

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Nigeria Monthly Briefing July 2021

Nigeria Summary 20 July 2021

The Petroleum Bill 2020 passes amidst criticism that it unfairly advantages the Dangote Group. The government seeks alternative funding for the Ajakuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) pipeline as Chinese investors remain reluctant to issue funds. Vice president Yemi Osinbajo announces the employment of four new managers for national infrastructure fund Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria Ltd (Infraco). Parliament passes the supplementary appropriation bill 2021. Finance minister Zainab Ahmed announces a crude oil benchmark of \$57 per barrel for the 2022 budget based on production of 1.88 million barrels per day. Nigeria executes a joint security mission with Interpol to capture Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOD) leader Nnamdi Kanu. The Niger Delta Avengers threaten to resume violent action as relations between federal government and the Delta region continue to deteriorate. Insecurity continues to rise in the northwest with 10 mass kidnappings recorded since December. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) issues an open letter and directive requesting broadcasters to curb reporting of violence and insecurity. Boss Mustapha, head of the presidential steering committee on Covid-19, places six states on 'red alert' following a rise in Covid-19 cases.

Investor confidence remains low despite petroleum bill passing...

Nigeria's house of representatives (lower house) voted the long-awaited **Petroleum Industry Bill 2020 (PIB)** into law on 16 July.¹ The house of representatives had postponed the vote on the reconciled version of the bill, initially tabled for 15 July, citing disagreement over community compensation and benefit packages.² The bill passed through the senate (upper house) on 1 July, divesting the **Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)** of its regulatory powers and entitling "host communities" to a contribution of 3% of annual operating expenditure from oil companies.^{3,4} While the original bill submitted to the presidency for review had cited a 2.5% share,^{5,6} host communities had pushed for a 10% share in operating expenditure.⁷ Southern lawmakers in the house of representatives had demanded a 5% share of annual operating expenditure. Oil provides 80% of Nigeria's budgetary revenues and 95% of its foreign exchange earnings.⁸

Another sticking point preceding the passing of the PIB was a clause requiring petroleum product importers to meet a refinery output quota in order to bolster domestic refinery capacity.⁹ The clause, which remained in the PIB passed on 16 July, may unfairly advantage Nigerian billionaire **Aliko Dangote's Dangote Group**, which will enjoy a dominant position upon completion of a 650,000 barrel per day (bpd) facility in **Lekki Free Zone (Lagos)**.¹⁰ Dangote's capacity vastly exceeds Nigeria's 23 other licensed refiners, which operate facilities producing under 12,000 bpd.¹¹

¹ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

² [Reuters](#), 15 Jul 2021

³ [CNBC](#), 2 Jul 2021

⁴ [Reuters](#), 1 Jul 2021

⁵ [Reuters](#), 15 Jul 2021

⁶ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

⁷ [Reuters](#), 1 Jul 2021

⁸ [Vanguard](#), 5 Jul 2021

⁹ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁰ [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹¹ [Reuters](#), 14 Jul 2021

The PIB, first submitted to parliament in 2008, has been in development since the start of the century. The bill aimed to remove legal and regulatory uncertainty for operators and investors in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. Consistent disagreement between multinational oil companies and legislators led to a series of delays and taxation negotiations. **Netherlands-based Royal Dutch Shell Plc, France-based TotalEnergies SA and United States (US)-based Chevron Corp** successfully negotiated an exemption of deep offshore production from a "hydrocarbons tax" proposed in a version of the bill submitted in September 2020.¹²

With the international transition to renewable energy underway, it remains to be seen whether regulatory reform in Nigeria's oil and gas industry will boost investor confidence and generate economic prosperity. An NNPC spokesperson confirmed on 16 July that negotiations with **China-based lenders** to finance the 614-km **Ajakuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK)** pipeline were continuing.¹³ The NNPC approached **Bank of China** and **Sinosure** to cover \$1.8 billion of the anticipated total project cost of \$2.8 billion. The NNPC initially planned to shoulder 15% of the project cost and use Chinese financing to cover the remaining cost in a debt-equity financing model leveraging sovereign guarantee and pipeline transmission tariffs.¹⁴ However, China's appetite to fund the project has reportedly waned since its inception in June 2020.¹⁵ International news organisation **Reuters** reported that the NNPC has approached alternative financing partners, including import-export institutions, to continue construction of the AKK pipeline.¹⁶

