2015-present) **All Progressives Congress (APC)** and main opposition **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)** had both hoped to secure the seat ahead of the 2023 general election.² The south-eastern state is strongly associated with the proscribed **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB)** movement, formerly led by **Nnamdi Kanu**, who is currently under arrest awaiting trial on charges of terrorism and treason (see below). Voter turnout was especially low, at 10%, in the gubernatorial elections, possibly hampered by a voting delay that led to some polling stations opening on Tuesday following the weekend voting.³

Anambra is the only state without a governor from one of the two leading parties. In the run up to the vote, Anambra deputy governor **Nkem Okeke** defected from the APGA to the opposition PDP party.⁴ Defections are not uncommon during electoral cycles in Nigeria, where party identity remains fluid and a route to political success for many candidates. APGA public secretary **Tex Okechukwu** stated on 13 October that Okeke's defection had been expected for some time:

"The deputy governor had thought that the governor [Willie Obiano] and the party were going to hand over the governorship ticket of the party in the last primary to him on a platter [...] When that didn't happen, he started to behave abnormally, to the point of insubordination and dereliction of duties."⁵

Anambra state commissioner for information **Don Adinuba** announced on 21 November that Mondays would no longer be a 'work-free day', effective 22 November.⁶ The work-free day was

¹ [Bloomberg](#), 10 Nov 2021

² [Bloomberg](#), 10 Nov 2021

³ [Bloomberg](#), 10 Nov 2021

⁴ [ChannelsTV](#), 13 Oct 2021

⁵ [ChannelsTV](#), 13 Oct 2021

⁶ [Today](#), 22 Nov 2021

implemented by non-state actors as an act of protest and solidarity with former IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu. Adinuba said the IPOB leadership had suspended the stay-at-home protest,

“...warning that any person who still tries to enforce the earlier decision is on his or her own and will ... be dealt with accordingly [...] The IPOB leadership has kept every pledge it has made, including rescinding its decision to thwart the November 6 gubernatorial election in Anambra State.”⁷

Several **Igbo** socio-cultural organisations, including the **Pan-Yoruba Group**, have approached President Buhari to grant Kanu unconditional release.⁸ However, rival groups including the **Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF)** have stated that Kanu should face due legal process.⁹ Similarly, **Abdul-Azeez Suleiman**, spokesperson for the **Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG)**, which represents civil society in northern Nigeria, called for Buhari not to free Kanu before trial.¹⁰

Kanu appeared in an **Abuja** court on 21 October for a 20-minute hearing before his trial was adjourned to 19 January. Kanu entered a plea of “*not guilty*” to seven charges including terrorism, treason and perpetrating falsehoods against President Buhari.¹¹ Kanu’s lead lawyer, **Ifeanyi Ejiofor**, exited the building in protest, after security forces denied access to his supporting legal team, stating “*I have never seen such a travesty of justice.*”¹² **United States (US)** lawyer **Bruce Fein** was among those denied entry to the courtroom.¹³

While Nigerian security forces continue to impede Kanu’s lawyers’ access to their client and court hearings, President Buhari’s insistence that Kanu face a fair trial lacks punch. Kanu’s trial provides a theatre in which ethnic tensions and former separatist sentiments can be publicly aired. Buhari must focus on renewing the legitimacy of the state’s stance and actions, if there is any hope of repairing relations between the Igbo community and the central Nigerian state ahead of the 2023 elections.

Monetary Policy Committee holds benchmark interest rate

The CBN **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** announced on 23 November its decision to hold the benchmark rate at 11.5%, unchanged for the seventh consecutive meeting, citing insecurity as the key downside risk for Nigeria’s economic recovery. CBN governor **Godwin Emefiele** noted the impact of insecurity on business confidence, foreign investment inflows and overall economic activities. Emefiele said the vote to maintain the rate was unanimous, with MPC members believing that the current policy stance has supported recovery of growth in Nigeria and should continue “*a little longer*”:

“The committee calls on the security agencies in the country to increase their presence in order to boost full confidence and the movement of people, goods and services across the country.”¹⁴

