

News from Democracies: Nigeria: April 29

April 29, 2023

1. April 29, 2023: Abuja: **Evacuating Nigerian students from Sudan: Auwal Rafsanjani**, the Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, (CISLAC) said the Federal Government (FG) had done nothing to help the Nigerian students in Sudan to come out of harm's way in the areas, where civil war is going on. He said that FG was not doing anything, because the students, studying in Sudan belong to poor families.

FG has allocated \$1.2 million to rent buses for evacuating Nigerian students from Sudan. The First batch of 637 in 13 buses have arrived from Khartoum at the Egyptian borders. Nine buses have arrived at the Sudanese side of the Arkin border, and four buses have also arrived at the Wadi Halfa border (approved by Egypt for Nigerian students). Arkin is 200 Km from Wadi Halfa. The Nigerian Air Force and Air Peace Airlines will bring them from Egypt to Nigeria. 29 buses are expected to be in the second batch. Sources in the Federal Government said that a very large number of other Nigerians were also present in Sudan and most of them also wanted to leave Sudan. Hence the arrangements may prove to be inadequate.



Egypt-Sudan Qustal/Eshkeet border crossing

Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has said that 7000 persons, including Nigerians, were not being allowed to cross into Egypt from Sudan. NIDCOM asked Egypt

and other neighbouring countries to welcome the persons, who were fleeing from the civil war in Sudan.

Note: Please read about the efforts of **Narendra Modi**, the Prime Minister of India to bring Indian students out of Sudan in “Sudan: 72-hours Truce, rocked by ‘fierce battles’” of April 25, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/sudan-72-hours-truce-rocked-by-fierce-battles/>. It may be noted that the 3,500 Indian students are largely poor Muslim students, who have gone to study Islam in Sudan. It may also be noted that India is largely a Hindu country with about 80% Hindus, 14% Muslims and 5% Christians.

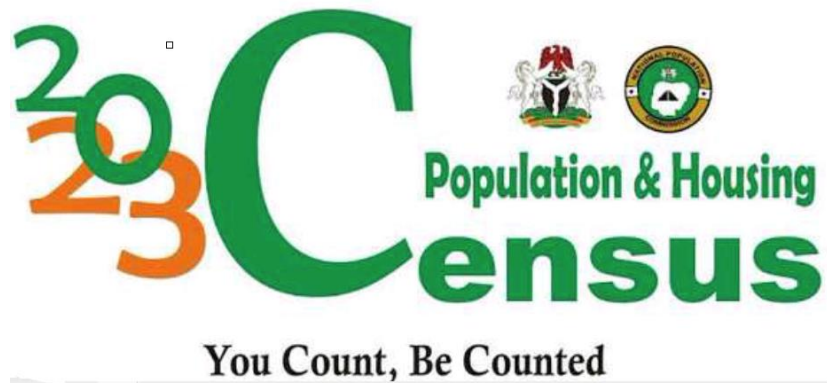
2. April 29, 2023: Abuja: Shettima calls for development of **Culture of Reading books**: At the reading session of a book, titled “Stepping on Toes, My Odyssey at the Nigerian Ports Authority” and written by a former Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), **Hadiza Usman**, the Vice-President Elect said, “There is a popular saying among the people of Ghana that if you educate a man, you have educated an individual, if you educate a woman, you have educated a nation.”



Vice-President Elect: Kashim Shettima Mustapha

Senator for Borno Central since 2019 and Governor of Borno State(2011 to 2019)
While speaking at the Book-Reading, he added,” “We need to read to know what is happening in the world.”

3. April 29, 2023: Abuja: **Postponement of 2023 Census**: The 2023 census, scheduled from 3-7 May, 2023 has been postponed. Muhammadu Buhari, Nigeria’s President, said that the new date will be decided by the incoming administration.



The President met the Chairman of National Population Commission and his team at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on Friday. He said that the Commission has decided on a methodology, which will use modern technology to deliver a world class census, which is accurate and reliable. The Commission has also recruited and trained ad-hoc workers for the task. The last census was conducted in 2006.

4. April 28, 2023: Abuja: **Wike and Makinde offer support to President-Elect for good governance: Nyesom Wike**, the governor of Rivers State, and **Seyi Makinde**, the Governor of Oyo State, met President-elect Bola Tinubu, at the Defence House, Abuja and offered him full support. They are part of G5 Governors of PDP, who had supported Bola Tinubu in the elections of February 25, 2023. The others in G5 were **Samuel Ortom** of Benue, **Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi** of Enugu and **Okezie Ikpeazu** of Abia States.

Mr Tinubu is expected to be in Rivers on 3 May to commission some projects constructed by the Rivers State Government.