Chinese lending to **African** infrastructure projects dropped from \$11 billion in 2017 to \$3.3 billion in 2020. As of March 2021, disclosed public debt to China is \$3.2 billion.¹⁷ A decline in investor confidence and Chinese investment across Africa is significant in light of the **World Bank's** 2019 prediction that Nigeria requires \$100 billion per annum to tackle its infrastructure development challenges.¹⁸

... as infrastructure fund gets asset managers

In a step to address Nigeria's infrastructure funding crunch, vice president **Yemi Osinbajo** on 13 July approved the engagement of four asset managers for the national infrastructure fund, the **Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria Ltd (Infraco)**.¹⁹ The contracts have been awarded to Netherlands-based **Sanlam Infracore**, South Africa-based **African Infrastructure Investment Managers (AIIM)**, Nigeria-based **Chapel Hill Denham** and a consortium of **Luxembourg-based Arc Asset Management** and Nigeria-based **AfricaPlus Partners** and **Afrinvest West Africa**.

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor **Godwin Emefiele** announced on 13 July that the infrastructure corporation will begin operations in Q3 2021.²⁰ The CBN, **Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority** and the pan-African multilateral development finance institution **Africa Finance Corporation** are currently investors in the Infraco fund.²¹ Emefiele noted that Infraco hopes to leverage close to N15 trillion (\$37 billion) over the coming years through partnership with the private sector and close the country's infrastructure gap:

*"Given the current funding constraints of the Federal Government, leveraging funds from the private sector with the ability to provide operational and technological know-how in improving the productivity of critical and moribund assets of the government is extremely essential."*²²

¹² [RigZone](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹³ [The National](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁴ [Reuters](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁵ [Reuters](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁶ [Reuters](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁷ [PMNewsNigeria](#), 16 Jul 2021

¹⁸ [Nairametrics](#), 24 Sep 2019

¹⁹ [Bloomberg](#), 13 Jul 2021

²⁰ [Nairametrics](#), 14 Jul 2021

²¹ [Bloomberg](#), 13 Jul 2021

²² [Nairametrics](#), 14 Jul 2021

Senate passes 2021 supplementary budget

President **Muhammadu Buhari** (2015-present) submitted a 2021 supplementary budget to the **Senate** on 22 June, requesting 895 billion naira (\$2.1 billion).²³ The senate approved an additional budget of 983 billion naira (\$2.4 billion) as the supplementary **Appropriation Bill 2021** on 7 July, following a report published by the **Senate Committee on Appropriations (SCA)**.^{24,25}

The supplementary budget comprises 123.3 billion naira (\$298m) for recurrent (non-debt expenditure), 895 billion naira (\$2.1 billion) for the development fund for capital expenditure for 2021, and 45 billion naira (\$109m) approved for foreign aid and loans.²⁶ The supplementary budget will be used to cover the cost of procuring **Covid-19** vaccine doses.²⁷ The 2021 budget, published in December, did not make allowance for the purchase of vaccines.²⁸

Finance minister **Zainab Ahmed** announced on 7 July that the government was assuming a crude oil benchmark of \$57 per barrel for the 2022 budget, and increasing crude oil production to 1.88 million barrels per day (bpd).²⁹ Nigeria currently produces 1.47 million bpd in line with an **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** agreement to limit output.³⁰ Nigeria is capable of producing 2 million bpd, however, information minister **Lai Mohammed**, speaking at a town hall meeting in **Abuja (Federal Capital Territory)** on 5 July, announced the loss of 200,000 bpd, over 10% of production, due to pipeline vandalism.³¹ Mohammed confirmed that the federal government spent 60 billion naira (\$145.9m) a year on pipeline repairs.³² Geographic hot spots for oil theft and pipeline vandalism include **Abagbo, Ikate, Akaraba, Ilashe, Imoren, Ijegun, Ikotun, Baruwa, Oke Odo, Warewa** and **Ilara**.³³ Speaking at the meeting to discuss protecting oil and gas infrastructure, Mohammed noted the impact of incessant destruction of oil pipelines on the economy:

“Consider also the environmental problems caused by incessant vandalism in terms of freshwater pollution, air pollution, soil pollution... and you will appreciate the enormity of the problem.”³⁴