The impact of insecurity on economic recovery is apparent in the northern city of **Maiduguri**, which has been disconnected from the national grid since January when Islamist militants destroyed transmission lines to the city.¹⁵ Despite intermittent repairs, militants have repeatedly disabled the power supply, stifling economic activity and recovery.¹⁶

⁷ [Today](#), 22 Nov 2021

⁸ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

⁹ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

¹⁰ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

¹¹ [Al Jazeera](#), 10 Nov 2021

¹² [Al Jazeera](#), 10 Nov 2021

¹³ [Al Jazeera](#), 10 Nov 2021

¹⁴ [Reuters](#), 23 Nov 2021

¹⁵ [Reuters](#), 22 Nov 2021

¹⁶ [Reuters](#), 22 Nov 2021

The MPC reported a moderation of headline inflation year-on-year to 15.99% in October, down from 16.63% in September, the seventh consecutive month of decline.¹⁷ The MPC statement noted that tightening monetary policy may “*rein in inflation aggressively*” but felt that such a policy shift would constrain output growth and the cost of funds.¹⁸

The **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** confirmed that Nigeria’s GDP grew by 4.03% year-on-year in Q3 2021, a decline from 5.01% in the same period of 2020.¹⁹ The uplift in GDP was attributed to growth of 12.05% in the oil sector and 10.99% in the non-oil sector.²⁰

The next MPC meeting is likely to be held in January, although the CBN has yet to publish a date.

Nigeria launches digital currency

Nigeria has become the first nation in **Africa** to launch a digital currency, the **eNaira**.²¹ The currency, launched on 25 October, aims to reduce transaction costs and boost participation in the formal financial system. President Buhari said the underlying blockchain technology of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) may increase Nigeria’s GDP by \$29 billion over the next 10 years.²²

The eNaira platform launch resolved a government ban on cryptocurrencies implemented in February (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria March 2021*). Central bank digital currency, unlike cryptocurrency, is tied to a fiat currency.²³ Despite the February ban, Nigeria is the largest market for cryptocurrencies, which Nigerians use to hedge against capital controls and remit money.²⁴ A **Statista** survey conducted in March reveals that Nigeria holds the world’s highest proportion of crypto-assets per capita with one-in-three individuals reporting to own or use it.²⁵ Nigeria has traded \$3.9 billion in **Bitcoin** since 2017, the largest volume outside of the US.²⁶

Government seeks to settle VAT challenge out of court...

Further developments in the states’ challenge to federal government’s right to collect VAT endangers a significant source of revenue for the 2022 budget published in October (see *ARC Briefing October 2021*). Finance minister **Zainab Ahmed** confirmed in a television interview on 12 November that the finance ministry is continuing its efforts to resolve the dispute between the federal government and some states over VAT collection. Ahmed said she hoped for a “*political solution*” rather than a “*protracted court case*”. Ahmed confirmed that the federal government is working towards an out-of-court solution.²⁷

In August, **Rivers State**, later joined by **Lagos** and **Ogun States**, approached the federal high court to dispute the right of federal government tax collector **Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)** to collect taxes, arguing that VAT and **Personal Income Tax (PIT)** should be paid to the Rivers State government.²⁸ A federal court in Abuja ruled on 9 August that Rivers State and not the FIRS should be the authority collecting VAT and PIT in the state.²⁹ FIRS appealed the decision at the **Court of Appeal**, which referred the case to its **Port Harcourt** division. The Port Harcourt division ordered that all parties maintain the ‘status quo’. Rivers State has escalated this decision to the **Supreme Court**, which has yet to rule on the matter.

¹⁷ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 23 Nov 2021

¹⁸ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 23 Nov 2021

¹⁹ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 23 Nov 2021

²⁰ [Central Bank of Nigeria](#), 23 Nov 2021

²¹ [Bloomberg](#), 25 Oct 2021

²² [Bloomberg](#), 25 Oct 2021

²³ [Bloomberg](#), 25 Oct 2021

²⁴ [Bloomberg](#), 15 Nov 2021

²⁵ [Statista](#), 17 Mar 2021

²⁶ [Bloomberg](#), 15 Nov 2021

²⁷ [Punch](#), 13 Nov 2021

²⁸ [NewsRand](#), 15 Sep 2021

²⁹ [Punch](#), 13 Nov 2021

In a similar move seeking to influence federal government budget allocations to states, the financial intervention agency established in 2017, the **North East Development Commission (NEDC)**, canvassed for an increase in VAT allocation from 3-5% at a meeting between the **North East Caucus** of the **National Assembly** addressing the **North-East Stabilization and Development Masterplan (NESDMP)**.³⁰ NEDC CEO **Mohamed Alkali** said any changes in the distribution of VAT would affect the NEDC,