Senate leader **Ahmad Lawan** cautioned against potential misappropriation of the funds, urging strict monitoring of expenditure:

“It is very important that we have a review of the application of these funds before we pass the 2022 Appropriation Bill [...] but this is a very necessary intervention by this national assembly, particularly this senate and indeed the administration in this country.”³⁵

Pipeline vandalism and its impact on federal government revenue are of particular concern following a rise in tension and escalating rhetoric between President Buhari and the **Niger Delta/Southeast** region. Buhari temporarily banned use of US-based social media platform **Twitter** in June, after Twitter removed a presidential tweet for violating the “*abusive behaviour*” policy (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria June 2021*).³⁶ The Tweet made reference to the **Biafra War** (Nigerian civil war 1967-1970), and was interpreted as a threat to punish regional secessionists in the Southeast region.³⁷ Nigeria-based newspaper **Peoples Gazette** claimed that the president’s language expressed hints of

²³ [Premium Times](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁴ [Premium Times](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁵ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁶ [Premium Times](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁷ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁸ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

²⁹ [Nairametrics](#), 8 Jul 2021

³⁰ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

³¹ [Vanguard](#), 5 Jul 2021

³² [Vanguard](#), 5 Jul 2021

³³ [Vanguard](#), 5 Jul 2021

³⁴ [Vanguard](#), 5 Jul 2021

³⁵ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

³⁶ [New York Times](#), 5 Jun 2021

³⁷ [New York Times](#), 5 Jun 2021

genocide.³⁸ However, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** court of justice in **Abuja** passed judgement on 6 July preventing Nigerian security forces and judiciary from sanctioning, arresting or prosecuting any individual for the use of the social media platform, rendering President Buhari's order void.³⁹

Police arrest Biafran movement leader Nnamdi Kanu...

Despite popular criticism of the Twitter ban and President Buhari's Tweet condemning "*those misbehaving today*", **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** leader **Nnamdi Kanu** was presented before a Nigerian court on 29 June.⁴⁰ Attorney general and justice minister **Abubakar Malami** confirmed that **France**-headquartered **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** had executed a joint security mission on 27 June with Nigeria's **Intelligence Service** to repatriate Kanu to Nigeria for trial.⁴¹

Kanu began evading the law after his original arrest in October 2015 on charges of terrorism and treasonable felony, after establishing pro-successionist radio station **Radio Biafra** in 2014.⁴² National broadcasting regulator, the **Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC)**, branded the station "*illegal*" and condemned the pro-independence programming and sentiment.⁴³ The **Department of State Services (DSS)** arrested Kanu in **Lagos** on 14 October 2015.⁴⁴ Kanu spent 17 months in **Abia State** jail without trial before a federal court ordered his release on 100m naira (\$500,000) bail.⁴⁵ Kanu's detention and the silencing of Radio Biafra backfired on state agencies and resulted in greater visibility and popularity for the successionist movement.⁴⁶ The Nigerian military executed '**Operation Python Dance II**' in September 2017, a failed attempt to capture Kanu, who fled abroad.⁴⁷

Now back in Nigeria, Kanu faces charges of treason, treasonable felony, terrorism and illegal possession of firearms. The initial hearing on 29 June was arraigned and will resume on 26-27 July.⁴⁸ Kanu had continued to operate Radio Biafra from **London (United Kingdom (UK))** and allegedly holds British nationality; however, the **British High Commission** in Nigeria has denied that he was arrested in the UK for the purpose of extradition.⁴⁹ Information minister Lai Mohammed noted that Kanu's arrest was made possible by "*the diligent efforts of our security and intelligence agencies*".⁵⁰

Kanu's legal representative and defence **Aloy Ejimakor** revealed on 30 June that Kanu was intercepted in **Kenya** by Nigeria's foreign security agents, and brought to Nigeria against his will on or about 27 June:

*"Mr Kanu is a British citizen who was travelling on a valid British passport when he was seized in a third country and forcibly brought to Nigeria. Such an act constitutes an unlawful rendition of a bonafide British citizen."*⁵¹

Ejimakor urged the British government to classify Kanu as a "*high profile political prisoner or a prisoner of conscience*".⁵² The British High Commissioner, **Catriona Laing**, met with attorney general

³⁸ [Peoples Gazette](#), 1 Jun 2021

³⁹ [TechCabal](#), 23 Jun 2021

⁴⁰ [BBC](#), 29 Jun 2021

⁴¹ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁴² [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁴³ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁴⁴ [The Nation Online](#), 28 Dec 2015

⁴⁵ [BBC](#), 5 May 2017

⁴⁶ [BBC](#), 5 May 2017

⁴⁷ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁴⁸ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁴⁹ [BBC](#), 29 Jun 2021

⁵⁰ [Nairametrics](#), 3 Jul 2021

⁵¹ [Premium Times](#), 1 Jul 2021

⁵² [Premium Times](#), 1 Jul 2021

Abubakar Malami on 2 July, prior to the defeat of the Twitter ban in the ECOWAS court (see above) to discuss the Twitter ban, but reportedly did not discuss Kanu's detention.⁵³

Kanu's arrest may have repercussions beyond Nigeria's borders. The Twitter ban drew criticism from the international community and Nigeria's aid partners. The federal government is under pressure to conform to international standards of judicial process and care, a challenge for an increasingly isolated presidency with historical reliance upon security interventions.

... as Niger Delta Avengers threaten to renew attacks on oil installations...

Militant group **Niger Delta Avengers (NDA)** threatened on 26 June to resume attacks on oil pipelines and operations in the Delta region, amid rising insecurity in Nigeria and disagreement over the division of oil revenues.⁵⁴ In 2016, attacks and disruption caused by the NDA resulted in a nearly 50% reduction in national oil production.⁵⁵ The group executed an unusually sophisticated attack in September 2016 on the underwater **Bonny** pipeline, suspending the line for over 12 months.⁵⁶ The NDA have not claimed any attacks since 2017.⁵⁷

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and sustained low oil price have accelerated the erosion of good relations between the federal government and the historically separatist Southeast region. Former separatists and militants have received a stipend from the federal government, the **Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP)**, since 2009 to support peace, stability and demilitarisation in the Delta region.⁵⁸ **National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN)** president **Solomon Adodo** credited prevailing peace in the Delta region to the PAP programme and federal government interventions in an open letter to journalists in June.⁵⁹ However, the federal government's ability to continue to fund the programme and a deeper crisis of purpose aired in February 2020 when President Buhari sacked PAP coordinator **Charles Dokubo**.⁶⁰ An investigative report, published by an independent team of consultants in August 2020, revealed that PAP – originally designed to be a five-year programme – was “*too expensive to maintain*” and subject to corruption and nepotism.⁶¹ The report noted that the programme had failed to address the root causes of the conflict, such as marginalisation, corruption, youth unemployment, poverty and environmental degradation, which are “*still visible and unaddressed*”.⁶²

The programme continues to polarise opinion. Increasing pressure upon federal government revenue has been mirrored by pressure upon expendable income for Nigeria's population. In December 2020, the **World Bank** predicted an additional 11 million would be pushed into poverty by 2022 after income levels fell to their lowest in four decades.⁶³ 18% of Nigerian households have one adult who does not eat every day, a significant increase from 6% before the Covid-19 pandemic.⁶⁴

... amid deteriorating security situation

Insecurity is accelerating across Nigeria. A **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** report published on 24 June, in partnership with the Nigerian ministry of finance, estimated that almost 350,000 people have been killed in the 12-year conflict with Islamic insurgents in north-eastern Nigeria.⁶⁵ The UNDP report noted that “*many more have died from the indirect effects of the*

⁵³ [Premium Times](#), 1 Jul 2021

⁵⁴ [Reuters](#), 26 Jun 2021

⁵⁵ [Reuters](#), 26 Jun 2021

⁵⁶ [World Pipelines](#), 27 Sep 2016

⁵⁷ [Reuters](#), 26 Jun 2021

⁵⁸ [Voice of America](#), 11 Dec 2015

⁵⁹ [Vanguard](#), 16 Jun 2021

⁶⁰ [The Guardian](#), 28 Aug 2020

⁶¹ [The Guardian](#), 28 Aug 2020

⁶² [The Guardian](#), 28 Aug 2020

⁶³ [Bloomberg](#), 15 Jun 2021

⁶⁴ [Reuters](#), 15 Jul 2021

⁶⁵ [Reuters](#), 24 Jun 2021

conflict”, citing damage to agriculture, trade, food and water supplies and reduced access to healthcare.