*“...because the Value Added Tax is one of the major sources of revenue that can sustain the implementation of the master plan”.*³¹

Alkali’s concerns highlight an ongoing scramble for resources as states seek to reverse economic stagnation following the **Covid-19** pandemic and economic lockdown measures implemented in 2020. State governors are also gearing up for the 2023 electoral campaign season and state funds are often directed into personal campaign pots.

US-based **Fitch Ratings** delivered a seminar on 19 November, titled “*Fitch’s View on Nigeria’s State Governments*”, detailing the independent rating of state governments as separate entities from the federal central government. Fitch’s director for international public finance, **Chiaramaria Mozzi**, highlighted that state governments’ credit ratings are capped by Nigeria’s sovereign rating. In response to the question of whether a credit instrument issued by a state government could be rated more favourably than one issued by the federal government, Mozzi answered in the affirmative. Mozzi and her colleague confirmed that the Fitch team was reviewing their rating mechanism on this basis.

The VAT challenge highlights division between fiscally viable and non-viable states, determined by their ability to generate sufficient revenue internally, so as not to rely heavily on the budget allocation by federal government. Oil producing states typically fare better, as well as commercial hubs such as Lagos. Should Rivers, Lagos and Ogun succeed in their VAT challenge, there may be serious consequences for Nigeria’s fiscally non-viable states. Undermining access to development funding could deepen Nigeria’s insecurity crisis.

Oil well spill in Niger Delta...

An oil well spill in the **Nembe** area of the **Niger Delta** has added further fuel to the flames of discontent in south-eastern Nigeria. The oil well, contained in **Oil Mining Lease (OML) 29** and owned by Nigeria’s state-owned oil company, **Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)**, and Nigeria-based **Aiteo Eastern E&P**, began to spill on 5 November and continued to spill oil more than two weeks later.³² The high pressure of the well makes the rupture extremely difficult to repair. Aiteo claims that the leak was caused by oil thieves.³³ The well was formerly owned by **Netherlands**-based oil major **Shell**, which also faced oil theft and pipeline leakages in the Niger Delta.³⁴

Aiteo spokesperson **Mathew Ndianabasi** released a statement on 21 November confirming that Aiteo and NNPC were seeking foreign technical expertise to halt the leak.³⁵ The statement responded to concerns voiced by **Bayelsa State** governor **Douye Diri**, who noted the slow pace of response by Aiteo and NNPC, and the pollution of Nembe’s waterways and farmland. Aiteo has visited affected communities offering food items, medical supplies and N’5 million (\$12,149) in cash to support local communities.³⁶ Ndianabasi said Aiteo was actively collaborating with industry non-profit umbrella body **Clean Nigeria Associates (CNA)**, which has the expertise and resources to contain these kinds of spills:

³⁰ [This Day](#), 25 Nov 2021

³¹ [This Day](#), 25 Nov 2021

³² [Reuters](#), 19 Nov 2021

³³ [People’s Gazette](#), 10 Nov 2021

³⁴ [People’s Gazette](#), 10 Nov 2021

³⁵ [Vanguard](#), 21 Nov 2021

³⁶ [Naira Metrics](#), 22 Nov 2021

“They have since mobilised to the site, in addition to Aiteo’s internal resources to reinforce containment and recovery efforts.”³⁷

The **United Kingdom (UK) Supreme Court** ruled in October that 50,000 farmers and fishermen should be allowed to pursue a class action suit against Royal Dutch Shell for its role in the pollution of land, water and wells in the Niger Delta region.³⁸ In August, a federal court in Abuja ordered Shell to pay the **Ogoni** communities in the Niger Delta N’45.9 billion (\$111.5m) in compensation for oil spills.³⁹ It remains to be seen what punitive measures will be levied against domestic companies responsible for oil spillages.

NNPC’s silence on the oil spill is perplexing given the leadership that a state-owned entity should lend to such a difficult situation. The NNPC on 17 November signed a \$1.04 billion facility with the **Egypt**-based pan-African multilateral trade finance institute, the **African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim)**, meaning there is no shortage of funds to help solve the Nembe spill.⁴⁰ The agreement is backed by a 35,000 barrel per day (bpd) delivery of oil cargoes. Afrxim president **Benedict Oramah** defended the deal, made shortly after the close of the **United Nations (UN) Conference on Climate Change (COP26)** in **Glasgow (UK)** (see below), stating that Africa contributes just 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions:

“Stopping development for parts of Africa today to achieve a clean environment for the whole world tomorrow is utterly foolhardy.”⁴¹

... as Buhari heads to COP26...

While the federal government remains dependent on oil exports for revenue and foreign exchange earnings, President Buhari made a commitment at COP26 on 1 November to cut Nigeria’s carbon emissions to net-zero by 2060. The **Climate Risk Index 2021**, published by **Germany**-based non-governmental organisation **GermanWatch**, reports that Nigeria had 27 fatalities in 2019 attributed to climate change, and 89% of Nigeria’s GDP could be at risk due to climate change.⁴²

In his speech, Buhari described the impact of climate change on Nigeria as a current crisis, not a future crisis:

“Desertification in the north, drought in the centre, pollution in the coast are enough evidence for all to see, Nigeria is committed to net-zero by 2060.”⁴³

Buhari stressed that Nigeria has a detailed energy transition plan and will continue to use gas until 2040 without detracting from the goals of the **Paris Agreement**. The 2022 budget, published in October, reveals plans to increase crude oil production by 1% (0.02 million bpd) from 2021. Buhari concluded by highlighting commitments to restoring over 100 million hectares across Africa to allow for productive agriculture.⁴⁴

If the federal government intend to reverse landscape degradation and boost Nigeria’s agricultural capacity, the Niger Delta should feature high on the government’s priority list. Greater federal intervention in the region may serve to heal a historic rift based on the belief that the centre neglects the region. However, federal involvement may also stoke tensions between the Igbo-dominated state governments and Buhari’s administration. Either way, states and federal government now have a mandate established by Buhari at COP26.

³⁷ [Naira Metrics](#), 22 Nov 2021

³⁸ [New York Times](#), 3 Oct 2021

³⁹ [Naira Metrics](#), 22 Nov 2021

⁴⁰ [Reuters](#), 17 Nov 2021

⁴¹ [Reuters](#), 17 Nov 2021

⁴² [GermanWatch](#), 24 Mar 2021

⁴³ [Premium Times](#), 3 Nov 2021

⁴⁴ [Premium Times](#), 3 Nov 2021

... amid focus on food security

An **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** report published on 19 October notes climate change as one of the factors contributing to food insecurity in **sub-Saharan Africa**.⁴⁵ In its report, “*Supporting Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa amid the COVID-19 Pandemic and Climate Change*”, the IMF cites natural disasters, import and export disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, insecurity and displacement of communities as contributors to a rise in malnutrition.⁴⁶ The report illustrates a 20% rise in the number of malnourished individuals in Nigeria and other sub-Saharan countries in 2020.⁴⁷

Although the Buhari administration has failed to make meaningful progress in the fight against violent sub-state actors such as **Boko Haram**, it has made some attempt to improve food security. During his presidency, Buhari has implemented restrictions on food importers and introduced incentives for smallholding farmers. In April, Buhari restricted access to foreign exchange (FX) for importers of sugar and wheat in order to conserve dollar reserves negatively impacted by a prolonged low oil price (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria April 2021*).⁴⁸ As a result, Nigeria’s food import bill has declined from \$3.4 billion in 2015 to \$0.56 billion.⁴⁹ The **Buhari Media Organisation (BMO)** noted that

“[M]ost of the agricultural interventions of the Buhari administration in the last six years have created jobs for millions of Nigerians. And this has brought about poverty reduction, reduction in food import bills and has saved the government hard-earned foreign exchange.”⁵⁰