On 18 June, unidentified bandits shot down a Nigerian military alpha jet in **Zamfara State**. The attack is believed to be a response to federal government’s increasing use of the military and air force to manage a surge in criminality in Zamfara, **Katsina** and **Kaduna** states (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria June 2021*).⁶⁶ Armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom have increased in the northwest; 60 people were abducted from five villages in a 24-hour period on 17 July in Zamfara State.⁶⁷ The incident occurred ten days after 125 students were abducted from a boarding school in Kaduna State on 7 July and is the tenth such event since December.⁶⁸ An eyewitness reported:

“Armed bandits rode on over 70 motorbikes and each motorbike was (carrying) three people with weapons, destroying property and abducting people.”⁶⁹

Government steps up curbs on media

The 2021 supplementary appropriation bill has allocated the **National Intelligence Agency (NIA)** \$11m for surveillance of social messaging services. The NIA intend to run a “**WhatsApp Intercept Solution**” to monitor voice calls, call-related information, SMS and data traffic.⁷⁰ The NIA is likely to target individual users’ devices to access and read communications received through supposedly secure messaging apps such as WhatsApp, which is owned by US-based social media corporation **Facebook**.⁷¹ Social messaging services, including WhatsApp and **Signal**, use end-to-end encryption, which prevents third parties from accessing messages exchanged by users. US-based non-profit organisation **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** published a report in May detailing technology developed by US and **Israeli** firms adopted by Nigerian security operatives to monitor journalists.⁷²

The NIA’s empowerment to monitor communications coincides with a move to regulate the reporting of violent incidents in Nigeria. The **National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)** issued a letter on 19 July to all TV stations requesting a curb on reporting of violence and insecurity.⁷³ The letter requested media collaboration with the government to deal with the security challenges,

“... not giving details of security issues or victims of these security challenges [and] advising guests and/or analysts on programmes not to polarise the citizenry with divisive rhetoric”.⁷⁴

Nigeria-based non-profit civil society group **Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)** sent an open letter to President Buhari on 17 July stating that the content of the NBC directive was incompatible with article 9 of the **African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights** and article 19 of the **International Civil and Political Rights**.⁷⁵ SERAP’s letter gave the presidency 24 hours to rescind the request, before seeking legal action against the NBC directive:⁷⁶

“Reporting on the growing violence and killings in many parts of the country is a matter of public interest. The NBC directive to journalists and broadcast stations to stop reporting these cases, coupled with the possibility of fines and other punishments, would have a disproportionate chilling effect on the work of those seeking to hold the government accountable to the public.”⁷⁷

⁶⁶ [Reuters](#), 19 Jul 2021

⁶⁷ [Reuters](#), 18 Jul 2021

⁶⁸ [Reuters](#), 7 Jul 2021

⁶⁹ [Reuters](#), 18 Jul 2021

⁷⁰ [Africa Briefing](#), 14 Jul 2021

⁷¹ [Premium Times](#), 12 Jul 2021

⁷² [Committee to Protect Journalists](#), 5 May 2021

⁷³ [Reuters](#), 19 Jul 2021

⁷⁴ [Reuters](#), 19 Jul 2021

⁷⁵ [Vanguard](#), 18 Jul 2021

⁷⁶ [Vanguard](#), 18 Jul 2021

⁷⁷ [Vanguard](#), 18 Jul 2021

The house of representatives is currently undertaking a review of media regulating bills, including the **Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) Act** and **Press Council Act**.⁷⁸ In June, information minister Lai Mohammed requested that the NBC Act include internet broadcasting within its regulatory functions.⁷⁹

The federal government remains focused on suppressing symptoms of failure, rather than implementing policies that address violence and poverty. The Covid-19 pandemic may have sparked the economic hardship and rise in criminality, but the World Bank has labelled the increase in conflict and insecurity a significant hurdle for Nigeria's post-pandemic recovery.

Covid-19 update...