CBN governor **Godwin Emefiele** noted at the inauguration on 15 November of the **Brown Revolution of Wheat**, a wheat value chain intervention programme launched by the CBN in **Miango (Plateau State)**, that Nigeria produces only roughly 1% (63,000 metric tonnes) of the 5-6 million metric tonnes of wheat consumed annually in Nigeria.⁵¹ The demand supply gap is bridged with over \$2 billion of wheat imports annually. Speaking at the same event, Buhari promised to end the importation of wheat, noting that the \$2 billion Nigeria spends on wheat importation contributes significantly to the country’s foreign import bill:

“One legacy this administration desires to bequeath before leaving office is zero importation of wheat. To that end, we will work with all stakeholders to ensure this objective is achieved in the most impactful way for the Nigerian economy.”⁵²

In a boost for Nigerian flour production, **Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc (FMN)** announced on 22 November plans to acquire a 71.69% stake in rival milling company **Honeywell Flour Mills Plc (HFMP)** for N’80 billion (\$193.7m).⁵³ Flour Mills of Nigeria issued a statement confirming that it would seek a further 5.06% stake in Honeywell from Nigeria-based bank holding company **FBN Holdings Plc**.⁵⁴ Flour Mills will hold a total equity stake of 76.75% following the transactions.⁵⁵ **Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)**-listed Honeywell will retain its independent listing following the acquisition.⁵⁶ Following the announcement, Honeywell’s shares rose by 9.73% to close at N’3.72 (\$0.009), while Flour Mills’ shares remained unchanged.⁵⁷ A statement from Flour Mills confirmed the acquisition was part of a “*global growth strategy*”:

⁴⁵ [IMF](#), 19 Oct 2021

⁴⁶ [Punch](#), 20 Oct 2021

⁴⁷ [Punch](#), 20 Oct 2021

⁴⁸ [Reuters](#), 16 Apr 2021

⁴⁹ [Vanguard](#), 18 Nov 2021

⁵⁰ [Vanguard](#), 18 Nov 2021

⁵¹ [The Guardian](#), 15 Nov 2021

⁵² [The Guardian](#), 15 Nov 2021

⁵³ [Reuters](#), 22 Nov 2021

⁵⁴ [Premium Times](#), 22 Nov 2021

⁵⁵ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

⁵⁶ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

⁵⁷ [NSE](#), accessed 22 Nov 2021

*“A combination of FMN and HFMP will bring together two trusted and iconic brands, creating a food business that is better positioned to benefit the growing Nigerian population and leverage opportunities stemming from the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.”⁵⁸*

Covid-19 update

Active cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria have declined and stabilised since the height of a third wave in August.⁵⁹ The **Nigeria Centres for Disease Control (NCDC)** on 25 November recorded 65 new cases of Covid-19 and one death attributed to the virus.⁶⁰ Lagos State recorded the highest number of new confirmed cases (20), followed by the Federal Capital Territory (12), Kaduna (11) and **Oyo** state (9).⁶¹ As of 25 November, Nigeria had recorded a total of 213,883 cases in its population of 211.4 million, with 2,975 Covid-19-related deaths.⁶² The NCDC reports 207,094 discharged (recovered) cases of Covid-19 and 3,814 active cases of the virus.⁶³

Presidential steering committee on Covid-19 head **Boss Mustapha** reported on 15 November that the government would launch a mass vaccination campaign aiming to inoculate half of the targeted population by January 2022.⁶⁴ **National Primary Health Care Development Agency** executive director **Faisal Shuaib** said Nigeria had received 5 million doses of the **AstraZeneca/Oxford** Covid-19 vaccine from the **World Health Organisation (WHO) COVAX** scheme in October with further supplies of 11.9 million doses of the US-manufactured **Pfizer Inc/BioNTech** vaccine and 12.2 million doses of the **Moderna Inc** vaccine expected to arrive soon. A further 40 million doses of the US-manufactured **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine are due to arrive in batches.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ [Vanguard](#), 23 Nov 2021