Presidential steering committee on Covid-19 head **Boss Mustapha** announced heightened monitoring in six states from 18 July, to curb the spread of Covid-19 and hold off a third wave of infections threatening **sub-Saharan Africa**.⁸⁰ The **Federal Capital Territory (FCT)**, Lagos, **Oyo**, **Rivers**, Kaduna, Kano and **Plateau** states are now on 'red alert' as a preventative measure against a third wave, fuelled by the so-called delta variant. The **Nigeria Centre of Disease Control (NCDC)** recorded 203 new cases and one death on 18 July, moving new cases above 200 for the first time since March.^{81,82}

From 28 June, passengers arriving in Nigeria from **South Africa** are subject to 'red list' controls. Any individual without a Nigerian passport or Nigerian residency is barred from entry; citizens and residents are subject to a seven-day quarantine in a government-approved facility at the cost of the passenger.⁸³

National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) head **Faisal Shuaib** announced on 28 June that Nigeria would receive a further 3.9 million doses of the **Oxford/AstraZeneca** Covid-19 vaccine in August from the **World Health Organisation (WHO) COVAX** scheme, and 29.8 million doses of the **Johnson & Johnson** Covid-19 vaccine through the **African Union (AU)** vaccine access programme in September.⁸⁴

Mitigating measures remain in place including a ban on gatherings exceeding 50 people. Bars and restaurants, unless operating as hotels, are also closed.⁸⁵ Current restrictions include mandatory mask wearing in all public spaces and access to government buildings remains limited. As of 20 July, Nigeria had recorded a total of 170,000 cases in its population of 211.4 million, with 165,000 recoveries and 2,128 Covid-19-related deaths.⁸⁶

⁷⁸ [Premium Times](#), 12 Jul 2021

⁷⁹ [Premium Times](#), 12 Jul 2021

⁸⁰ [Vanguard](#), 18 Jul 2021

⁸¹ [ChannelsTV](#), 19 Jul 2021

⁸² Johns Hopkins University, accessed 20 Jul 2021

⁸³ [Reuters](#), 28 Jun 2021

⁸⁴ [Reuters](#), 28 Jun 2021

⁸⁵ [UK Gov](#), accessed: 21 Jun 2021

⁸⁶ Johns Hopkins University, accessed 20 Jul 2021

Planner

26-27 July 2021 **(Nigeria) Central Bank of Nigeria** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting;

26-27 July 2021 **(Nigeria) Federal Court** trial of successionist leader of **Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Nnamdi Kanu** resumes

2023 **(Nigeria)** Presidential elections;

Chronology

13 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Premium Times*. Government allocates over \$11m to the **National Intelligence Agency** to monitor social messaging service **WhatsApp**;

13 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Bloomberg*. **Alex Okoh** director-general of the **Bureau of Public Enterprises** announces government plans to privatise 36 state-owned assets to compensate for low oil revenues and boost government spending;

8 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *iol*. **Nigeria's Federal Inland Revenue Service** says it has told banks to freeze the accounts of **South Africa-based MultiChoice** and its Nigerian subsidiary to recover \$4.4 billion for allegedly failing to comply with Nigeria's audit and transparency laws;

1 Jul 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Africanews*. Senate passes major oil industry reform bill, first presented to the **National Assembly** in 2008, which will overhaul how energy projects are operated and funded;

29 Jun 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *AFP*. Justice ministry says **Biafran** separatist leader **Nnamdi Kanu** has been arrested and "brought back" to **Nigeria** to face trial for fomenting violence;

24 Jun 2021 **Yaounde (Cameroon)** *Ecomatin*. **Nigerian** billionaire and **Africa's** richest individual **Aliko Dangote** expresses his desire to invest in Cameroon's oil and gas industry following an audience with President **Paul Biya**;

29 Jun 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *BBC*. The **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** and **Nigerian Intelligence Agency** arrest **Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)** leader **Nnamdi Kanu**;

28 Jun 2021 **(Africa)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund** managing director **Kristalina Georgieva** says **Covid-19** infections in **Africa** are likely to exceed previous peaks within days, underscoring an urgent need to accelerate vaccine supplies and financing to the region;

28 Jun 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Daily Trust*. **Nigeria** adds **South Africa** to its "red list" of countries from which arriving passengers face stringent restrictions;

22 Jun 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *iol*. Regional **Ecowas Court of Justice** landmark ruling restrains President **Muhammadu Buhari's** government from prosecuting people for using social media platform **Twitter**;

22 Jun 2021 **(Africa)** *EMPEA*. Global venture capital fund **Berkeley Energy** reaches a €130m (\$158m) first close for its **Africa Renewable Energy Fund II**, which has an initial target of \$300m and will primarily focus on hydro, wind and solar projects and battery storage opportunities across **sub-Saharan Africa**;

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