⁵⁹ [World Health Organisation](#), accessed 25 Nov 2021

⁶⁰ [NCDC](#), accessed 25 Nov 2021

⁶¹ [NCDC](#), accessed 25 Nov 2021

⁶² [Johns Hopkins University](#), accessed 25 Nov 2021

⁶³ [NCDC](#), accessed 25 Nov 2021

⁶⁴ [Daily Maverick](#), 18 Nov 2021

⁶⁵ [Daily Maverick](#), 18 Nov 2021

Planner

Jan 2022 **(Nigeria) Central Bank of Nigeria** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting;
2023 **(Nigeria)** Presidential elections;

Chronology

23 Nov 2021 **Lagos (Nigeria) ProshareNG**. The Central Bank of Nigeria Monetary Policy Committee decides by a unanimous vote to retain the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 11.5%;

23 Nov 2021 **Lagos (Nigeria) The Guardian Nigeria**. Federal government dismisses a leaked report of the **Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry** into **Lekki Toll Gate** incident in Lagos stating that 15 people were killed or missing after a crackdown on mass protests in October 2020;

23 Nov 2021 **Lagos (Nigeria) Reuters. World Bank** says **Nigeria** needs to end its costly petrol subsidy within the next three to six months, improve exchange-rate management, and speed up other reforms to boost growth;

20 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Premium Times. United States** signs \$2.1 billion development assistance agreement with **Nigeria** to support recovery from the **Covid-19** pandemic by fostering inclusive, sustainable economic growth;

17 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Vanguard. United States** removes **Nigeria** from its list of religious freedom violators that have engaged in or tolerated “*systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom*”;

15 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Reuters. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** released a report indicating an easing of inflation in October of 0.64%, the seventh consecutive month of decline. Inflation averaged 15.99% in October;

13 Nov 2021 **Yobe (Nigeria) The Guardian Nigeria**. Security sources say an attack by **Islamic State West Africa Province** militants killed a **Nigerian** army general and three soldiers in north-eastern **Yobe** state;

11 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) The Independent**. An adviser to the **Nigerian** president says the **United Kingdom** is an “enabler” of corruption, in a sharp rebuke to **British** prime minister **Boris Johnson**’s rejection of widespread sleaze;

10 Nov 2021 **Anambra (Nigeria) Bloomberg**. The **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** announces **Charles Soludo**, former head of the **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)**, as the new governor for **Anambra state** in a gubernatorial election held on 6 November;

8 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Punch. South Africa**-based telecommunications major **MTN Group** says it will begin preparation this month for a public offer to sell up to 575 million shares in its **Nigeria** business;

7 Nov 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) FratMat.info**. Côte d’Ivoire and **Nigeria** sign nine bilateral agreements and a military protocol during the second Nigeria-Côte d’Ivoire mixed commission which took place from 4-6 November in Abidjan;

5 Nov 2021 **Niger Delta (Nigeria) Reuters**. Oil spills from a well owned by **Nigeria**-based **Aiteo Eastern E&P** and Nigeria state-owned entity **Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)** in the **Nembe** area of the **Niger Delta**, with the high pressure of the well making it impossible to stop the spill;

2 Nov 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria) Premium Times**. President **Muhammadu Buhari** commits **Nigeria** to cutting its carbon emission to net-zero by 2060;

1 Nov 2021 **Lagos (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. A 21-storey luxury apartment building collapses in **Lagos**;

25 Oct 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. President **Muhammadu Buhari** launches a new digital version of its currency, the **eNaira**, after postponing the operation initially planned for early October;

25 Oct 2021 **Benin (Nigeria)** *Reuters*. **Scotland (UK)**-based **University of Aberdeen** returns bronzes to a Nigerian delegation and the Oba of Benin, **Ewuare II**;

25 Oct 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Financial Times*. Security fears spark boom in private protection, with many police officers hired as guards for wealthy and middle-class people;

24 Oct 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. **Central Bank of Nigeria** says President **Muhammadu Buhari** will launch a digital currency on 25 October aimed at improving the payments system;

22 Oct 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Punch*. National security adviser **Babagana Monguno** says **Islamic State in West Africa Province** leader **Malam Bako** has been "taken out";

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